

**NOSCOS Constitution and Bylaws - changes proposed to the General Assembly 2021-09-03
by a working group of the EC/AC (Version May 5th, 2021)**

Current text	Suggested text	Comments
DEFINITION AND OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY	DEFINITION AND MISSION OF THE SOCIETY	
1 The name of the society is NORDIC SPINAL CORD SOCIETY (NoSCoS), formerly known as NORDIC MEDICAL SOCIETY of PARAPLEGIA, NMSOP. The new name is appropriate as an umbrella term for the participating countries, i.e. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.	1. The name of the society is The NORDIC SPINAL CORD SOCIETY (NoSCoS)	
	2. Participating countries in NoSCoS are the Nordic Countries i.e. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden	
2 NoSCoS is an affiliated society to the INTERNATIONAL SPINAL CORD SOCIETY (ISCoS).	3. NoSCoS is an affiliated society to the INTERNATIONAL SPINAL CORD SOCIETY (ISCoS).	
3 NoSCoS is an association of individuals in the Nordic countries with special interest in spinal cord injury and dysfunctions .	4. NoSCoS is an association of individuals and institutions in the Nordic countries with special interest in spinal cord injury and dysfunction.	
4 The objective of the society shall be to advance education and promote research into spinal cord lesion and for this purpose to bring together individuals in different fields who have common interest in spinal cord lesions so that they may be aided in their joint	5. The Mission of NoSCoS is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the well-being of persons with spinal cord injury and dysfunction and their close ones in the Nordic countries throughout life The Vision of NoSCoS is:	

endeavour to prevent, cure or alleviate these conditions

- To organise scientific meetings and educational activities for professionals working with people affected by spinal cord injury and dysfunction
- To promote the exchange of information about the newest scientific developments within the field and amongst professionals working with persons with spinal cord injury and dysfunction.
- To contribute to establish and communicate best practice guidelines for rehabilitation and treatment of persons affected by spinal cord injury and dysfunction
- To facilitate network formation and knowledge sharing among professionals working with persons affected by spinal cord injury and dysfunction
- To support collaboration on individual, organisational and national levels for persons living with spinal cord injury and dysfunction and the professionals working with them
- To promote and support the prevention of spinal cord injury and dysfunction
- To welcome, engage, support and retain new professionals working with spinal cord injury and dysfunction

The Values of NoSCoS are:

- Knowledge
- Network
- Collaboration
- Prevention
- Engagement

MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	
5 Individuals who are actively involved in the management and/or rehabilitation and/or research of persons with spinal cord lesions, shall be eligible for election to membership of the Society.	6. Individuals who are actively involved in the management, representation, rehabilitation of or research about persons with spinal cord injuries and dysfunctions can become member of the Society.	
	7. Institutions that are actively involved in the management, representation, rehabilitation or research of persons with spinal cord injuries and dysfunctions can apply for membership of the Society.	
6 Each Ordinary Member shall pay an annual membership fee of such an amount as agreed by the General Meeting. The membership fee shall be payable in advance. The membership fee shall be determined at the General Meeting. None payment of the membership fee within twelve months after it is due shall be considered equivalent to resignation.	8. Each Ordinary Member shall pay an annual membership fee of such an amount as agreed by the General Meeting. The membership fee shall be paid one year in advance. The membership fee shall be determined at the General Meeting. Members failing payment of annual subscription may have their membership discontinued.	
7 The Society shall meet every second year. The meeting shall be called the General Meeting. The date of each meeting shall be circulated to all members by the Secretary at least 8 weeks in advance. Extraordinary General Meetings may be held if so desired as decided by the Executive Committee.	9. The Society shall hold an Annual Meeting. The date shall be circulated to all Members by the Secretary at least 8 weeks in advance. Extraordinary General Meetings may be held if decided by the Executive Committee.	

<p>11 The Ordinary General Meeting shall consist of:</p> <p>a) A business part, in which reports and accounts shall be considered and the Officers and Members of the Society shall be elected. A resolution put to the vote at the Meeting shall be decided by the show of hands unless otherwise decided by the Meeting in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>b) A scientific part, in which opportunities shall be given to Members to read papers and show cases or specimens. Members shall forward to the Secretary the titles of communications to be presented at the Meeting by a date agreed by the Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee may at their discretion choose some subject for general discussion and invite members to be Openers of the Discussion. The Committee may also invite distinguished persons to address the Society.</p>	<p>10. The Annual General Meeting shall consist of:</p> <p>a) A business part, in which reports and accounts shall be considered and discharge for the board be granted or not granted. Furthermore, the Officers and Members of the Society shall be elected. A resolution put to the vote at the Meeting shall be decided by the show of hands unless otherwise decided by the Meeting in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Every second year the Annual General Meeting is supplemented with:</p> <p>b) A scientific part, in which opportunities shall be given to Members to exchange and share scientific results, ideas and experiences from practice. Members shall forward to the Secretary the titles of communications to be presented at the Meeting by a date agreed by the Board in collaboration with the Organising Committee of the respective meeting.</p> <p>The Executive Committee may at their discretion choose some subject for general discussion and invite Members to be Openers of the Discussion. The Committee may also invite distinguished persons to address the Society. Members shall have the privilege of inviting non-members to attend and to</p>	
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	take part in the Meeting. Non-members do not have the right to vote in any matter at the General Meeting.	
8 If any Member wishes to put up for discussion at the General Meeting any matters affecting the policy or the Constitution of the Society, he or she should give notice of such a proposal to the Secretary at least 4 weeks before the day of the meeting.	11. If any Member wishes to put up for discussion at the General Meeting any matter affecting the mission, vision and values or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society, the member should give notice of such a proposal to the Secretary at least 6 weeks before the day of the meeting	
9 To constitute a quorum at any General Meeting, there shall be present at least thirty of Ordinary Members. At voting simple majority shall decide. The President has decision right by equal number of votes.	12. To constitute a quorum at any General Meeting, there shall be present, live, digitally or by proxy, at least one third of Ordinary Members or Institutional Members. At voting simple majority shall decide. The President has decision right by equal number of votes.	
10 Any amendments of the Constitution require a two-third majority of members present at any given General Meeting.	13. Any amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws require a two-third majority of members present or by proxy at any given General Meeting.	
11- Se above		
12 Members shall have the privilege of inviting non-members to attend and to		
13 The Secretary shall record in the Minutes of the Society a short account of the Scientific and Business transaction of each Meeting. The minutes of the Society shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the International Spinal Cord Society.	14. The Secretary shall record in the Minutes of the Society a short account of the Scientific and Business transaction of each Meeting. The minutes of the Society shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the International Spinal Cord Society.	

