

Statutes

20241019-ICAR Bylaws

1. Name/Head Office

- 1.1 The International Commission for Alpine Rescue is a co-operative association of organizations and societies - called "Members" in these statutes - who are either active leaders in mountain rescue or, owing to their purpose, are interested in efficient mountain rescue.
- 1.2 ICAR is neutral with regard to political and religious beliefs. It is incorporated as an association under Swiss law. Its seat is in 8302 Kloten, Switzerland. The court of jurisdiction is where ICAR is seated.

2. Purpose/Tasks

- 2.1 ICAR works as worldwide open platform for the exchange of mountain rescue knowledge. Terrestrial rescue, avalanche rescue, alpine air rescue and alpine emergency medicine are part of mountain rescue (includes prevention).
- 2.2 In particular, ICAR has stipulated the following tasks:
 - 2.2.1 The main task of ICAR is the exchange of experience between the practitioners in mountain rescue.
 - 2.2.2 ICAR is a technical forum for new insights in mountain rescue.
 - 2.2.3 ICAR is a safety forum for mountain rescue.
 - 2.2.4 ICAR issues recommendations to its members about mountain rescue and the prevention of accidents.
 - 2.2.5 ICAR represents the interests of its members to other organizations at an international level and, upon request, at a national level.
 - 2.2.6 ICAR cultivates the exchange of knowledge with the manufacturers of equipment relevant to mountain rescue.
- 2.3 ICAR is not pursuing any commercial purposes and is not profit oriented.

3. Membership

3.1 ICAR consists of the following member categories:

- Member A: Rescue organizations of a Nation or of national importance* who cover all the aspects of mountain rescue and fulfil recommendations set out by the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.
- Member B1: Rescue organizations of regional importance including alpine associations** and organizations who cover part of the aspects of organized mountain rescue. They should fulfil recommendations set out by the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.
- Member B2: Subject specific organizations who cover part of the aspects of mountain rescue. Their rescue activities should fulfil recommendations set out by the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.
- Member C: Organizations within the field of mountain rescue who are not directly active in the ICAR and organizations that aspire to be members who cannot currently meet the guidelines for A or B membership. Their rescue activities should fulfil recommendations set out by the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.
- Member D: ICAR Honorary Members, see paragraph 3.3.
- Member E: Organizations, with no organized mountain rescue mission, who support ICAR goals.

* National importance is determined by a relationship with the national government which states the organization will be called upon in national need.

** An alpine association that maintains an organized mountain rescue component within their membership.

3.2 Admission

3.2.1 Applications for admission into ICAR by organizations are to be addressed to the ICAR President. Published recommendations of the ICAR Assembly of Delegates regarding ICAR membership need to be observed. When processing membership applications, the ICAR Executive Board consults the ICAR Members from the country of origin. The admission of category A, B1 or B2 Members takes place at the request of the ICAR Executive Board through the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.

3.2.2 The ICAR Executive Board decides on admission for Members of category C or E.

3.3 Honorary Members

A person of special merit with regard to ICAR may be nominated as an Honorary Member or Honorary President by the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.

3.4 Rights of the Members

- 3.4.1 The Members of category A and B1 or B2 are entitled to vote at the ICAR Assembly of Delegates.
- 3.4.2 Members of category A have four votes each, Members of category B1 have two votes and Members of category B2 have one vote. Members of category C, D and E do not have voting rights.
- 3.4.3 The Honorary Members may participate in all ICAR meetings.

3.5 Duties of the Members

The Members have the duty:

- 3.5.1 To introduce their own experiences and knowledge, developments and innovations, and statistical mountain rescue data to ICAR.
- 3.5.2 To make information from ICAR and its commissions available to their organizations.
- 3.5.3 To pay their annual fees by April 30th according to the resolution passed by the Assembly of Delegates.
- 3.5.4 To declare the potential of financial or commercial gain and abstain from voting on any ICAR decision that may be beneficial to them.

