

Constitution of the Taiwan Physical Therapy Association

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Articles of Association of the Taiwan Physical Therapy Association

Article 1:

The English name of the association is the Taiwan Physical Therapy Association or "TPTA" for short, hereinafter referred to as the "Association".

Article 2:

The objectives of the Association are to develop expertise in physical therapy, upgrade the standard of physical therapy education and practice, promote academic research related to physical therapy, improve national health and strengthen exchanges with international physical therapy related organizations.

Article 3:

The Association is located in the region of the central competent authority of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and may set up branches with the approval of the competent authority.

Article 4:

The Association has the following missions:

1. To promote the standard of physical therapy education and actively organize continuing education for physical therapists as the basis for social service.
2. To organize physical therapy academic conferences, issue physical therapy academic publications and relevant books, upgrade the standard of physical therapy research and promote evidence-based physical therapy.
3. To promote physical therapy related public policies, systems and legislations in order to protect the members' interests and reinforce social contribution.
4. To enhance professionalism and service enthusiasm of physical therapists.
5. To promote public education, improve social awareness about the physical therapy profession, expand the scope of physical therapy services and improve national health.
6. To cooperate with the government and other organizations to organize visits and appraisals of physical therapy organizations or staff and carry out review qualifications, examinations or certification related matters.
7. To strengthen contact, exchanges and cooperation with domestic and international physical therapy related organizations.
8. To improve contact and exchanges among members and improve members' participation and solidarity in physical therapy public affairs.
9. To promote social welfare, long-term care and health promotion and other

related affairs.

10. To carry out other relevant matters consistent with the objectives of the Association.

Article 5:

The members of the Association are divided into the following four categories: Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members and Sponsor Members. The relevant qualifications are as follows:

1. Members: Any person with the following qualifications may become a member of the Association with review and approval by the board of directors.
 - (1) Graduate and holder of a degree or diploma of the physical therapy department (department, division, section) of any domestic or overseas university or technical college recognized by the government of the home country.
 - (2) Any person who passes a licensing examination for physical therapists organized by the home country and holds a registration certificate.
2. Honorary Members: Any person who has made a significant contribution to the physical therapy profession may become an honorary member of the Association through recommendation by the board of directors and supervisors and approval by the General Assembly (of members or member representatives).
3. Associate Members: Any person who identifies with the objectives of the Association and who is at least 20 years old with legal capacity may file an application to become an associate member of the Association. Depending on the qualifications, associate members are divided into four categories: Assisting Associate Members, Student Associate Members, Group Associate Members, and International Associate Members.
 - (1) Assisting Associate Members: Any person with the following qualifications may become an Assisting Associate Member of the Association following review and approval by the Board of Directors.
 - (i) Graduate and holder of a diploma from the physical therapy division (section) of any domestic or overseas senior vocational school or college (5-year or 2-year vocational college) recognized by the home country.
 - (ii) Any person who possesses a PTA's license issued by the home country.
 - (iii) Any person who possesses a PTA's license issued by any member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy*.
 - (2) Student Associate Members: Any current student of a physical therapy department (department, division, section) of any level of a domestic or overseas school recognized by the government of the home country, or any

domestic or overseas physical therapy related graduate school recognized by the Ministry of Education of the home country, can apply through the Board of Directors for the Student Associate Member. If the member loses student status, his/her membership shall be void.

- (3) Group Associate Members: Any public or private organization that identifies with the objectives of the Association may become an associate member of the Association following review and approval by the board of directors. One person may be designated as the representative to participate in all activities of the Association.
 - (4) International Associate Members: Any person who is possessed a physical therapist registration certificate by any member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy* can apply through the Board of Directors for the International Associate Member.
4. Sponsor Members: Any individual or organization that identifies with the objectives of the Association may become sponsor member following review and approval by the board of directors. In case of a group sponsor member, one person may be designated as the representative to participate in all activities of the Association.

Article 5-1:

The Association no longer accepts any new "Permanent Members". Any person who already qualifies as a "Permanent Member" no longer needs to pay any membership fees. The remaining rights and obligations are the same as for the other members.

Article 6:

Members of the Association are entitled to the following rights:

1. The right to elect and dismiss Member Representatives.
2. The right to be elected a Member Representative, Director and Supervisor.
3. The right to participate in relevant activities, such as annual meetings, continuing education seminars and academic conferences organized by the Association.
4. The right to receive regular academic journals, newsletters and other notices, such as for continuing education seminars from the Association.
5. The right to participate in all other activities provided under the Articles of Association of the Association.
6. Other rights to which members are entitled.
7. No Honorary Member, Associate Member or Sponsor Member shall enjoy any right of election, right to be elected, right of motion, voting right or right of dismissal. The numbers of these members shall not be included among the

number of members.

8. Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Association, the provisions under these Articles of Association in relation to members shall be applicable to all members.

Article 7:

The members (member representatives) of the Association shall perform the following obligations:

1. Comply with the Articles of Association of the Association.
2. Perform the resolutions of the Association.
3. Carry out the duties designated by the Association.
4. Pay annual membership fees timely.

