

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 organization, August 2018
- Version 2.0 by the task force, October 2018
- Amended by the task force, April 2019
- Last edits, minor amendments by Tommi Paalanen and Tiina Vilponen, July 2019
- Adopted AGM Gothenburg September 21, 2019.
- Draft for new statutes by NACS board members June 2022

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 founding associations (*see §3 for details*).
- **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 Clinical Sexology, abbreviation NACS.

§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 NACS membership

The founding members of NACS 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.

These membership organizations are legally and economically independent in their relationships to the Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology.

Organizations 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 applications are approved by the General Assembly for the full 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

§4 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, agenda and relevant documents 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 organizations. At the General Assembly the member organizations 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ 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. The memberships organizations present a report of its activities.
4. Decide on membership issues
5. Other matters

§5 The Executive Board of NACS

The Executive Board of NACS consists of 6 delegates from the founding associations. Each founding 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). If decided by the founding organization, the member of the board representing that very country, may be replaced before the end of such a term.

§6 The President of NACS and the Officers

The Board will choose the President of NACS and the General Secretary amongst themselves for the term of the Board.

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

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.

§7 Statutory Committees

The Association has the following statutory committees: Ethical Committee and Authorization Committee. Both Committees have a Chair and 2-10 members. The Board approves the Committee Chairs and the Committee member lists. The term of the Committee Chair and members is 3 years, and the maximum number of sequential terms for an individual is 4 terms (12 years).

The primary tasks of the Committees are:

- **Ethical Committee:** The Committee meets if needed and does not have regular meeting. 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. Members from national ethical committees, no NACS board members
- **Authorization Committee:** The committee consist of all the nationally elected national authorization committee members and manages authorization applications of Sexuality Counsellors, Clinical Sexologists, Sexuality Educators and Sexual Health Promoters, and Sexual Scientists. The Committee maintains the authorization requirements and protocol, and drafts

amendments to them for the Board to decide upon. The Committee maintains the registry of authorized persons.

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

§8 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 organizations at least one month before the General Assembly.

§9 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.

Appendix 1: Membership votes

Voting system 1:			
Category	Size	Votes Founding Associations	Votes new member organizations
Institute or foundation	No members	N/A	0
Small association	Up to 50 members	2	0
Medium association	51 – 299 members	4	2
Large association	300 and up	6	3
Voting system 2:			
Category	Size	Votes Founding Associations	Votes new member organizations
Institute or foundation	No members		0
Small association	Up to 50 members	2	0
Medium association	51 – 299 members	4	4
Large association	300 and up	6	6
		Majority vote has to include the votes from at least 4 out of the 6 founding associations	

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