

# **Bylaws of The International Rough Set Society**

**Established on 4 December 2005 and modified on 20 April 2011<sup>1</sup>**

## **1 Introduction**

Bylaws [1, 2] of the International Rough Set Society (IRSS) are read in conjunction with IRSS Constitution. IRSS Bylaws set forth requirements, regulations and rules that provide a basis for governing IRSS. The method to amend IRSS Bylaws is given in Sect. 7 of IRSS Constitution.

IRSS Bylaws are organized as follows. Requirements for being IRSS Members are given in Sect. 2. Requirements and responsibilities of Executive Board (EB), Steering Committee (SC), and Advisory Board (AB) are given in Sect. 3, 4, and 5, respectively. Details concerning IRSS elections are given in Sect. 6. Details concerning applications for IRSS sponsored events and conducting IRSS meetings are given in Sect. 7.

## **2 Membership Requirements**

Requirements for being Regular, Student, and Honorary Member of IRSS (see Sect. 3 of IRSS Constitution) are set forth in this section.

### **2.1 Regular Membership Requirements**

Regular Member is a person who (1) registered at least once as a regular participant of IRSS sponsored event and (2) renews Regular Membership in on-line registration system available at IRSS Homepage before each of elections.<sup>2</sup>

### **2.2 Student Membership Requirements**

Student Member is a person who (1) registered at least once as a student participant of IRSS sponsored event, (2) renews Student Membership in on-line registration system available at IRSS Homepage before each of elections, and (3) provides a proof of full-time undergraduate or graduate student status to Secretary before each of elections.<sup>3</sup>

### **2.3 Honorary Membership Requirements**

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<sup>1</sup> The revised version of IRSS Constitution and Bylaws was presented at IRSS meeting held at RSCTC 2010. This version was proposed after taking into account remarks gathered at RSCTC 2010 and RSKT 2010. The electronic vote of this version was completed and reported on the IRSS webpage on 20 April 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Until the end of 2012 one may register as Regular Member in on-line registration system at IRSS webpage with no need to satisfy the first requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Until the end of 2012 one may register as Student Member in on-line registration system available at IRSS webpage with no need to satisfy the first requirement. However, a proof of full-time undergraduate or graduate student status still needs to be provided to Secretary.

Honorary Member is a person who received and accepted nomination from President. Honorary Membership is a lifetime Membership. It does not need renewal prior to each of elections.

## **2.4 Resignation from Membership**

IRSS Member may resign from Membership by sending an appropriate email to Secretary.

## **3 EB Officers**

Requirements and responsibilities of President, Vice President, Secretary and Editor (see Sect. 4.1 of IRSS Constitution) are set forth in this section.

### **3.1 President – Responsibilities and Requirements**

President is an appointed EB Officer. Any Regular or Honorary Member who did not serve 2 times as President is eligible to be President. Principal responsibilities of President are (1) acting on behalf of IRSS as a whole, (2) chairing IRSS meetings or appointing a Regular Member to chair in case of President's absence, (3) nominating Honorary Members after discussion with Advisory Board, (4) appointing interim SC and AB Chairs after discussion with Advisory Board, and (5) presenting biannual report at RSCTC conference (see Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution) that completes Executive Board's term.

### **3.2 Vice President – Responsibilities and Requirements**

Vice President is an elected EB Officer. Any Regular or Honorary Member who did not serve 2 times as President is eligible to be Vice President. Principal responsibilities of Vice President are (1) assisting President in preparing reports, (2) receiving proposals for IRSS sponsored events, (3) searching for organizers of next RSCTC conferences (see Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution) if there are no satisfactory proposals received, (4) assisting Editor in gathering contents about IRSS sponsored events, and (5) managing IRSS election process.

### **3.3 Secretary – Responsibilities and Requirements**

Secretary is an elected EB Officer. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be Secretary. Principal responsibilities of Secretary are (1) recording and archiving minutes of IRSS meetings, (2) recording and maintaining information about Members of IRSS, (3) distributing calls related to IRSS sponsored events, (4) corresponding with IRSS Members concerning the status of their Membership, and (5) collecting reports from organizers of IRSS sponsored events. Secretary makes arrangements for taking minutes of all Executive Board meetings, as well as minutes for IRSS meetings held at IRSS sponsored events.

