

# **RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILISER SOCIETY**

## **Name and Objective of the Society**

1. **The Name of the Society** shall be the “International Fertiliser Society”.
2. **The Objective of the Society** is to provide an international forum for discussion and dissemination of knowledge of scientific, technical, environmental, economic and safety aspects of the production, marketing, use and application of fertilisers.

The Society shall have full power to do all those things which may assist in the achievement of the above objective, including power (in the name of trustees) to acquire, hold and deal with assets of any tenure.

## **Interpretation**

3. **For the purposes of these Rules**, the following definitions shall apply:-

<b>Society Year</b>	Such period of twelve months as shall be decided from time to time by Council.
<b>Society Financial Year</b>	The twelve months from 1st January to 31st December in any one year.
<b>Year of Office</b>	The period between Annual General Meetings.
<b>Officials</b>	Permanent staff, such as the Secretary, who shall be appointed by Council.
<b>Subscription</b>	Such amount as shall be fixed at each Annual General Meeting for the subsequent Society Year.
<b>General Meeting</b>	Meeting at which Society business may be conducted.

## **Membership**

4. **The Society shall consist** of Ordinary Members, Corresponding Members and Honorary Members. All Members shall have the right to attend any function of the Society on payment of a registration fee to be determined by Council. Members shall receive copies of all Proceedings and other publications of the Society free of charge during their membership. Ordinary Members are entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Society.
5. **Ordinary Membership of the Society** shall be open to those engaged in or associated with the production, marketing, use or application of fertilisers or having an interest in fertilisers, and such others as Council may consider it to be in the interests of the Society to admit to Ordinary Membership.

Any person wishing to become an Ordinary Member shall apply on a form as prescribed by Council, shall give such information as Council may require, and shall agree to conform to and be bound by the Rules of the Society. Council shall have the power to refuse an application for membership.

6. **Corresponding Membership** shall be open to an existing member, or past member, who has retired from active business after not less than ten years as an Ordinary Member of the Society, or in exceptional circumstances after less than ten years as Council may decide.

Any Ordinary Member wishing to transfer to Corresponding Membership, or past member wishing to be re-admitted as a Corresponding Member, shall apply in writing and shall agree to conform to and be bound by the Rules of the Society. Corresponding Members shall have all the privileges of an Ordinary Member other than the right to vote.

7. **Any Member not abiding by the Rules** of the Society shall be liable to exclusion from Membership by decision of Council.
8. **The New Member's Subscription** for the current Society Year shall be payable within 21 days of notification of acceptance of the application for Ordinary or Corresponding Membership. The new Member, having paid the Subscription, shall become entitled to receive all the publications and benefits of the Society, for that current Society Year, save as provided for under Rule 27.
9. **Honorary Members** may be elected by Council, these being persons whose work on behalf of the Society or whose eminence in scientific, industrial or other field of work Council wishes to recognise. Honorary Members are entitled to all the rights of Ordinary Members.

## **The Council, President and Vice-President, and their election**

10. **The Society shall be managed** by a Council which shall consist of a President and a Vice-President and a minimum of four and maximum of twelve other members, to be elected by voting Members according to Rules 13, 14 and 15.
11. **The President and Vice-President** shall be nominated by Council from any of their number for election by voting Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Unless re-elected they shall retire from their respective offices at the close of the AGM at the end of their year of office but shall continue as a member of Council until the next AGM following retirement from office.  

The President and Vice-President shall be eligible for re-election but no person shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years.
12. **Members of Council** shall normally retire at the third AGM following their election, but shall be eligible for re-election for a second period of up to three years, after which period, unless they be elected President or Vice-President, they shall not be eligible for re-election as a member of Council until the next AGM after retirement.
13. **Vacancies on Council** should be filled at the AGM. Council shall advise the Members of the maximum number of vacancies on Council and written nominations for new Council members should be made not less than four weeks before the AGM.
14. **If the number of nominees** is not more than the number of vacancies no vote shall take place and the nominees shall be declared elected at the AGM.
15. **If there are more nominees** than the number of vacancies on Council, then a vote shall be taken at the AGM. Those nominees who receive the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie the election shall be by lot. The result of the election shall be declared at the AGM.

