

Statutes of the European Mahjong Association

§1. Name

The association shall be called the European Mahjong Association (EMA).

§2. Legal Form and Headquarter

1. The European Mahjong Association (EMA) shall be a society registered in Denmark.
2. EMA's headquarter shall be situated in Denmark. The Board shall determine the location of the registered office of EMA.

§3. Purpose

1. The purpose of the association is to encourage, disseminate and coordinate the playing of mahjong in Europe. The association is a non-profit organization with no political or religious purpose.
2. In accordance with this purpose, specific objectives shall be
 - to encourage and support the creation of national mahjong associations throughout Europe
 - ensuring the organizing of European Championships on a regular basis
 - disseminating information on different sets of rules
 - disseminating information on tournaments and championships
 - the establishment of guidelines for tournaments and championships
 - the establishment of guidelines on rankings of players in Europe
 - to represent the interests of European mahjong players inside and outside of Europe
 - to take such other actions as may be expedient to further the main purpose

§4. Membership

1. Membership of EMA is open to national Mahjong organizations based in internationally recognized European countries which are responsible for the organization and implementation of mahjong-related matters in their countries. Exceptions to the geographical aspect may be made by the General Assembly.
2. Inaugural members of EMA are the following national organizations (in alphabetical order):
 - Austria: Österreichischer Mahjong Verband
 - Denmark: Mahjong Danmark
 - France: Fédération Française de Mah-Jong
 - Germany: Deutsche Mah-Jongg Liga (DMJL) e.V.
 - Hungary: Magyar Mah-jong Szövetség
 - Italy: Federazione Italiana Mah Jong

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- Netherlands: Nederlandse Mahjong Bond

Members of EMA accepted at the General Assembly in 2009 (in alphabetical order):

- Belgium: Belgian Mahjong Association
- Finland: Suomen Mahjong-liitto
- Portugal: União de Mahjong de Portugal
- Russia: Russian Mahjong Federation
- Slovakia: Slovenský Mahjongový Zväz
- Spain: Federación Española de mahjong
- Sweden: Svenska Mahjongförbundet

Members of EMA accepted at the General Assembly in 2011 (in alphabetical order):

- Poland: Polska Liga Mahjonga
- United Kingdom: United Kingdom Mahjong Association

Members of EMA accepted at the General Assembly in 2013 (in alphabetical order):

- Czech Republic: Česká asociace mahjongu (abbreviated ČAMJ)
(English: Czech Mahjong Association)
- Switzerland: The Association Suisse de Mah-Jong - Associazione Svizzera di Mah-Jong - Schweizerischer Mah-Jong Verein (ASM-SMV)
- Ukraine: Ukrainian Mahjong Federation

3. A national Mahjong organization that wants to become a member of EMA shall submit a written application for admission. The General Assembly has the power to accept or refuse an application for membership. The Board may admit a national Mahjong organization into membership on a provisional basis. A decision on full admission must be taken at the next General Assembly.

4. Countries without national Mahjong organizations can be represented in the General Assembly of EMA by persons in an advisory capacity.

§5. Termination of Membership

1. A member organization may withdraw its membership in written form with a minimum of three months before the end of a year. If a member organization is dissolved, its membership of EMA shall terminate at the same time.

2. A member organization may be excluded from EMA if it has

- failed to settle its financial obligations towards EMA
- seriously breached these Statutes or a regulation or decision made under them
- lost its qualifying status as a representative national Mahjong organization

3. The exclusion of a member organization shall be decided by General Assembly. The exclusion must be supported by three-quarters or more of the General Assembly, and at least half of the total number of member organizations must be present.

§6. Finances

The association shall be financed by such subscriptions from national organizations or representatives as are decided by the General Assembly, as well as any donations, sponsorships and other income legally obtained.

7. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the highest authority of EMA. The business of the assembly will be carried out in English.

2. Members of the General Assembly are

- two representatives of each member organization, entitled to vote
- two representatives of each country without a member organization, in an advisory capacity.

3. In case of disagreement within a country without member organization as to who should be representatives, the nominees with the most supporters for their candidature are accepted.

When representatives are chosen under such circumstances, new representatives must be chosen after one year with re-election possible.

