

Statutes for International Association of Breath Research (IABR)

These proposed revisions to the IABR bylaws were approved by the Board on 06 Mar 2024. They will be presented to the IABR membership and voted on at a general assembly scheduled for Jun 2024.

§ 1. The International Association of Breath Research (IABR) was founded on May 30, 2005, and has the purpose to spread interest and knowledge about breath research by:

- bringing together its members and other persons with mutual interest in breath research through presentations and discussions in related subjects
- fostering support of young researchers and new investigators in the field of breath research
- establishing collaborative efforts to compare the results obtained by different analytical techniques and facilitate joint research endeavors

§ 2. Membership is open for all persons interested in the activities of IABR and incurs an annual membership fee. Members who have paid their annual membership fee are considered active members of IABR. If a member has not paid their annual membership fee within 30 days of issuing the invoice and after one reminder, the membership will be considered void. A yearly fee cannot be reimbursed. Accommodations for financial hardships can be requested, for review and approval by the IABR Board.

§ 3. IABR shall have a Board composed of a Chair, a Past-Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, who have full voting privileges and are elected by the active IABR members, and an Executive Director, who is a nonvoting member of the Board. The Executive Director is co-opted onto the Board by the other Board members and can be removed by the Board. His or her task is to act as a contact person between the IABR and the Austrian authorities, in particular he or she must legally notify the authorities of the appointment of a new Treasurer. The Board shall meet when the Chair finds it suitable, or when two Board members request it, but at least twice per calendar year. At the board meeting the Secretary writes the minutes. The Board is permitted to make decisions when the Chair and at least three other voting board members are present. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.

1. Elections for IABR Board members shall be conducted at membership general assemblies. All active members are eligible to run for Treasurer with the exception of US citizens, due to banking restrictions associated with US Federal Law (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)). Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. Chair-elect and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. If there is a vacancy on the Board, a special election to fill the vacancy can be scheduled for the next general assembly. An Election Committee shall be appointed by the IABR Board to collect nominations for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Election Committee will collect candidate statements, which shall be made available to IABR members at least 14 days before the election.

Each active member of IABR who is in attendance at the general assembly may cast one vote for each Board position. Requests for reasonable accommodations for active members to vote in absentia may be submitted to the Election Committee no later than 14 days before the election. Emergency requests can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for each Board position shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the election shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

2. Terms of the Board members

The Chair shall be limited to two non-consecutive terms of two years. This is preceded by two years as Chair-Elect and succeeded by two years as Past-Chair.

The terms of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be two years, without a limit on the number of terms served.

The Executive Director shall not have a term limit.

The terms for the newly-elected members shall begin the first of October in the year in which they were elected, unless the Board position is vacant, in which case the term shall begin on the first of the month following the election.

§4. IABR has a program committee consisting of the Chairpersons from the immediate past, present and upcoming Breath Summits, which can be adjunct to the Board. They may participate in Board meetings upon the request of the Chair, but may vote only on matters pertaining to Breath Summits.

§5. Membership general assemblies will be held once per calendar year. In years when the Breath Summit takes place, the general assembly will be held on site at the Summit. An invitation and agenda for the general assembly will be sent to all active members by the IABR Chair or IABR Secretary a minimum of 14 days prior to the assembly by email. Motions and other agenda items can be submitted to the Board in advance of the assembly.

The chairperson of the general assembly shall be the Chair of the IABR Board, or if unavailable, a designee who is not standing for an election. The secretary of the assembly shall be the Secretary of the IABR Board, or if standing for an election or unavailable, a designee.

The agenda of each general assembly will contain the following items:

1. The chairperson presents the agenda and affirms that the IABR statutes regarding the general assembly agenda were met. Any objections are allowed to be raised.
2. Annual activities from the previous year are reported by the Board, including a report from the Treasurer of the IABR finances.
3. Upcoming activities and the membership fee for the coming year are presented by the Board and approved by the members by a show of hands.
4. Elections of Board members.
5. Any received motions.
6. Any other business.
7. Meeting closed.

§6. IABR is an association under civil law. On behalf of the IABR, the Executive Director and the Treasurer operate a registered a non-profit organisation in Austria with its office in Innsbruck. Authorized signatories are the Executive Director and Treasurer. The Executive Director maintains contact with the state authorities and confirms to the banks that the Treasurer is authorized to sign. The Treasurer is responsible for financial management.

§7. Any changes of the statutes require two meetings: one Board meeting and one general assembly for active members. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes can be received from all members. All Board members should participate in the voting for change of statutes. In the case of disunity, the Chair has the deciding vote. Once approved by a simple majority of the Board, proposed changes require a two-thirds majority vote by the active members in order to be adopted. If there is disagreement on the interpretation of the statutes, the voting Board majority has interpretative prerogative.

§8. Any decision to dissolve the IABR must be taken in two consecutive general assembly meetings, one being an ordinary meeting. A two-thirds majority vote at each general assembly is required for the motion to be adopted. If IABR is dissolved, its assets should be passed on to the University of Innsbruck, which is a legal body under Federal Law. Its vice-chancellor is obliged to use assets of former IABR for breath (trace gas) research.