



BYLAWS

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL SKAT PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

ISPA Canada

April 19, 1997

ARTICLE I

General

Section 1.

This organization is incorporated as a non profit organization without share capital as the "**International Skat Players Association Canada**", in short **ISPA Canada**.

Section 2.

The objectives are the furthering and promotion of the German card game Skat.

Section 3.

To stage and/or assists and support ISPA Skat Clubs in the endeavor to hold Skat tournaments and competitions for recreation and for the enjoyment of all members and wherever applicable the general public.

Section 4.

To uphold the international tournament agreements and rules (ISkO) by ISPA World.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1.

Any person, association, corporation, partnership or estate having interest in the objectives of the organization shall be eligible to apply for membership.

Section 2.

Membership is based on acceptable moral standards but regardless of race, creed, gender, nationality or religion.

Section 3.

Application for membership is made through ISPA Skat Clubs in general but may also be made directly to ISPA Canada or at ISPA Functions to any ISPA official. Any applicant elected as member by the ISPA executive shall become a member upon payment of the regularly scheduled dues as provided in Article 6.

Section 4.

Due to ISPA Canada's affiliation to ISPA World such members will automatically become a member of ISPA World.

Section 5.

Membership dues shall be such a rate, rates, schedule or formula as prescribed by the Board of Directors and ratified at annual meetings.

Section 6.

The calendar year accounts for membership affiliation and dues. The dues may be split up in fractions if a ISPA membership was granted after March of a calendar year. Only \$2.50 per remaining month becomes due and payable based at the present membership fee at \$30.00 per annum. The same percentage reduction applies to family, senior or junior membership dues. Membership dues are payable by the 28th day of February of each calendar year.

Section 7.

a) Any member may resign from the organization upon written request to its home club or ISPA Canada directly.

b) Any member may be expelled by the Board of Directors by a two third majority vote for non-payment of dues after ninety days and after one past due reminder, unless otherwise payment is extended for good cause.

c) Any member may be expelled by the Board of Directors by a two third majority vote, at a special meeting or telcon thereof, for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the corporation at large, for misconduct, dishonoring or ignoring rules and regulations in general, after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

d) No refunds of membership dues will come forward for any reason.

e) No dues are payable by Board members and for such from time to time appointed officers or committee members, provided at least one year is served in the appointed position.

f) Distinction in public affairs and outstanding service to the cause and on behalf of ISPA Canada shall confer eligibility to honorary membership. Honorary members shall have all the privileges and shall be exempt from payment of dues.

g) Nomination for honorary membership may be made by any member in good standing. The nominating person must present in writing the name of the nominee, the address and reason for nomination. The nomination must be accompanied by two seconders who must be ISPA members in good standing.

h) The Board of Directors and the ISPA Skat Club Presidents will conduct a vote of acceptance or rejection of the nomination with conduct. In the event of a positive decision the award of honorary membership will be announced at the next following major tournament.

ARTICLE III

The Fiscal Year

Section 1.

The Fiscal Year shall be the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st.

ARTICLE IV

The executive

Section 1.

The executive consists of a Board of Directors and shall be elected to serve for four years.

Section 2.

The government and Policy making responsibilities of the corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors which shall control its property, be responsible for its finances, further the objectives of ISPA Canada and direct its affairs in an efficient and effective manner.

Section 3.

Any member in good standing may seek election as ISPA Canada Board member after at least two years of membership.

Section 4.

Vacancies occurring in the executive may filled by the Board of Directors by appointment of a capable person to serve until the next election.

The number of replacements shall not exceed three elected board seats.

ARTICLE V

Duties of the executive

Section 1.

As laid down under Article I, Section 2, 3, 4; Article II, Section 3, 5, 7b, 7c, 7f, 7h; Article IV, Section 2, 4.

Section 2.

1. The President

- a) Shall, be the chief executive officer, preside over all and any meetings.
- b) Shall be ex-officio member of all committees.
- c) Shall enforce parliamentary procedures at all meetings.

2. The Vice President East

Shall carry out duties and representations in eastern Canada in a manner as laid out at executive meetings and by conferring with the chief executive. May have to carry out Presidential duties if and when called upon.