### **3.4 Editor – Responsibilities and Requirements**

Editor is an appointed EB Officer. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be Editor. Principal responsibilities of Editor are (1) graphical and technical maintenance of IRSS Electronic Bulletin and IRSS Homepage, (2) technical support for IRSS on-line registration and voting systems, as well as e-mail database, (3) publishing in IRSS Electronic Bulletin and at IRSS Homepage reports prepared by Executive Board and any other materials recommended by Executive Board, (4) technical assistance for Vice President during IRSS election, and (5) ensuring that the budget of forthcoming RSCTC includes funds required to fulfill Editor's responsibilities (e.g.: renewing IRSS Homepage domain registration and maintaining and/or using IRSS Homepage servers) until forthcoming RSCTC is completed.

### **3.5 Region Rotation Rule**

Offices of President and Vice President rotate across 3 major regions of the world, which are (1) Europe Middle East and Africa (EMEA), (2) Asia, Australia and Oceania (Australasia), and (3) North America and South America (Americas), so that no region of the world is represented by offices of President and Vice President more than once during a complete region rotation. President and Vice President should always reside in different regions of the world.<sup>4</sup>

### **3.6 Resignation of EB Officer**

In the event that an EB Officer resigns, a corresponding interim EB Officer is appointed by Steering Committee. An interim EB Officer needs to satisfy requirements described in Sect. 3.1-3.5. An interim EB Officer serves as an EB Officer until forthcoming RSCTC.

## **4 SC Chair and SC Members**

Requirements and responsibilities of Steering Committee Chair (abbreviated as SC Chair; see Sect. 4.2 of IRSS Constitution) and Members (SC Members) are set forth in this section.

### **4.1 SC Chair – Responsibilities and Requirements**

SC Chair is an elected SC Member. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be SC Chair. Principal responsibilities of SC Chair are (1) appointing other SC Members, (2) maintaining their list and e-mail addresses, and (3) acting as a liaison between Steering Committee and Executive Board.

### **4.2 SC Members – Responsibilities and Requirements**

The remaining SC Members are appointed. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be SC Member. Responsibilities of SC Members are set forth in Sect. 4.2 of IRSS Constitution.

### **4.3 Region Proportion Rule**

No more than 40% of SC Members can reside in the same out of 3 regions of the world: (1) Europe Middle East and Africa (EMEA), (2) Asia, Australia and Oceania (Australasia), and (3) North America and South America (Americas).

### **4.4 Resignation of SC Chair or SC Member**

In the event that SC Chair resigns, an interim SC Chair is appointed by President. Interim SC Chair serves as SC Chair until forthcoming RSCTC.

In the event that an SC Member resigns, SC Chair may appoint an interim SC Member. Interim SC Member needs to satisfy requirements described in Sect. 4.3. Interim SC Member serves as SC Member until forthcoming RSCTC.

## **5 AB Chair and AB Members**

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<sup>4</sup> After changes introduced into IRSS Constitution and Bylaws on 20 April 2011, for the term starting at IRSS Meeting of RSCTC 2012 and completed at IRSS Meeting of RSCTC 2014, the Region Rotation Rule starts with President and Vice President from EMEA and Australasia, respectively. Next regions for President and Vice President will be Australasia and Americas, respectively. Forthcoming IRSS election will be conducted by current Vice President prior to RSCTC 2012. Current Vice President will be automatically appointed as President at IRSS meeting held at RSCTC 2012.

Requirements and responsibilities of Advisory Board Chair (abbreviated as AB Chair; see Sect. 4.3 of IRSS Constitution) and Members (AB Members) are set forth in this section.

### **5.1 AB Chair – Responsibilities and Requirements**

AB Chair is an elected AB Member. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be AB Chair. Principal responsibilities of AB Chair are (1) appointing other AB Members, (2) maintaining their list and e-mail addresses, and (3) acting as a liaison between Advisory Board and Executive Board.

### **5.2 AB Members – Responsibilities and Requirements**

The remaining AB Members are appointed. Any Regular or Honorary Member is eligible to be AB Member. Responsibilities of AB Members are set forth in Sect. 4.3 of IRSS Constitution.

### **5.3 Appointment Guidelines**

It is recommended that Editors-in-Chief of major scientific journals related to rough sets are appointed as AB Members.<sup>5</sup>

### **5.4 Resignation of AB Chair or AB Member**

In the event that AB Chair resigns, an interim AB Chair is appointed by President. Interim AB Chair serves as AB Chair until forthcoming RSCTC.

In the event that an AB Member resigns, AB Chair may appoint an interim AB Member. Interim AB Member serves as AB Member until forthcoming RSCTC.

