

2025 IFSHT PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Number	Article/ Section	SECTION TITLE	CURRENT WORDING	WORDING CHANGE	RATIONALE
1.	I to XVI	Whole document	Physical Therapist	Physical Therapist/Physiotherapist	The professional title of Physical Therapist and Physiotherapist are both used internationally. The current Bylaws to not recognize both of these equivalent titles.
2.	III/ section 2	C: Membership Criteria	<i>Consideration will be given to a one-time renewal.</i>	Delete the sentence	There are some countries that due to the size of the population they are unable to form an organized group of regional or national therapists involved in hand therapy. Maintaining ongoing Corresponding Membership in IFSHT allows for networking that might not be possible otherwise and would impose undue hardship.
3.	III/ section 2	C: Corresponding Membership, line 2	Only "working"	Add "...or resides as a retired OT or PT"	In some countries there are legislated restrictions to the use of professional titles of Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist/Physical Therapist that prohibit the use once retired. There have been cases where IFSHT officers and committee chairs retire during their term or wish to put their name forward to serve IFSHT during their retirement years. EXCO recommends that retired therapists who are members in good standing of their national hand therapy society/organization be permitted to stand for election as an officer or committee chair or continue to serve should they retire during their term.
4.	III/ section 2	A: full membership	add	Add "also retired"	Rationale as described in Number 3.
5.	I to XVI		add	Add "Also retired"	Rationale as described in Number 3.
6.	X	Meetings Section 2: Scientific Meeting	Scientific Meeting	Triennial Congress	Update the Bylaws to reflect current terminology used for our triennial congress.

7.	X	Meetings Section 2: Scientific Meeting	A. All proposals to host the IFSHT Triennial Scientific Meeting shall be made according to the current IFSHT "Call for Proposal" document.	All proposals to host the IFSHT Triennial Scientific Congress shall be made according to the IFSHT Policy Call for Proposals to host the Triennial Congress.	EXCO has recently updated all processes and documents pertaining to proposals to host the triennial congress. These are now included as appendices in a policy and procedure document that has been approved by the EXCO. The current wording does not reflect this change.
8.	XV	Committees: D 2 - Membership	Membership Committee	Delete this entire section.	Currently the Secretary General reviews all membership applications with the Executive Committee's involvement. There is no membership Committee. Removing this section will help clarify and streamline the bylaws.
9.	III	Section 4-fees, C-for associate and corresponding members	Fees for Full membership may be paid in wither one (1), two (2), or three (3) year intervals. Fees for Associate and Corresponding membership cover a three (3) year period. Fees are to be paid by 31st of March in the year that they are due.	Fees for Full membership may be paid in either one (1), two (2), or three (3) year Intervals, lining up with the triennium. Fees for Associate (USD 30) and Corresponding membership (USD 20) cover the three (3)years of the triennium. This is pro-rated for new Associates joining IFSHT to USD 20 for the second year, and USD 10 for the final year period of the triennium. New Corresponding members will have fees waived for their first triennium. Fees are to be paid by 31st of March in the year that they are due.	The payment schedule for associate and corresponding members will be changed to a prorated system based on when they join during the triennial period. This change aims to ensure fairness, as members joining mid-period will not be charged the full amount.
10.	VII	Section 2— Officers' Expenses B & C	With Council approval of the triennial IFSHT budget, the treasurer shall have the authority to approve payment of travel, housing and other meetings expenses for all other Executive Committee members, to attend the IFSHT Triennial Congress or any other interim Executive Committee meetings deemed to be of essential value to IFSHT.	With Council approval of the triennial IFSHT budget, the treasurer shall have the authority to approve payment of travel, housing and other meetings expenses for all other Executive Committee members, to attend the IFSHT Triennial Congress or any other interim Executive Committee meetings deemed to be of essential value to IFSHT. Travel, housing and other meetings expenses of the Treasurer require approval of two other Executive Committee members.	Clarifications were made regarding expense policies, specifying that the Treasurer cannot sign off on their own expenses and that the President's expenses should be listed under executive expenses rather than the travel budget. These changes reflect current practices and improve financial oversight, as there have always been two signing officers for the organization—the Treasurer and the President. It makes sense to explicitly state that the Treasurer should not approve their own expenses. An additional sentence has been added to reflect this.
11.	XV	Section 1: Standing Committees & Responsibilities D5a	The Immediate Past Treasurer, or a designated Executive Committee alternate, shall sit as ex-officio, non-voting, member of this committee.	The Treasurer, or a designated Executive Committee alternate, shall sit as an ex-officio, non-voting, member of this committee.	The immediate past treasurer does not currently serve in this role. The Treasurer serves as the liaison to the Financial Review Committee, as this is not currently specified in the bylaws. This change will update the Bylaws to reflect current practice.

12.	VI	Section 3: Terms & Responsibilities F Information Officer #5	Serves as liaison to Translation Committee.	Serves as liaison to the Publication Committee.	The bylaws will be updated to establish the Information Officer as the liaison to the Publications Committee, as this is not currently specified in the bylaws.
13.	X	Section 2- Triennial congress E	Profits from the IFSHT Triennial Scientific Meeting, when held separate to IFSSH Triennial Scientific Meeting, shall be equitably shared between the hosting society and IFSHT. There shall be an official signed document reflecting this agreed profit share prior to approval being given to host the IFSHT Triennial Scientific Meeting.	Profits from the IFSHT Triennial Congress, whether held jointly or separately from IFSSH shall be 10% of the therapist registration fee. There shall be an official signed document reflecting this agreed profit share prior to approval being given to host the IFSHT Triennial meeting.	In this section, we now request 10% of the hand therapy registrant fees. There is no longer a profit-sharing clause in the contract.
14.	XV	Section 1 - Standing Committees D,#5,e	Following review of the final triennial budget accounts, the chair of the Financial Review Committee shall either recommend through Council approval that the accounts as presented be accepted by electronic ballet or shall recommend that the accounts be officially reviewed by an accredited accountant with a full report forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Council within 90 days.	Following review of the final triennial budget accounts, the chair of the Financial Review Committee shall either recommend approval by Council vote that the accounts as presented be accepted or shall recommend that the accounts be officially reviewed by an accredited accountant in Switzerland with a full report forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Council within 90 days.	Correct the spelling of ballot. Clarify that the FRC is making recommendations directly to Council.