

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES – PART 1 OF 2 (BOARD AUTHORITY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES)

At its meeting in July 2021, the Board approved the initiation of a membership ballot regarding potential Rule changes that would give the Board of Representatives the authority, in exceptional circumstances, to make decisions typically reserved for the Business Meeting.

The IPA's Rules currently require that an in-person Business Meeting be organised every two years alongside the IPA's Congress. There was no in-person Congress in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and, thus, it was not possible to organise a Business Meeting as specified in the Rules. There are no provisions in the current IPA Rules for organising Business Meetings via alternate means (eg. using remote communications technologies) or for making decisions on matters typically reserved for the Business Meeting in the case where a Business Meeting cannot be held.

The Board therefore proposed a Rule change which would allow the Board, in exceptional circumstances, to make decisions typically reserved for the Business Meeting.

The primary impetus for the proposed change was to enable the ratification of changes of status for new groups (Study Groups and Provisional Societies) who would otherwise have to wait several years in cases where a Business Meeting cannot be held due to exceptional circumstances (as happened in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

In accordance with IPA Rules, this mechanism would only be used in **exceptional circumstances** and mainly for **changes of status** (i.e., from Study Group to Provisional Society, or from Provisional Society to Component Society) where groups would otherwise have to wait several years for ratification — these decisions would be irreversible subject only to the existing rules about terminating societies, etc. The mechanism would not be used to make decisions about any controversial matter except where necessary due to unavoidable time-sensitivities (and, where practicable, any such decisions would be temporary pending confirmation by the next ordinary Business Meeting).

Two changes to the IPA Rules were proposed:

1. **Addition of a new section P. to Rule 3 (Definitions and Terminology):**
Section P. Exceptional Circumstance. “Acts of God”, pandemics, international travel restrictions, volcanic eruptions and other events of a similarly serious level such as would make holding a Business Meeting ill-advised for reasons of safety or practicality taking into account the international nature of IPAs organisation and work.
2. **Addition of a new section G. to Rule 12 (General Provisions):**
Section G. Board authority in Exceptional Circumstance. Where, in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of the Board of Representatives, it is not practicable to hold a Business Meeting when one would normally be due because of an Exceptional Circumstance, no Business Meeting shall be held that year and all business which would normally be transacted by the Business Meeting which cannot be held may instead be transacted by the Board of Representatives, where a motion will be considered passed as if by a Business Meeting if it achieves a two-thirds majority of the entire voting membership of the Board of Representatives at a meeting that is duly held according to Rule 7A(5) or 7A(6)-(8). In the event of this Rule Section G applying, Rule 6B(2) shall be read accordingly.

[NB: “Act of God” is a technical term in English law which refers to out-of-the-ordinary natural events — eg, a volcano eruption or unusually severe weather. There is no religious connotation.]

Under **Rule 10. Section A. Paragraph (1)**, the Board may initiate amendments to the IPA's Rules. After this, each proposed amendment must be submitted to the membership for comment, and then distributed to all Members for vote by ballot, which must include a summary of the members' views received.

As required by the Rules, Adriana Prengler, IPA Vice President, distributed information on these proposed changes to the IPA Membership on 19 April 2022. Thirty-two (32) responses from IPA members were received before the specified 14 June 2022 deadline. Twenty-four (24) were in favour of the proposed change. Four (4) respondents were opposed or questioned the necessity, with some

respondents inquiring why more business meetings cannot occur online. The remaining four (4) did not express a definite position.

The proposed amendments were included on the 2023 Election ballot, together with the summary of the members' views received.

The results of the vote by the membership were **2193 votes (88.6%) in favour** of the amendments and **281 votes (11.4%) against** the amendments.