## **6 Elections**

Vice President initiates a call for nominations (see Sect. 5 of IRSS Constitution) six months prior to RSCTC conference (see Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution). To become a candidate, a nominee must accept nomination. A candidate for Vice President needs to prepare Vision Statement. Description of Vision Statement is available at IRSS Homepage. Further steps are as follows:

1. Vice President prepares a slate of nominees and collects additional nominations from SC and AB Chairs. Nominations must satisfy requirements stated in Sect. 3, 4, and 5.
2. After nominations for electable offices have been completed, Vice President invites Regular and Honorary Members to vote and posts vote results at IRSS Homepage.
3. Step 2 is repeated until simple majority [4] of Regular and Honorary Members elects all electable offices. Voting via on-line voting system is required.

## **7 Sponsored Events**

IRSS shall follow guidelines below for all events that are proposed to be sponsored events.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Examples of major journals related to rough sets: (1) LNCS Transactions on Rough Sets, (2) International Journal of Granular Computing, Rough Sets and Intelligent Systems.

<sup>6</sup> Examples of IRSS sponsored events: (1) International Conference on Rough Sets and Current Trends in Computing (RSCTC; see also Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution), (2) International Conference on Rough Sets, Fuzzy Sets, Data

## 7.1 Applications for Sponsored Events

An application for an IRSS sponsored event should contain the following statement:

Special statement:

*I (or we) agree to abide by the appropriate IRSS guidelines described in Sect. 6 of IRSS Constitution and Sect. 7 of IRSS Bylaws concerning all aspects of the proposed event, and to conduct the event in a way as close to the proposed form and substance as possible. In particular, I (or we) agree to include the IRSS meeting described in Sect. 6 of IRSS Constitution and Sect. 7 of IRSS Bylaws in the event's programme.*

In case of application for RSCTC conference (see Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution), the following additional statement is required:

Special statement continued:

*I (or we) also agree to take into account in the event's budget the funds required to fulfill responsibilities of IRSS Editor described in Sect. 3.4 of IRSS Bylaws until the proposed event is held and completed.*

Each application should be submitted with the following heading:

**Submitted to:** Vice President, IRSS

**Submitted by:** Regular or Honorary Member

**Submitted on:** Date

**Signature(s):** Organizing Committee Chair (financial responsibility)

**Subject:** Application for IRSS Sponsored Event – Title of Event

IRSS sponsored event application should also contain:

1. Name, title, position, and mailing address of contact person submitting the application.
2. In case of RSCTC application, recommendation for Editor (with recommended person's letter attached; see Sect. 6.1 of IRSS Constitution).
3. Proposed location, dates, title, and expected attendance.
4. Proposed scopes and language(s) besides English.
5. Estimated registration fee schedule in local currency (with the equivalent in Euros or US dollars at the date of application).
6. Proposed publication procedure with indication of formats, editors, and publishers.

7. Estimated budget (in case of RSCTC application, it should include expenses required for the responsibilities of Editor until the proposed event is held (see Sect. 3.4)).
8. Proposed chairpersons (names, titles, positions, mailing addresses).
9. National or international co-sponsors (if applicable).
10. General additional information or special requests.

## **7.2 Conducting IRSS Meetings held at Sponsored Events**

Robert's rules of order [3] prevail at IRSS meetings held at sponsored events. IRSS meetings are chaired by President. In case of RSCTC conference, IRSS meeting is chaired by newly appointed President, i.e., former Vice President (see Sect. 5 of IRSS Constitution).

IRSS meetings should include presentation of upcoming IRSS sponsored events. IRSS meeting at RSCTC should additionally include (1) biannual report prepared by former President, (2) announcement of location and organization structure of next RSCTC, and (3) introduction of new EB Officers, as well as new SC and AB Chairs.

## **7.3 Reports**

The organizers of every sponsored event shall submit a written or e-mail report to Secretary not later than 3 months after the event. The report should include:

- (a) Breakdown of attendance by country,
- (b) List of all the registered participants,
- (c) Statistics of paper selection process,
- (d) Brief summary of the programme,
- (e) Event budget (if not confidential),
- (f) Comments on problems, format, etc.

An adapted version of this report (without budget data) will appear at IRSS Homepage.

## **References**

- [1] The American Heritage © Dictionary of the English Language, Copyright © 2004, 2001 by Houghton Mifflin.
- [2] Wordnet 1.7.1, Copyright © 2001 by Princeton University.
- [3] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert's\\_Rules\\_of\\_Order](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert's_Rules_of_Order)
- [4] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_majority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_majority)