4. The General Assembly takes place every other year. The President of EMA is the chairman of the General Assembly. The Board determines the time and the form of the General Assembly and must announce this and a preliminary agenda at least eight weeks in advance.

The agenda should include the following items:

- Appointment of a notetaker who will prepare minutes of the General Assembly
- Report of the President
- Reports of the chairmen of existing committees
- Election of President, two Vice Presidents and two further members of the Presidium
- Creation of any new Committees
- Sitings of future European Championships
- Items proposed to the General Assembly
- Any other business

5. Items proposed by a member and received by the Board at least three weeks in advance of the General Assembly must be included in the agenda.

6. The final agenda should be announced at least two weeks in advance.

7. Only proposals included on the agenda may be voted upon at the General Assembly. Within the item "Any other business" no voting shall take place on matters which would substantially affect the association.

8. Normal business of the General Assembly will be carried by a majority of votes (exceptions: §11-12), omitting abstentions.

9. Any representative of a member organization may be a candidate for President, Vice Presidents and the Board.

§8. Special General Assembly

1. At the request of either the Board or four member organizations, a Special General Assembly must be called. The Board will decide the date and form of the assembly in consultation with those members desiring the assembly. The announcement and agenda of the Special General Assembly must be circulated to all members not later than one month after receiving the call and at least four months in advance of the assembly.
2. Items proposed by a member and received by the Board at least three weeks in advance of the Special General Assembly must be included in the agenda.

§9. The Presidium and Board

1. The Presidium comprises five members: the President, two Vice Presidents and two further Members of the Presidium.
2. The Presidium shall not include more than one representative of the same member organization.
3. The Board consist of the Presidium plus one representative of each member organization which is not directly represented in the Presidium.
4. The term of office of the Presidium and the Board shall be two years. All members shall be eligible for re-election.
5. If a national organization changes its Board member in mid-term, this should be immediately communicated to the Board. If such changes affect a Member of the Presidium, that Member is removed from both the Presidium and Board, and the newly appointed person becomes a regular Board member. Thus, there must be an election for the vacated Presidium seat.
 - New elections are made by the Board.
 - Candidates for an empty Presidium seat must come from the Presidium or the Board.
 - If an election is won by a Member of the Presidium, there will be a new election for the vacated Presidium seat.
 - Example 1: The President must vacate the seat. A new President is elected from the Board.
 - Example 2: The President must vacate the seat. The new President elected was one of the Vice Presidents, so a new Vice President must be elected. The new Vice President is one of the ordinary Presidium members, so a new ordinary Presidium member must be elected.

6. The affairs of the association are managed by the Presidium in the period between the General Assemblies.
7. The President and one of the Vice Presidents shall have signature rights.
8. At each General Assembly the President presents the yearly final balanced account, subject to acceptance by the General Assembly.
9. The Presidium regularly informs the Board about all decisions and all items the Presidium is dealing with.

§10. Committees

1. The General Assembly or the Board can install Committees. Committees installed by the Board must be announced to the members within 30 days.
2. A Committee can have any number of members. One of the members must be appointed Chairman by the Committee. The Chairman will report to the annual General Assembly on the activities of the Committee.
3. Activities, finance and limitations for a Committee must be defined by the Board or the General Assembly. Any such decisions by the Board must be presented at the next annual General Assembly for approval.

§11. Changes to the Statutes

1. Changes of the statutes can take place at any General Assembly where such a proposal is included in the agenda.
2. In order to be accepted, the changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority at this assembly.

§12. Dissolution

1. Dissolution of the European Mahjong Association can take place at any General Assembly where such a proposal is included in the agenda.
2. In order to be accepted, the changes must be approved by a three-quarters majority at this assembly.
3. In the event of liquidation of the European Mahjong Association, the property has to be divided in accordance with the purpose of the association. This is done by the final General Assembly.

§13. Coming into effect

These statutes first came into effect at the First General Assembly, Nijmegen, NL, June 25th 2005. They were changed at the Second General Assembly, Copenhagen, DK, June 22nd,

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2007, at the Third General Assembly in Baden, AUT, July 3rd, 2009, and at the Fifth General Assembly in Bad Vöslau, AUT, September 20th, 2013.