According to IPA Rule 10, Section A(5), "An amendment shall be adopted upon receiving affirmative votes by two-thirds [66.7%] of the IPA Members whose ballots are actually received by mail or other reliable means determined by the Board, pursuant to Rule 6, Section B(3) within the time limit determined by the Board." **Therefore, the proposed amendments have been adopted by the IPA membership effective immediately.**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES – PART 2 OF 2 (GENDERED LANGUAGE)

During the survey of the IPA membership regarding the proposal to amend the IPA Rules to give the Board of Representatives the authority, in exceptional circumstances, to make decisions typically reserved for the Business Meeting, the feedback included objections to **Rule 3, Section F.:**

- Section F. Gender. The words “he” and “his” refer equally to the words “she” and “hers” respectively, and vice versa.

In order to update the Rules to reflect the IPA's ongoing commitment to non-discrimination and gender equality, it was proposed that:

- i) Rule 3, Section F. be deleted entirely,
- ii) the subsequent Sections of Rule 3 be renumbered accordingly, and
- iii) any instances of gendered language within the Rules be amended to make them neutral.

With reference to iii) above, it was proposed that the following instances of gendered language (“he/she”, “him/her”, or “his/her”) within the Rules be amended as follows [deletions struck-through, additions in red text]:

Rule 9, Section B (1)b

b. Central Nominating Committee. Each Regional Nominating Committee shall appoint two (2) of its members to serve on the Central Nominating Committee. The six (6) members of the Central Nominating Committee shall choose one among them to serve as Chair. The Central Nominating Committee shall nominate those IPA Members it judges best qualified for each position subject to rules and limits in the Procedural Code. If the incumbent President with Vice President or Treasurer is standing for re-election, the Central Nominating Committee may nominate only the incumbent. The President may name a different Vice President to serve ~~with him/her~~ for ~~his/her~~ **the** second term.

Rule 9, Section C (2)a

a. Removal of Organisational Officer. By a vote of two-thirds of its Entire Voting Membership, the Board may remove or suspend from office an Organisational Officer or Representative upon finding, after a review of the pertinent facts and affording the Organisational Officer or Representative an opportunity to **respond** ~~present his or her position~~, that the Organisational Officer or Representative cannot or should not continue to serve because of mental, physical or professional incapacity, malfeasance, illegal or unethical conduct, or chronic neglect of official responsibilities. If an Organisational Officer's available time for IPA affairs is inconsistent with the Board's reasonable expectations or requirements, the Board may, by a vote of two-thirds of the Entire Voting Membership, relieve or reassign that Organisational Officer's responsibilities, or replace or suspend the Organisational Officer, permanently or temporarily.

Under Rule 10. Section A. Paragraph (1), the Board may initiate amendments to the IPA's Rules. After this, each proposed amendment must be submitted to the membership for comment, and then distributed to all Members for vote by ballot, which must include a summary of the members' views received.

As required by the Rules, Adriana Prengler, IPA Vice President, distributed information on these proposed changes to the IPA Membership on 1 December 2022. Sixty-three (63) responses from IPA members were received before the specified 10 January 2023 deadline: Nineteen (19) were in favour of the proposed changes, forty-three (43) were opposed or questioned the necessity, and one (1) did not express a definite position. Some of those in favour felt that the proposed changes make the IPA more inclusive of marginalized groups and do not change the essential meaning of the document. Others who were opposed to the changes focused on the question of gender and saw it as a sociological issue that reflects political correctness and an ideological commitment rather than a scientific concern. The majority of the feedback that opposed or questioned the proposed changes argued that the differences between the sexes are fundamental to psychoanalytic theory. Others who were in favour felt that, since the Association's statutes are not psychoanalytic in nature but rather procedural rules, the proposed changes improve on the original by making the language simpler, clearer, and non-discriminatory.

The proposed amendments were included on the 2023 Election ballot, together with the summary of the members' views received.

The results of the vote by the membership were **1606 votes (63.8%) in favour** of the amendments and **910 votes (36.2%) against** the amendments.

According to IPA Rule 10, Section A(5), "An amendment shall be adopted upon receiving affirmative votes by two-thirds [66.7%] of the IPA Members whose ballots are actually received by mail or other reliable means determined by the Board, pursuant to Rule 6, Section B(3) within the time limit determined by the Board." **Therefore, the proposed amendments have not been adopted.**