3. The Vice President West

Shall carry out duties and representations in western Canada in a manner as laid out at executive meetings and by conferring with the chief executive. May have to carry out Presidential duties if and when called upon.

4. In the event that the chief executive vacates the presidents position for any reason either one Vice-president may carry on as chief executive after due consultation with the remaining board members. In case of disagreement another elected board member may be appointed by the remaining board members and as last resort an election shall be called to elect a new president.

5. The Secretary

- a) Shall attend all meetings of ISPA Canada and keep minutes and records of the proceedings.
- b) Shall have charge of all correspondence pertaining to, and concerning ISPA Canada.

6. The Treasurer

- a) Shall receive and deposit cash and cheques into ISPA Canada's bank account(s).
- b) Shall keep books on all financial transactions.
- c) Do all banking and bill payments.
- d) Shall present a detailed financial statement at the annual general meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Annual General Meeting

Section 1.

The annual general meeting of ISPA Club Presidents shall be held within the first six month of the new fiscal year and as determined by the executive for the purpose of:

- a) Presentation and consideration of reports by executives and committee chair persons regarding the past year business and activities at large.
- b) Appointing auditors for the present fiscal year.
- c) Presenting election results every four years.
- d) New business.

ARTICLE VII

Election Procedures

Section 1.

Nomination for the Board of Directors election are to be collected by ISPA Canada Clubs from their ISPA Canada members in good standing and forwarded to an election officer who has to be appointed prior to the election year (see minutes of April 22, 1995, item 17).

Section 2.

The election officer will compile the names of nominees received, and submit the same to the aforementioned clubs, who in turn will have their ISPA members in good standing vote for a candidate of their choice. The result has to be returned to the election officer who in presence of two neutral persons, count and credit the votes to the named candidate as cast. The final results shall be made public by the said officer at the for this purpose called general meeting.

Section 3.

The election of a Board of Directors takes place every four years, with the term of office not exceeding four and a half years.

Section 4.

Each ISPA Canada member person shall be entitled to cast one vote.

Section 5.

An election ahead of schedule must take place if at least three Board members resign or if at least 51% of the ISPA Canada members demand an election, such demand must be requested in writing and signed by these 51% in good standing.

Should the existing Board of Directors for any reason not be able to conduct a new election, the presidents of ISPA Canada Skat Clubs may at their discretion appoint trustees to carry out all necessary steps to conduct an election.

Section 6.

Written notice of any meeting to be called must be send at least four weeks prior to the planned meeting stating date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.

Section 7.

The mode of voting at meetings is to be decided by the attending membership, i.e. show of hands or secret ballot.

ARTICLE VIII

Auditing

Section 1.

The books, accounts and financial records shall be audited to the “Notice of Readers” standard prior to the annual meeting by two in the previous year appointed auditors.

Section 2.

The auditors shall sign ISPA Canada’s corporate statement and note thereon irregularities if any, on their review of the treasurers books and records.

ARTICLE IX

Remuneration

Section 1.

Executive members shall receive an annual honorarium to offset travel and other personal out of pocket expenses.

The amounts are (see minutes of July 11, 1992, item 13, minutes of April 20, 1996, item 31, minutes of April 15, 2000, item 71 and minutes of April 23, 2005, item 121):

President		\$ 2,000.00
Vice President	each	\$ 500.00
Secretary and Treasurer	each	\$ 500.00

Section 2.

The President or any other executive member of ISPA Canada, appointed by the executive to represent ISPA Canada at ISPA World Cups is to receive \$ 2000.00 to offset travel expenses.

ARTICLE X

Quorum

Section 1.

The quorum at a combined ISPA executive and ISPA Skat Club executive meeting Shall be not less than 51% of the member clubs in good standing.

Section 2.

The President's, or appointed executive members or authorized delegates of ISPA Canada Skat Clubs are entitled to vote each at such executive meetings. Proxies are not acceptable.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Section 1.

The Bylaws may be amended or altered by two third (2/3) majority vote of the executives ISPA Canada Board of Directors and Skat Club Presidents or authorized delegates) or by a majority of members at any regular or special meeting, providing the notice for the meeting includes the proposals for amendments. Any proposed amendment or alterations shall be submitted to the Board or the members in writing, at least ten days before the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.