

Bylaws of the Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases

Version 25.09.2025

Article 1: Name, Registered Office, and Mission

A Society has been founded on November 13, 1990 in Bern under the name "Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases", which is defined and regulated by the present bylaws and Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. The duration of its existence is indefinite. The registered office of the Society is the location of its general secretariat.

The Society has the following Mission:

- ⇒ To provide
 - excellence in clinical patient care in infectious diseases based on international scientific evidence and quality standards.
 - high-quality education, mentorship and continuous professional training in infectious diseases and infection control aligned with Swiss and European standards.
 - innovation in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.
- ⇒ To promote scientific excellence in clinical and basic research in infectious diseases and to strengthen collaborations and infrastructure to support these efforts.
- ⇒ To facilitate knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, implementation, and professional networking in the field of infectious diseases.
- ⇒ To proactively react to infectious diseases challenges as partners with expertise in the hospital, the medical community and public health.
- ⇒ To educate and communicate to the public, to patients and to the medical community and raise awareness for prevention, recognition and treatment of infectious diseases and their public health challenges.

The Society signs bindingly with the joint signature of two members of the Presidency.

Article 2: Members

The Society consists of:

1. Ordinary members
2. Junior members
3. Collective members
4. Honorary members
5. Passive members
6. Guest members ("Associate members")

Ordinary members

Every holder of the Swiss board certification in infectious diseases can submit an application for admission as an ordinary member. Membership applications must be submitted to the Presidency, accompanied by the documents and materials specified by the Executive Committee. The conditions and application forms are available on the SSI homepage. The Executive Committee will decide on the admission after reviewing the submitted documentation. New admissions require a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Ordinary members hold voting rights at the General Assembly and pay a yearly membership fee.

Junior members

Junior membership is open to all physicians in training for the Swiss board certification in infectious diseases, regardless of age. Membership applications must be submitted to the Presidency. The application must be signed by the applicant's supervisor. The admission of junior members is decided by the Executive Committee. New admissions require a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Junior membership expires if the infectious diseases training is discontinued and is automatically

converted into ordinary membership no later than 12 months after the board certification in infectious diseases is awarded.

Junior members hold voting rights at the General Assembly and pay a yearly membership fee.

Collective members

Legally constituted institutes, laboratories, industrial and commercial companies or other bodies can be accepted as collective members. Membership applications must be submitted to the Presidency. The Presidency submits the acceptance of the collective members to the General Assembly for voting. New admissions require a majority vote of the General Assembly.

Collective members do not hold voting rights at the General Assembly. They pay a yearly membership fee.

Honorary members

The status of an honorary member is granted to all those personalities who the Society would like to honor in particular. Each honorary member is appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive committee. The appointment of an honorary member must appear on the agenda of the General Assembly with mention of his or her name. New admissions require a majority vote of the General Assembly.

Honorary members hold voting rights at the General Assembly. They are exempt from paying the yearly membership fee.

Passive members

Ordinary or associate members who have given up their professional activities are appointed passive members.

Passive members do not hold voting rights at the General Assembly. They are exempt from paying the yearly membership fee.

Guest Members ("Associate Members")

Members of other medical societies can apply for guest membership. Membership applications must be submitted to the Presidency. The admission of new members is decided by the Executive Committee. New admissions require a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Guest members do not hold voting rights at the General Assembly. They pay a yearly membership fee.

End of membership

Membership expires through:

- Resignation,
- Non-payment of the annual fee,
- Exclusion.

A member may be excluded if their actions are deemed to conflict with the purpose or principles of the Society. Exclusion can be requested by the Executive Committee or by at least three members of the Society who address their request in writing to the Executive Committee.

Exclusion of a member can only occur during the General Assembly, where it will be decided by secret ballot. This must appear on the agenda. Such a decision shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the General Assembly.

