# Statutes

## Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology

**Document history**

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- Chapters 2, 3, 5 changed and former chapter 9 deleted by the Extraordinary General Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia October 16, 2010
- Draft for restructuring the organization, August 2018
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- Last edits, minor amendments by Tommi Paalanen and Tiina Vilponen, July 2019

**Definitions**

- **General Assembly:** The highest decision-making body of the Association. The ordinary General Assembly meets annually before the end of October and confirms annual statements, action plans, budgets, financial statements and amendments to the statutes.
- **Executive Board:** The executive body of the Association, which includes the officials, the Treasures and the General Secretary. The Board drafts all official documents and directs to work of Committees. The Board consists of the delegates from the six national associations.
- **President**: The representative of the Association, who will lead the work of the Board. Elected by the Board.
- **Annual Conference or Annual Meeting:** The Conference of NACS, which will be organized annually in different countries within the regions. The General Assembly is traditionally held during the conference.

# Statutes

**§1 Name of the association**

The name of the Association is the Nordic Association for Sexology, abbreviation NACS. The Association is registered in Helsinki, Finland.

**§2 Aim and values**

The aim of the Association is to promote scientific and professional exchange and practical cooperation in sexology in Nordic and Baltic regions.

The Association and all of its members commit to the WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights, NACS Ethical Guidelines and all NACS position statements in all sexological practice including

research, training, education, medicine, counselling, therapy and other professional sexological work.

**§3 Organisation**

The Association is a cooperation organisation in the fields of sexology, sexual health and sexuality research in Nordic and Baltic regions.

The Association has the following membership categories

1. National Associations: The six national associations of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden form the board of the association, and hold voting powers in the General Assembly. The full names of the national associations are listed below (§4).
2. Professional Organisations: Professional organisations eligible for membership (see §5) form the Advisory Committee of the Association. The Advisory Committee holds voting powers in the General Assembly, prepares proposals, statements and documents, takes part in strategic planning, and implements decisions of the Association.
3. Supporting Members: Supporting members sponsor the Association, and take part in organising the conferences of the Association.

**§4 Membership: National Associations**

The founding members of NACS and other Nordic National Associations in sexology for the membership category: National Associations. The National Associations are

- Danish Association for Clinical Sexology,
- Estonian Academic Society of Sexology,
- Finnish Association for Sexology,
- Icelandic Sexology Association,
- Norwegian Society for Clinical Sexology, and
- Swedish Association for Sexology.

The national associations will pay annual fees to NACS according to their size category.

**§5 Membership: Professional Organisations**

Organisations that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for membership. The basic criteria for membership is that the applicant is reputable and established (2 years of continuous activity), and able to provide documentation including statutes, annual statements and member lists (if applicable). The member organisations will pay annual fees to NACS according to their size category.

The applications are approved by the Board for the provisional membership of 1 year, and then approved by the General Assembly for the full membership. If the application is rejected by the Board, the applicant may submit the application for revision to the General Assembly, which will decide on the provisional membership.

The membership can be terminated by the Board in case of misconduct or breach of NACS Statutes or aims and values (§2). The member may file a complaint of the Board's decision to the Ethical Committee of NACS, which examines the case. If the Ethical Committee dismisses the case, the termination of membership will prevail. If the Ethical Committee accepts the complaint, the next General Assembly will decide on the termination of the membership

**§6 Membership: Supporting Members**

Organisations, businesses and individuals that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for supporting membership. The membership requires a sponsor contract, which includes the supporting membership terms, tier and fees. The Board is responsible for accepting supporting members, creating the contracts and setting the fees for supporting membership tiers.

**§7 The General Assembly of NACS**

The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the Association. The ordinary General Assembly will be held before the end of October. Invitation and agenda for the General Assembly must be sent to members no later than a month before the General Assembly will be arranged. An Extraordinary General Assembly will be arranged if the Board so decides or if requested by the majority of member organisations. At the General Assembly the member organisations will have votes according to their membership category and the number of their members (see appendix 1).

