

Statutes

Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology

Document history

- Confirmed by the Annual General Meeting, September 17, 1999, in Grimstad, Norway
- English version confirmed by the Annual General Meeting in Visby, Sweden, September 14, 2001.
- 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 organisation, August 2018
- Version 2.0 by the task force, October 2018
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Definitions

- **General Assembly:** The highest decision-making body of the Association. The ordinary General Assembly meets annually before the end of November 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 Treasurer 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 organised annually in different countries within the regions. The General Assembly is traditionally held during the conference.

Statutes

§1 Name of the Association, registered location and financial term

The name of the Association is the Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology, abbreviation NACS. The Association is registered in Helsinki, Finland. The financial term of the association is a calendar year.

§2 Aim, values, and the purpose of the Association

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.

The Association carries out its purpose by organising conferences and meetings, maintaining networks, creating and maintaining curriculums, and by granting professional authorisations.

§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: Supporters of the Association can 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 form 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 the size of their membership.

§5 Membership: Professional Organisations

Organisations that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for membership. The basic criteria for membership are 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 the size of their membership.

The Board approves applications for the provisional membership of 1 year, and then approved by the General Assembly for the full membership. If the Board rejects the application, 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 neglecting annual fees, misconduct, or breach of the NACS Statutes or aims and values (§2). The member may file a complaint of the Board's decision within 3 months 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 within 12 months.

§6 Membership: Supporting Members

Organisations, businesses and individuals that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for supporting membership. The Board is responsible for accepting supporting members and setting the fees for supporting members. Supporting members do not have voting rights in the General Assembly.

§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 November. Invitation and agenda for the General Assembly must be sent to members no later than a month before the General Assembly will be arranged via email.

An Extraordinary General Assembly will be arranged if the Board so decides or if requested by the member organisations holding at least 1/10 of the total votes. At the General Assembly the member organisations will have votes according to their membership as follows:

Category	Size	Votes: National Associations	Votes: Professional Organisations
Institute or foundation	No members	N/A	1
Small association	Up to 50 members	2	1
Medium association	51 – 299 members	4	2
Large association	300 and up	6	3

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 an election or a vote, a simple majority will carry out a motion. A 2/3 majority will carry out the changes to the statutes.

The Board may decide to organise the General Assembly by using online platforms, which requires strong identification for the participants eligible of voting.

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 Accounts, the Financial Statement, and the Annual Report of the last year
5. Granting discharge to the previous Board and other responsible parties
6. Approving the Annual Action Plan, the Budget and the Membership Fees for the upcoming year
7. Electing one or two Operations Inspectors and their deputies, or one or two Auditors and their deputies
8. Deciding on membership issues
9. Other matters

§8 The Executive Board of NACS

The Executive Board of NACS consists of six persons elected by the General Assembly. Member organisations of NACS with votes may nominate candidates for the Board. The Executive Board composition should have a balanced representation of the nationalities of the member organisations.

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.

The meetings of the Board may be organised by using online platforms.

§9 The President of NACS and the Officers

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

The President is responsible for organising the meetings and actions of the Board and representing the Association. The association's name is signed by the President or the Vice-President, each on their own.

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 decides for the provisional membership. The Committee drafts requirements for membership and respective fees for the General Assembly to decide on. 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. The committee has an advisory function to the board.

- **Authorisation Committee:** The committee consist of all the nationally elected national authorisation committee members and 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 on. The Committee maintains the registry of authorised persons.

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

§11 Amendment of the Statutes

Amendment of these Statutes will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of votes cast at two successive General Assemblies of which the latter has to be the ordinary General Assembly. In the case of dissolution the funds of the Association must be used to advance the aims of the Association according to the decision by the final General Assembly. If the Association is terminated the funds must be used in a similar way.

Membership fees

Category	Size	Membership fee
Institute or foundation	No members	150€
Small association	Up to 50 members	50€
Medium association	51 – 299 members	200€
Large association	300 and up	400€

References

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