

ASPI REGULATION

ASSOCIATION SOMMELLERIE PROFESSIONALE ITALIANA

PREMISE

The rules of this regulation must be interpreted for the achievement of social purposes and are formulated to ensure maximum democracy in the association.

1) CHARACTER OF THE ASSOCIATION

ASPI Association is a professional, non-profit association which brings together professional sommeliers who voluntarily share its statutory purposes and respect its regulations and code of ethics.

2) DURATION - DISSOLUTION

The Association has an unlimited duration.

The dissolution of the Association is resolved by the Extraordinary Assembly which will appoint the liquidator and identify the destination of the assets.

3) MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION

Members are admitted by filling and signing the forms provided by ASPI, addressed to the President of the association. The President will take the decision and will submit to the Board of Directors for ratification at the meeting immediately following the presentation. Upon communication of the admission resolution, the aspiring member ~~he~~ will have to pay the annual fee. After the regular payment of the fee, the prospective member will ~~he~~ assume the status of member and will therefore be included in one of the categories referred to in art.6 of the Statute, based on the requirements he fulfill.

Any rejection of the application for admission must be motivated. The aspirant member has the faculty to request the revision of the decision in the first board following the receipt of the application. The request for revision can be submitted only once.

For each member, the address, date of birth, tax code, telephone number and email address are indicated in compliance with the Privacy law.

4) MEMBER CATEGORIES

All those who have the suitable requirements as defined by the association in the Statute and Regulations can join the association.

The members of the association are divided into:

- Founding members

- Ordinary members
- Honorary members
- Other members

The founding members: the status of founding member is reserved only to natural persons who participated in the establishment of the Association;

Ordinary members: professionals, in possession of the requirements set out in the Articles of Association and Regulations.

Ordinary members are divided into:

- The sommeliers: those who, in possession of a high school diploma, have obtained the certificate of attendance of qualifying courses organized by the association and the favourable opinion of the Board of Directors or the Scientific-Professional Commission (if established), or those in possession of a professional curriculum deemed suitable by the Board of Directors.
- Master sommelier: the professional with at least 15 years of documented experience in the hotel or restaurant sector and member of ASPI for at least 10 consecutive years;

All founding and ordinary members have the right to an active and passive electorate.

Honorary members: the status of honorary member is attributed, exceptionally, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, to all natural persons who have rendered services of particular value to the Association or who have contributed to - the reputation of the Association and of the Sommelier profession. They have no active nor passive voting rights.

OTHER MEMBERS: those who are not yet in possession of the requisites to be professional members, but who participate in the associative life without the right of active and passive electorate.

They are distinguished in:

Aspirante sommelier (Aspiring sommelier): student of the first and second preparatory courses organized by the association to obtain access- there quirements of professional member;

Mastro Coppiere (Cup master): the one who, although he/she doesn't practice the profession, is in possession of a certificate of attendance in food and wine, or sensory analysis courses, or have attended ASPI courses;

Junior sommelier: student of Hotel Institutes who during the two years attended the ASPI training course and passed the final exam.

Supporters: any natural or legal person (Partner and / or Sponsor) who financially supports the activities of the Association and is designed as supporter by the Board of Directors;

Friend of ASPI: enthusiast wine appreciator who intends to participate in the Association's recreational and cultural activities.

Grand Master Sommelier: (over 65 years old) The one who has dedicated his life to the profession of sommelier, so much so that he can be considered "Master" for

objective merits. Professional sommeliers who have reached 65 years of age and with documented experience can apply to the Board of Directors to be recognized in this category.

They have no right to an active and passive electorate.

4) PROFESSIONAL UPDATE OBLIGATION

All ASPI ordinary members have the obligation to update their professional preparation yearly. The members should get 15 annual training credits by attending professional updating courses, conferences and other events that will be assessed by the association as valid for the purposes of training.

Failure to fulfil the annual update obligation, without valid justification, will result in the forfeiture of the Association's membership.

The supervision of the members' training obligation is responsibility of the Board of Directors or of a technical-scientific commission, if aptly constituted, which at the end of each year will verify the possession by the members of the number of credits.

5) PURPOSE:

In addition to the purposes indicated in the Statute, the Association aims to:

Protect the professional interests of its members, possibly, also by stipulating insurance contracts to cover civil liability in the exercise of the profession;

Organize and protect the professional interests of its members and users registered with the Association and listed on the website, in compliance with the legislation on the protection of privacy.

Keep this list updated to protect the user of the website.

Promote collaborations with other Associations, Bodies, Institutes, natural or legal persons, etc., promptly informing the associates.

Maintain, implement and raise the skills and ethical standards of its members with an annual monitoring system and constant verification of the correct application of the standards identified by the association.