3.6 Termination of Membership

- 3.6.1 Membership ceases immediately upon receipt of a resignation in writing. The fee for the current year, however, would still have to be paid.
- 3.6.2 In cases of serious violations of duties, non-payment of the annual fees for two years, damage to the reputation of, or obvious lack of interest in the activity of ICAR, the Assembly of Delegates upon proposal of the Executive Board may terminate a membership.

4. Organization

4.1 Bodies of ICAR:

- Assembly of Delegates (AoD)
- Executive Board (BOA)
- Technical Committees (TER, AVA, AIR, MED, DOG)
- Auditors (AUD)

4.2 Assembly of Delegates (AoD)

- 4.2.1 The Assembly of Delegates is the supreme authority of ICAR. It convenes annually at the invitation of the President.
- 4.2.2 The invitation to the Assembly of Delegates must be published on the ICAR website together with the full agenda at least one month prior to the Assembly.
- 4.2.3 Members' motions for the agenda must be submitted in writing to the President at least three months prior to the Assembly. Nominations for elections and honorary members must be submitted by the Member organizations in writing to the President at least three months prior to the Assembly. Members' motions and nominations may also be brought forward at the opening of the Assembly. The Assembly of Delegates approves admission of such motions and nominations.
- 4.2.4 An extraordinary Assembly of Delegates may be convened upon the request of a minimum of one fifth of the voting members or the Executive Board. The invitation including agenda is sent out at least two months ahead of time.
- 4.2.5 The official languages of ICAR are German, French and English.
- 4.2.6 By rotation of country, Members make themselves available for the organization of the annual Assembly of Delegates.
- 4.2.7 Business of the Assembly of Delegates is:
- to elect the president, the other members of the Executive Board, and the Auditors
 - to approve the annual report of the President
 - to approve the minutes of the last Assembly of Delegates
 - to approve the annual financial statement and the report of the Auditors
 - to approve the budget for the next fiscal year
 - to approve the expense regulations for the Executive Board
 - to vote on the admittance and expulsion of Members
 - to elect Honorary Members
 - to determine the activities of ICAR for a coming period of time
 - to determine the amount of the member fees
 - to decide on business, that is proposed by the Executive Board
 - to decide on the location and time of the next Assembly of Delegates
 - to decide on changes of the statutes
 - to decide on the dissolution of ICAR

4.3 The Executive Board (BOA)

- 4.3.1 Executive Board members are nominated by an ICAR Member organization. The Assembly of Delegates elects the Executive Board for a four-year period. Members may be re-elected twice for the same role. If an Executive Board member takes on a new role, the four-year period starts anew.
- 4.3.2 In case of a substitution election during the 4-year term of office, the new member serves for the remainder of the duration of their predecessors. This member can be re-elected twice, which means the term of office commenced is one of the three maximum possible 4-year terms.
- 4.3.3 The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, the Chairmen of the technical committees and up to 5 assessors. The Executive Board members are elected as individuals and for a specific role.
- 4.3.4 The Executive Board carries out its assigned duties and work according to its own business agenda.
- 4.3.5 The Executive Board is responsible for all business that is not assigned to other bodies (i.e. approval of recommendations from the technical committees).
- 4.3.6 The Executive Board members do their work on a voluntary basis and do not get any compensation except for the reimbursement of direct expenses. Exceptional contributions of individual Executive Board members may receive a reasonable compensation.
- 4.3.7 The organization of the duties of the ICAR Executive Board is defined in a separate document (ICAR Organization Rules).

4.4 The President

The President represents ICAR externally. He is responsible for the normal conduct of business. He has the authorized legal signature for ICAR jointly with another Executive Board member.

4.5 The Technical Committees

- 4.5.1 The technical committees deal with their own responsible areas. These are:
 - Terrestrial Rescue Commission (TER)
 - Avalanche Rescue Commission (AVA)
 - Air Rescue Commission (AIR)
 - Alpine Emergency Medicine Commission (MED)
 - Dog Handlers Sub-commission (DOG)
- 4.5.2 In order to deal with new fields of interest in the mountain rescue sector, the Executive Board can set up additional commissions or working groups. The Executive Board regulates the working groups' tasks, time frames, their compositions and authorities.