Article 8:

Membership may be terminated in case of any of the following events:

1. Breach of the Articles of Association or any act that is detrimental to the Association's reputation and interest.
2. Subject to criminal sanction for which the penalty has still not been completed.
3. Failure to pay annual membership fees for two years. All rights entitled by the members will be suspended first if a member has not paid the annual fees beyond three months of the due date.
4. Written request to waive membership.
5. Dismissal by resolution of General Assembly.
6. Death.

Article 9:

The General Assembly is the highest authoritative organization of the Association. During recession of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors may exercise duties instead. The Board of Supervisors is the supervisory organization. When the number of members exceeds 300, Member Representatives may be elected from each region on a proportional basis to convene meetings of member representatives and exercise the duties of the General Assembly. Member Representatives shall serve terms of three years. The number and election rules shall be established by the board of directors. Such rules shall be implemented after being filed with and receiving approval from the competent authority.

Article 10:

The Association has a Board of Directors, composed of 21 directors elected during

the General Assembly. There shall also be five Alternate Directors to fill any vacancy. Any Director filling any vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term of the original Director. Seven Executive Directors shall be elected by the directors from among themselves. One chairman shall be elected as the President by the directors from among the Executive Directors to convene Board Meetings and Executive Directors' Meetings, to generally manage the affairs of the Board of Directors and to act as the representative of the Association. There shall be one to two Vice Presidents, as appropriate, nominated by the President among the Directors, and appointed by the Board of Directors. When the President cannot perform his/her duties due to any reason, one Vice President or Executive Director shall be appointed to perform said duties. If there is no such appointment or if such an appointment cannot be made, one person shall be elected by the Executive Directors from among themselves to perform said duties. If the chairman or any Executive Director position is vacant, the vacancy shall be filled within one month.

Article 11:

The Association has a Board of Supervisors, composed of seven Supervisors elected during the General Assembly. There shall also be one Alternate Supervisor to fill any vacancy. Any Supervisor filling any vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term of the original Supervisor. One Executive Supervisor shall be elected by the Supervisors from among themselves to convene Supervisory Meetings.

Article 12:

The General Assembly have the following duties

1. Establish and revise Articles of Association.
2. Elect and dismiss Directors and Supervisors.
3. Approve reports, work plans, budgets and the financial statement of the Association.
4. Decide on dismissal of any member or Member Representative.
5. Decide on disposal of property.
6. Decide on dissolution of the organization.
7. Decide on other important matters related to the rights and obligations of members (Member Representatives).
8. Decide on other important matters of the Association.

Article 13:

The Board of Directors of the Association has the following duties:

1. Execute matters resolved by General Assembly.

2. Preparation of the budget and the financial statement of the Association.
3. Organize and hold General Assembly, relevant elections and relevant meetings.
4. Review admission of members and decide on the suspension and reinstatement of members.
5. Prepare and execute the affairs and work plans of the Association.
6. Handle special or incidental matters related to the Association.
7. Elect or dismiss the President.
8. Decide on the resignation of any Director or the President.
9. Hire and dismiss staff.
10. Other matters to be performed.

The Board of Executive Directors of the Association has the following duties:

1. Handle important special or incidental matters related to the Association.
2. Decide on the Association's execution policies.

Article 14:

The Board of Supervisors of the Association has the following duties:

1. Audit the Association's budget, financial statement and expenses.
2. Supervise, review and approve the execution of all affairs of the Association by the Board of Directors.
3. Elect or dismiss Executive Supervisors.
4. Decide on the resignation of any Supervisor or Executive Supervisor.
5. Supervise the execution of elections of Member Representatives, Directors and Supervisors and other relevant elections of the Association.
6. Other matters that should be supervised.

Article 15:

Any Director or Supervisor of the Association shall be dismissed should any of the following events occur. The vacancy shall be filled by an Alternate Director or Alternate Supervisor:

1. Termination of membership.
2. Resignation due to any reason and approved by a resolution of the Board of Director or Supervisor.
3. Failure to participate in Director's or Supervisor's meetings for two consecutive times without justification.
4. Dismissed or recalled.
5. Suspended for a period exceeding 1/2 of his/her term.

Article 16:

The term for any Director or Supervisor of the Association is three years. The same person may be elected again upon expiry of the term. The number of repeatedly elected Director or Supervisor shall not exceed 2/3 of all Director or Supervisor. The same person shall not serve as chairman more than twice.

Article 17:

Directors and Supervisors of the Association are without remuneration and may not also serve as staff.

Article 18:

The Association should appoint one Secretary General, several Deputy Secretary Generals and several staff members, through nominations by the President and appointed by the Board of Directors. These persons shall handle the matters of the Association in accordance with the President's instructions.

Article 19:

The Association may create several Committees, Academic Teams, Task Forces or other secondary organizations that are related to the promotion of the affairs of the Association and consistent with the objectives and missions of the Association. Such organizations' bylaws shall be established elsewhere.