	<p>15. A Chairman is elected for the General Meeting. The duty of the chairman is to support and insure progress of the General Meeting in accordance with the Constitutions and Bylaws. Members of the Board cannot be elected as chairman.</p>	
<p>OFFICERS AND COUNCIL</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD</p>	
<p>14 The Executive Committee shall consist of three Members:</p> <p>The President, the Secretary and Treasurer alike, and one other member. The president of NoSCoS or another member of the NoSCoS council will have a seat in the ISCoS council, if such one is allocated. The officials shall be elected from the Members at the General Meeting.</p> <p>A representative of the Coming Meeting Organizing Committee may be invited to attend the Executive Committee Meetings, if not already represented in the Committee by election</p>	<p>16. The Executive Committee shall consist of four Members: The President, Vice-president, the Secretary and Treasurer alike.</p> <p>The president of NoSCoS or another member of the NoSCoS Executive Committee will represent NoSCoS towards ISCoS.</p> <p>The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected from the Members at the General Meeting.</p> <p>A representative of the Coming Meeting Organizing Committee may be invited to attend the Executive Committee Meetings, if not already represented in the Committee by election.</p> <p>It is the duty of the Executive Committee and the Board to make an annual report and act in accordance to the Constitutions and Bylaws.</p>	

<p>15 There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of the Officers of the Society and seven elected members, so that the Advisory Council consists of ten Members. There shall be at least one member from each of the five Nordic countries. As far as possible the following should be represented in the Council: physician, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, nurse, social worker, psychologist, and consumer.</p>	<p>17. The Board consists of member of the Executive Committee of the Society as well as six elected members, giving rise to a Board of ten members. There shall be at least one member from each of the five Nordic countries. As far as possible the following should be represented in the Board: physician, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, nurse, social worker, psychologist, and consumer.</p>	
<p>16 The election of all Officers and Council Members shall be at the General Meeting.</p>	<p>18. The election of all members of the Executive Committee and Board Members shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>The open positions in the Executive Committee and Board shall be announced to the members by the Secretary 8 weeks in advance of a General Meeting.</p> <p>Candidates applying for a position in the Executive Committee and Board should present their candidature by distributing an application to the Secretary no later than 6 weeks in advance of the General Meeting.</p> <p>The list of eligible candidates will be distributed to the members by the</p>	

	Secretary together with the agenda of the General Meeting.	
17 The Officers and the Council Members are elected for four years. The Officers are eligible for re-election for a further period of two years.	19. Members of the Executive Committee and Board Members are elected for a period of four years. Members of the Executive Committee and Board are eligible for re-election for a further period of two years. Only if there are no other candidates for the positions, members of the Executive Committee and Board Members can be re-elected for an additional two years with a total maximum of 8 years.	
18 Any person elected as Officer or Board Member may resign his office by notice in writing to the Secretary, and such resignation shall take effect at the next following meeting of the Executive Committee. His place may be filled by the committee until the next Ordinary General Meeting.	20. Any person elected as Executive Committee Member or Board Member may resign office by notice in writing to the Secretary, and such resignation shall take effect at the next following meeting of the Executive Committee or Board. The place of the Member shall be filled by the board until the next Ordinary General Meeting	
19 There shall be a full Council meeting at least every second year. The presence of four members of the Council shall be necessary to perform a quorum for the conduction of business at the Council Meeting.	21. There shall be at least one annual Board meeting, in person or virtual. The presence of four members of the Board shall be necessary to perform a quorum for the conduction of business at the Board Meeting.	
20 Any member of the Council may, in writing, appoint another member of the Society, who is approved by the majority of members of Council, to be substitute, to act in his or her place at	22. Any member of the Board may, in writing, appoint another member of the Society, who is approved by the majority of members of Board, to be substitute and act in his or her place at	

<p>any Meeting or Council at which the member is unable to attend. Notice of any such proposed substitution should reach the Secretary at least eight weeks before the Council Meeting. Every such substitute shall be entitled to notice of Meeting of Council and to attend and vote there as a member of the Council when the person appointing him is not personally present. A member of Council may, at any time, in writing revoke the appointment of the deputy nominated by him.</p>	<p>any Meeting at which the member is unable to attend. Notice of any such proposed substitution should reach the Secretary at least eight weeks before the Board Meeting. Every such substitute shall be entitled to notice of Meeting of the Board and to attend and vote there as a member of the Board when the person appointing him is not personally present. A member of the Board may, at any time, in writing revoke the appointment of the deputy nominated by him or her.</p>	
	<p>PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS</p>	
	<p>23. NoSCoS embraces Professional Networks and Special Interest Groups.</p> <p>The Professional Networks and Special Interest Groups should act according to the mission, vision and values of NoSCoS.</p>	
	<p>24. NoSCoS was formerly known as NORDIC MEDICAL SOCIETY of PARAPLEGIA, NMSOP.</p>	