4.5.3 The number of members of the technical committees shall be only as large as necessary to enable efficient work.

4.5.4 The ICAR Organization Rules define their tasks, procedures, composition and authority.

4.6 Auditors (AUD)

4.6.1 The Assembly of Delegates elects two Auditors for a period of four years. Auditors may be re-elected twice. The elections are held at the same time as the elections of the Executive Board members.

4.6.2 The Auditors must be representatives of a Member organization, but may not belong to the Executive Board.

4.6.3 The Auditors inspect the annual financial statement according to the rules of revision and auditing schedule and make recommendations to the Assembly of Delegates.

4.7 Office

The ICAR office takes care of regular operations. It is subordinated to the president of ICAR. Its tasks are defined in a contract.

5. Quorum, Right to Vote, Method of Voting

5.1 The Assembly of Delegates and the technical committees constitute a quorum, if at least half of the members entitled to vote are present.

5.2 Entitled to vote:

- at the Assembly of Delegates: The delegate of a categories A, B1 or B2 Member
- at the Executive Board: All Executive Board members
- at the Technical Committees: The respective Chairmen and the special delegates from the Member organizations identical to the votes at the Assembly of Delegates

5.3 The voting and elections are usually open. Upon the request of a delegate with the right to vote, the Assembly of Delegates may decide to vote or hold an election by secret ballot.

5.4 On voting matters, other than election of persons, and subject to the provisions of section 7.1 of these statutes, the results are determined by a simple majority of the given, valid votes. In case of a tie, the Chairman's vote decides.

5.5 In elections of persons, the absolute majority determines the result in the first round, and the simple majority of the valid votes in the second round.

5.6 Voting and election rights can only be exercised through presence.

6. Finances

6.1 The expenses of the delegates at ICAR meetings shall be covered by the Member organizations and associations to which they belong. If needed, the Executive Board may approve exceptions.

6.2 Expenses of the Executive Board members at ICAR meetings and their budgeting shall be regulated in an expense regulation. These regulations have to be approved by the Assembly of Delegates.

6.3 The ICAR treasury shall cover expenses that result from the conduct of business.

6.4 ICAR pays a maximum amount, which is determined annually, toward the administrative expenses of the Chairmen of the technical committees.

6.5 The liability of ICAR is limited to the liability of the association according to Swiss law.

6.6 The fiscal year for ICAR is identical to the calendar year.

7. Concluding Regulations

7.1 The following resolutions of the Assembly of Delegates require a qualified majority of the members who are entitled to vote:

- Amendments of the statutes: 2/3 majority
- Dissolution of ICAR: 3/4 majority

7.2 After the dissolution of ICAR the remaining assets are to be bestowed on tax-exempt institutions with purposes of the same or similar kind.

7.3 Unless the statutes rule differently, the laws of the country in which ICAR has its seat apply.

7.4 The statutes are written in German, French, and English; in cases of doubt, the German text is paramount.

History of Revisions		effective
adopted	Oct 1 st , 1994 in Autrans (FR)	
revised	Sep 25 th , 1999 in Sonthofen (DE)	Oct 1 st , 1999
revised	Oct 15 th , 2005 in Cortina d'Ampezzo (IT)	Nov 1 st , 2005
revised	Oct 20 th , 2007 in Pontresina (CH)	Nov 1 st , 2007
revised	Oct 19 th , 2013 in Bol (HR)	Nov 1 st , 2013
revised	Oct 21 st , 2017 in Soldeu (AD)	Nov 1 st , 2017
revised	Oct 12 th , 2019 in Zakopane (PO)	Nov 1 st , 2019
revised	Oct 23 rd , 2021 virtual	Nov 1 st , 2021
revised	Oct 19 th , 2024 in Thessaloniki (Greece)	Nov 1 st , 2024

Zurich, 1 November 2024,

Franz Stämpfli
President of the Executive Board of ICAR