Article 3: Bodies of the Society

The bodies of the Society are:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Presidency
3. The Executive Committee
4. The Auditing Body
5. The Commissions
6. The Associations
7. The Delegates

Article 3.1: The General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly is convened once a year. The agenda and the election proposals of the Executive Committee and new collective and honorary members must be sent to the members at least one month before the intended date. Other suggestions may be addressed to the Executive committee. The General Assembly elects collective and honorary members of the Society, the members of the Executive Committee and the Auditing Body. The General Assembly approves the President's, Treasurer's and Auditor's reports and grants discharges.

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be convened at any time by the Executive committee and at the request of at least one third of members with voting rights.

Voting and elections are held anonymously via e-voting or by other approved methods. Resolutions are adopted by a majority vote of members with voting rights.

Article 3.2: The Presidency

The Presidency consists of a president or two co-presidents, a vice-president or two co-vice-presidents and a treasurer.

Together with the secretary general, the Presidency prepares the affairs for the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee delegates limited decision-making authority to the Presidency. The Presidency has, among other tasks, the following responsibilities:

- Preparation and oversight of the activities of the Commissions and Executive Committee meetings
- Ensuring the flow of information and coordination of the activities of the Commissions, Associations and Delegates within SSI.
- The president (or their deputy) represents the Society externally and chairs both the administrative meetings and the General Assembly.
- The treasurer manages the Society's financial records, collects annual membership fees, processes payments authorized by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, and submits all financial reports to the Auditing Body and the General Assembly.

Article 3.3: The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of a president or two co-presidents, a vice-president or two co-vice-presidents, a treasurer, a junior member and other ordinary members.

In constituting the Executive Committee, attention shall be given to ensuring a balanced representation of the Society's membership. This includes, to the extent possible, consideration of different types of institutions, geographical regions, and professional backgrounds. The specifics of representation shall be guided by the nomination and election process.

The Executive Committee members are elected by the General Assembly for three years. After three years, at least one Executive Committee seat is advertised for a new appointment among all ordinary members of the society.

The main task of the Executive Committee is to pursue the Society's goals and to manage its affairs. Additional responsibilities include the following:

- The Executive Committee establishes Commissions as deemed necessary. These Commissions are composed of Society members or external experts.
- It maintains close relationships with medical and scientific associations as well as with relevant authorities.
- The Executive Committee is responsible for organizing the General Assembly and scientific sessions.

The official statements concerning the Society must be confirmed by the Executive committee.

Article 3.4: The Auditing Body

The Auditing Body is appointed for a period of three years. They can be re-elected to continue their role. Their role involves controlling the accounts, preparing the annual report for the General Assembly and proposing anything they consider useful from a financial point of view.

Article 3.5: The Commissions

Commissions are permanent bodies within SSI, entrusted with clearly defined, ongoing tasks. Their responsibilities and scope are determined by SSI. Each Commission shall provide an annual report prior to the General Assembly. Both ordinary and junior members of SSI may participate in Commissions.

Article 3.6: The Associations

The Executive Committee may establish Associations that do not possess independent legal personality. The bylaws of such Associations must be approved by the Executive Committee. Associations may only incur financial obligations with the prior approval of the Executive Committee. Each Association shall provide an annual report prior to the General Assembly. The Auditing Body shall review the association's financial report and include its findings in the report to the General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall dissolve an Association once its purpose has been fulfilled. The names of all Associations are published on the SSI website.

Article 3.7: The Delegates

Delegates are the official representations of SSI in other organizations or bodies. Delegates and their deputies must be ordinary members of SSI and are elected or confirmed by the General Assembly every three years.

Article 4: Amendments to the bylaws

Any changes to the present bylaws can only be made by a decision of the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the members with voting rights present. The wording of the proposed amendment must be communicated at least one month before the General Assembly is held.

Article 5: Financial means

The financial means of the Society consist of the contributions, donations, proceeds from the scientific meetings and legacies.

Article 6: Dissolution of the Society

The Society can only be dissolved by a resolution of the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the votes.

In the event of dissolution, the Society's assets will be donated to one or more not-for-profit organizations that contribute to infectious disease research.