Promote new initiatives, meetings, conferences, publications and projects, in collaboration with natural and legal persons, associations and public and private institutions, etc. ;

Ensure constant communication to members on the Association's initiatives and in particular those useful to Ordinary Members to comply with professional updating obligations;—

6) CONVOCATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

The ordinary Assembly is summoned for the activities' approval, for the final balance sheet and the estimated budget, and is convened by the Board of Directors, with justified exceptions, within 6 (six) months from the end of the annual financial year.

7) THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is composed by ~~of~~ the founding members and three to nine members chosen and elected by the Ordinary General Assembly among the ordinary members.

The members of the Board of Directors who are absent for 75% of the annual meetings, without having communicated their legitimate impediment, will lapse from their office and will be replaced, in order, by the first of the non-elected.

The effectiveness of this forfeiture is always and in any case subject to the favourable vote of the majority of the directors.

8) OPERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is convened and, as a rule, chaired by the President and, in case of his absence, by the Vice President. The convocation must indicate the place, day, and time of the meeting and the list of subjects to be discussed. All documentation relating to the items on the agenda must be made available to the directors. Resolutions are taken with an absolute majority of the votes of the attending directors. The meetings and resolutions of the Board of Directors are recorded by the Secretary and the minutes are signed by the President.

9) PRESIDENT

The President chairs the Board of Directors and the Assembly;

The President takes urgent measures relating to the execution of regulatory and administrative acts, subject to subsequent ratification by the Board of Directors.

The President can delegate one or more members of the Board of Directors to carry out his/her duties; for the fulfilment of his duties, he can make use of collaborators both internal and external to the Association, following a resolution by ~~of~~ the Board of Directors.

10) THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President assists the President and replaces him in case of impediment or absence. In case of resignation of the President, the Vice-President replaces him until the first useful Assembly.

11) BOARD OF AUDITORS (optional)

The College of Auditors, where established, supervises the administrative progress of the Association and verifies its budgets, reporting to the Assembly. It is composed of 1 to 5 members elected by the Assembly.

A non member may be elected as auditor. The appointment lasts two years, unless otherwise established by the Assembly. The office of member of the Board of Auditors is incompatible with all other social assignments.

13) COMMISSION OF DEONTOLOGY OR COLLEGE OF PROBIVIRES

The Commission, where constituted, is made up of 3 (three) effective members plus 2 (two) alternates.

In the first meeting, it elects a President from ~~among~~ its members . The President ~~who~~ takes care of the convocation of the Commission, the agenda and chairs the meetings. The members of the Commission cannot hold other elected positions within the Association. The Commission is convened by the President of the Commission itself as needed.

14) OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION OF DEONTOLOGY

requests for intervention by the Commission must be sent to the President of the association or to the Board of Directors. Any of the two will send them to the Commission's President, who will insert the requests on the agenda for the next meeting.

Only requests ritually signed will be taken into consideration. The Commission has the power to convene ~~the~~ Members to listen questions it deems necessary. The communication of the opening of the procedure and the convocation will be made by email return receipt or Pec or email with receipt. The Member has the right to present defensive briefs within 20 days from the communication of the opening of the proceedings. The summoned Member has the obligation to appear on the day and time indicated to carry out his counterclaims. Resolutions are adopted ex bono et aequo. The Commission reports the outcome of the investigation to the Board of Directors and collaborates in taking the consequent disciplinary measure.

15) DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The disciplinary sanctions that can be imposed on the members, taking into account the seriousness of the violation ascertained and according to a grading principle are:

- warning: a contestation of the lack of professional decorum for modest infringements, carried out more for lightness than for deliberate purpose.
- censorship: ~~or~~ a formal reprimand for the lack of decorum or abuse committed
- suspension from the association: when a serious violation by the member is ascertained which, however, does not lead to expulsion; it can be imposed for a maximum period of one year.
- expulsion from the association: when a violation that has been ascertained has seriously compromised the interests, and purposes of the association. The expulsion no longer allows the member to remain in the association's assembly.

The expelled member has no right to reimbursement of the associations' fees.

16) ASSOCIATION'S APPOINTMENTS

All association's offices are attributed and carried out exclusively free of charge, except for the offices of Auditors entrusted to non-members. Compensation can be paid to members for specific professional activities carried out in favour of the association or the members. The duration of all ~~corporate~~ offices, unless otherwise established by the Assembly Members or Board of Directors, is 5 years and the members are eligible for re-election no ~~later~~ more than 3 consecutive terms.

17) MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The amount of annual membership fee is decided by the Board of Directors and ratified by the Assembly.

Failure to pay the membership fee for a period longer than two months carries the suspension of the status of member and the related rights until payment. The arrears of the member for over a year implies the exclusion of the member from the association by resolution of the Board of Directors.

18) CHANGES TO THE REGULATION

The rules of the Regulations are approved and / or modified by the Board of Directors and ratified by the Assembly's members meeting by simple majority of those present.