### Disqualification

16. **The President**, the Vice-President or any member of Council shall cease to hold office if:

- (a) he/she ceases to be a Member of the Society.
- (b) he/she resigns by giving not less than one month's notice in writing.

### Meetings of Council

17. **Council shall hold at least two meetings** each Society Year. All members of Council shall be invited to these meetings and four members of Council shall constitute a quorum. At such meetings the President or in his/her absence the Vice-President shall chair the meeting and, in the absence of both, Council shall appoint one of their number to take the chair. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and the Chairman shall, in the case of equality of votes, have a second or casting vote.

### Powers and Duties of Council

18. **Council shall manage** and control the affairs of the Society. In particular Council may:

- (a) from time to time appoint such officials and upon such terms as Council may consider necessary or desirable, such as the appointment of a Secretary.
  - (b) incur or permit such expenditure as Council may consider necessary or desirable to achieve the objective of the Society **provided** that Council shall have no power to incur or permit greater expenditure than the funds in the hands of the Society. Monies and cheques paid out on behalf of the Society require two signatories, from a maximum of four who shall be authorised by Council annually following the AGM.
  - (c) fill any vacancy which may arise through the death or retirement of the President, the Vice-President or any of their number, but any person so appointed shall hold office only until the next AGM, when they shall be eligible for re-election for a further one or three years as appropriate to their office.
  - (d) appoint committees to deal with any question or matter upon such terms and with such powers as Council may consider appropriate.
  - (e) from time to time determine the Society Year and the Society Financial Year.
  - (f) refuse application for membership, such refusal shall not be unreasonable.
  - (g) exclude members whose subscriptions are more than six months overdue, until they are paid in full.
19. **Council shall present a report** on the work and activities of the Society together with a Financial Report for the previous Society Financial Year at the AGM. The accounts shall have been examined and a Financial Report prepared by the Accountant elected at the previous AGM. The examination and Report shall be by a duly qualified accountant, who need not be a registered auditor.

### General Meetings

20. **An Annual General Meeting (AGM)** shall be held during each Society Year. This AGM shall be convened within nine months of the end of the Society Financial Year.
21. **Extraordinary General Meetings** of the Society shall be held by resolution of Council or on receipt, by the Secretary, of a requisition which must be signed by at least twenty voting Members of the Society. The meeting shall be called by Council at such time and place as Council shall consider most suitable and within twenty-eight days of the receipt of the request to hold the meeting.
22. **Notice of the intention** to hold any General Meeting, the date, time and place at which it will be held and the general nature of the business to be conducted thereat shall be sent to all Members at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.
23. **No business shall be conducted** at any General Meeting unless a quorum of ten Ordinary Members is present. The Chairman of a General Meeting shall be the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President of the Society. In the absence of either official, a Member of Council shall take the chair.

### Subscriptions

24. **The Annual Subscription to be paid** by Ordinary Members and by Corresponding Members shall be determined from year to year by Members at the AGM, to take effect from the beginning of the next Society Year. The payment of the Subscription, where due, shall entitle membership for the Society Year, which may differ from the Society Financial Year.
- (a) Subscriptions shall become due at the beginning of each Society Year.
  - (b) No Subscription shall be payable by Honorary Members.
25. **Members whose Subscription is three months overdue** without good reason shall be informed of their effective suspension from Society membership. Thus they shall cease to have the right of access as a Member to Society meetings and to receive Society publications, until such time as the arrears have been paid.
- If after six months from the due date for payment a Member's Subscription is unpaid, then Council shall have the authority to remove the offending Member's name from the membership list, thereby excluding the person from Society membership.
26. **Any Ordinary Member whose Subscription is more than three months overdue** is ineligible to vote on any Society business or election until the Subscription is paid.
27. **Notwithstanding** the above Rules, anyone becoming a Member during the final two months of the Society Year shall not be called upon to pay any Subscription for that current Society Year, but will be entitled to receive all subsequent Society publications for that current Society Year free of charge.

### Alterations and Additions to Rules

28. **Alterations and additions** to these Rules may only be made by agreement of a three-fourths majority of the Members present and voting at any General Meeting of the Society. The agenda for that meeting must include the suggested alterations or additions.

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## INTERNATIONAL FERTILISER SOCIETY

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