Article 20:

The Association may appoint several Consultants and Honorary Directors. The term of employment shall be the same as the term of the current Directors and Supervisors. The election or qualification conditions shall be established by the Board of Directors and Supervisors.

Article 21:

The General Assembly (of members or member representatives) shall be held once every year. Academic conferences shall also be organized. If necessary, a request may be filed in writing by the board of directors, board of supervisors or 1/5 or more of the members (member representatives) to seek the organization of a special assembly (of members or member representatives). After corporate registration of the Association, a special assembly (of members or member representatives) shall be organized pursuant to the request by 1/10 or more of the members (Member Representatives).

Article 21-1:

The quorum for any General Assembly is 1/2 of all members (Member Representatives). Any member (Member Representatives) who cannot attend a General Assembly may designate another member (Member Representative) in writing to attend the meeting on his/her behalf. Each member (Member Representative) shall represent no more than one person.

Article 21-2:

The resolutions of members (Member Representatives) for the following matters shall be passed by 2/3 of all members (Member Representatives) present at the meeting. Any member (Member Representatives) who has an interest in the resolution shall not participate in the voting, but may state facts or opinions.

1. Establishment and revision of Articles of Association.
2. Dismissal of any Director or Supervisor.
3. Disposal of property.
4. Dissolution of the organization.
5. Other important matters related to the rights and obligations of the members.

After the corporate registration of the Association, the Articles of Association may be revised by approval of 3/4 of all members (Member Representatives) present at a meeting or written approval of 2/3 of all members (Member Representatives). The dissolution of the Association must be approved by 2/3 of all members (Member Representatives).

Article 22:

The Board of Directors and Supervisors of the Association shall meet every three months and shall be convened by the President and the Executive Supervisors, respectively. If required, special meetings or joint meetings may be organized.

The meetings mentioned above can be held via videoconferencing when needed. Board Directors or Supervisors who participate in the meetings via videoconferencing shall be regarded as attending the meetings in person; sign-in and voting can be conducted based on the function of videoconferencing equipment. Matters regarding election, by-election, dismissal, establishing regulations of the Association shall not be conducted via videoconferencing.

Article 22-1:

Matters in meetings shall be determined by the majority of all participants. When there is an equal number of "yes" votes and "no" votes, the chairman may join the "yes" side and approve the matter, or not join any side and not approve the matter.

Article 22-2:

Any Directors and Supervisor who has an interest in the meeting shall not participate in the voting, but may state facts or opinions.

Article 23:

The funding of the Association shall be financed by the following:

1. Membership fees and annual fees.
2. Government subsidy.
3. Voluntary contributions.
4. Interest income.
5. Other revenue.

Article 24:

The relevant fees for joining the Association include the membership review fee, membership admission fee, and annual membership fee. Members, Associate Members and Sponsor Members shall pay the annual fee for the following year before the deadline. The fee rates for Members, Associate Members and Sponsor Members of the Association are as follows. Honorary Members are exempt from the following fees.

1. Membership Review Fee: The membership review fee for all Members, Associate Members and Sponsor Members is NT\$500.
When a Student Associate Member becomes a member, the membership review fee will be waived.
2. Membership Admission Fee: The admission fee for Members, Group Associate Members and Assistant Associate Members, International Associate Members is NT\$1,000. The admission fee for Student Associate Members is NT\$200. The admission fee for Sponsor Members is NT\$3,000 for individuals and NT\$5,000 for organizations. When a Student Associate Member becomes a member, the admission fee will be waived.
3. Annual Membership Fee: The annual fee for Members is NT\$1,500. The annual fee for Group Associate Members is NT\$5,000. The annual fee for Assistant Associate Members and International Associate Members is NT\$1,000. The annual fee for Individuals Sponsor Members is NT\$2,000 for and NT\$3,000 for Organization Sponsor Members. The annual fee for Student Associate Members is waived.

Article 24-1:

Any Members, Associate Members and Sponsor Members that fails to pay any member annual fee before the deadline will be suspended from certain member benefits (including suspension of the right to participate in continuing education seminars at member rates and the right to receive journals and newsletters of the Association) from the day after the due date. All member benefits will be reinstated after the fees are paid.

Article 25:

The annual funding, budget and closing of the Association shall be submitted to the board of directors and board of supervisors for approval two months before the annual General Assembly (of members or member representatives), then submitted to the members' (member representatives') meeting for approval and filed with the competent authority for reference.

Article 26:

Upon dissolution or cancellation of the Association, all remaining properties shall be handled in accordance with the law and shall not be allocated to any individual or private enterprise. The properties shall belong to a self-governing organization or the government.

Article 27:

The bylaws of the Association shall be further established by the Board of Directors and Supervisors.

Article 28:

Any matter that is not provided for in these Articles of Association may be presented to a General Assembly for a resolution to revise and said revisions shall then be filed with the competent authority for reference.

Article 29:

These Articles of Association shall be implemented after approval by a General Assembly and submission to and approval by the competent authority. The same shall be applicable to any revision.

* World Confederation for Physical Therapy is now also known as World Physiotherapy.