

**INPA Constitution: Proposed Changes**

The INPA Executive Committee is proposing to make four changes to the INPA constitution as outlined below.

These proposals will be voted on by the INPA Membership at a Special Meeting scheduled during World Physiotherapy Congress 8 – 10 April 2021.

# **Proposed Change 1**

**Article 3 Granting of Membership**

**ORIGINAL**

3.9 *Granting of Membership:* The Executive Committee shall assess all applications for membership and make recommendations to the voting delegates at the next General Meeting. Membership shall be granted if approved by a simple majority.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

3.9 *Granting of Membership:* The Executive Committee shall assess all applications for membership and make recommendations to INPA Members. Member admission shall be voted on once per year by voting delegates of INPA Member organizations. Electronic voting methods may be used. Membership shall be granted if approved by a simple majority.

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

1. An annual vote to admit new members to INPA will allow us to admit new members more quickly (we currently have 3 members-elect who won’t be able to be voted in until the INPA General Meeting at World Physiotherapy Congress in Japan 2023), and will increase the representativeness of INPA.
2. The capacity to vote in new members on an annual basis using electronic methods aligns INPA with World Physiotherapy practice.

# **Proposed Change 2**

**Article 6 General and Special Meetings**

**ORIGINAL**

6.1 *Requirements***:** A General Meeting of Members of the Organization shall be held once every five years. The date, place and time will be determined by the INPA Executive Committee. Normally it will be in conjunction with an international neurological physical therapy congress or WCPT.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

6.1 *Requirements***:** A General Meeting of Members of the Organization shall be held once every two years. The date, place and time will be determined by the INPA Executive Committee. Normally it will be in conjunction with an international neurological physical therapy congress or World Physiotherapy Congress.

The Executive Committee may decide that a General Meeting will be held in two or more places linked together by any technology that:

1. gives the Member Organisations present at those places a reasonable opportunity to participate in proceedings,
2. enables the Presiding Officer to be aware of proceedings in each place; and
3. enables the Voting Delegates in each place to vote on a show of hands and by a secret ballot.

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

1. INPA is a growing organisation, developments and changes will occur more frequently and will need to be discussed and voted on by the membership in a timely manner.
2. The ability to hold meetings in a way that does not rely on everyone meeting face-to-face is cost-effective and reflective of a flexible approach to effective and timely governance. The impact of COVID-19 being a good example.

# **Proposed Change 3**

**Article 6 General and Special Meetings**

**ORIGINAL**

*6.5 Postal vote:* the Executive Committee may decide that a postal vote (including via electronic media) shall be taken on matters of an emergency nature between general meetings.

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**PROPOSED CHANGE**

*6.5 Voting* will be conducted in person or via a nominated in-person-proxy, or electronically (remotely) if the representative is unable to attend in person or cannot nominate an in-person-proxy, or via email in advance of the meeting (for motions proposed in advance of the meeting).[‘remote’ includes participation via audio or video or other electronic participation].

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

1. To improve participation and representation in decision making.

# **Proposed Change 4**

**Article 7 Executive Committee**

**ORIGINAL**

7.1 *Structure*: the elected members of the Executive Committee of the Organization will be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two At-Large members.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

7.1 Structure: the elected members of the Executive Committee of the Organization will be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five At-Large members.

**RATIONALE**

1. A nine member Executive Committee will allow the needs of INPA as a growing organisation to be met and will help INPA achieve its strategic goals.
2. A larger Executive Committee will increase the representativeness of the Committee across World Physiotherapy regions.