The General Assembly will elect a Chair, a Secretary and two Tellers and Inspectors for the Assembly. The Secretary will record Minutes of the Assembly, which will be amended and confirmed by the Inspectors and approved by the next General Assembly.

In case of election or a vote, a motion will be carried out by simple majority. Changes to the statutes will be carried out by ⅔ majority.

The ordinary General Assembly should include the following items in the agenda:

1. Approving the invitation and the agenda
2. Electing the Chair, Secretary and two Tellers and Inspectors for the Assembly
3. Approving the minutes of the previous General Assembly
4. Approving the last year´s Accounts, Financial Statement, and an Annual Report
5. Approving the Annual Action Plan, the Budget and membership fees for the upcoming year
6. Decide on membership issues
7. Other matters

**§8 The Executive Board of NACS**

The Executive Board of NACS consists of 6 delegates from the national associations. Each national association will appoint a Member of the Board at least a month before the start of a new term.

The term for the Members of the Board is 3 years; the maximum number of sequential terms for an individual is 3 terms (9 years).

The Board is responsible in creating a Budget and an Annual Action Plan, which will be discussed and approved by the General Assembly. Annually the Board will present an Annual Report and Financial Statement with all accompanying accounting materials to the General Assembly.

**§9 The President of NACS and the Officers**

The Board will choose the President of NACS, the Treasurer and the General Secretary among themselves for the term of the Board.

The President is responsible for organising the work and meetings of the Board, and representing the Association.

The tasks of the Treasurer are to manage the finances of the Association, to draft a budget and to prepare financial statements. The tasks of the General Secretary are to manage any day-to-day business of the Association, record Minutes of the Board meetings, and to draft the Annual Action Plan and Annual Report.

**§10 Statutory Committees**

The Association has the following statutory committees: Membership Committee, Ethical Committee, and Authorisation Committee. All Committees have a Chair and 2-5 members. The Board will appoint the Committee Chairs and approve of the Committee member lists. The term of the Committee Chair and members is 3 years.

The primary tasks of the Committees are:

- **Membership Committee:** The Committee manages membership applications and presents them to the Board, which makes a decision for the provisional membership. The Committee drafts requirements for membership and respective fees for the General Assembly to decide upon. The Committee maintains a registry of the members.
- **Ethical Committee:** The Committee manages complaints of misconduct or breaches of statutes and aims and values of NACS. The committee also examines disputes regarding termination of membership.
- **Authorisation Committee:** The Committee manages authorisation applications of Sexuality Counsellors, Clinical Sexologists, Sexuality Educators and Sexual Health Promoters, and Sexual Scientists. The Committee maintains the authorisation requirements and protocol, and drafts amendments to them for the Board to decide upon. The Committee maintains the registry of authorised persons.

The Committees will have the Terms of Reference, which includes the committee's purpose, tasks, organisation, and responsibilities. The Terms of Reference are approved by the Board.

**§11 Amendment of the Statutes**

Amendment of these Statutes will require a ⅔ majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly. Proposals for amendments must be sent to the members of the membership organisations at least one month before the General Assembly.

**§12 Dissolution of the Association**

Dissolution of the Association requires a ⅔ majority of votes cast at two successive General Assemblies of which the latter has to be the ordinary General Assembly.

# Appendix 1: Membership fees and votes

| Category | Size | Membership fee | Votes (National Associations) | Votes (Professional Organisations) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Institute or foundation | No members | 50€ | 2 | 1 |
| Tiny association | Up to 50 members | 50€ | 2 | 1 |
| Small association | 51-150 | 100€ | 4 | 2 |
| Medium association | 151-300 members | 200€ | 6 | 3 |
| Large association | 301-500 members | 350€ | 8 | 4 |
| Huge association | Over 501 members | 500€ | 10 | 5 |

# Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for the committees

Note

- Tasks of the committee
- Qualification of the Chair and Members
- Protocol of conducting business
- Documentation
- Complaints
- Annual reporting

# References


- WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights
- NACS Ethical Guidelines
- List of NACS Position Statements