

Constitution of the International Society for Teaching Debate (Translated from the Japanese version)

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1: Name

The society shall be named the International Society for Teaching Debate (ISTD).

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to contribute to the development of debate education and research, and to promote camaraderie and information exchange among members.

Article 3: Office

The office of the Society shall be established at a location determined by the Board of Directors.

Article 4: Activities

To achieve the purpose mentioned in Article 2, the Society shall undertake the following activities:

- (1) Organize annual conferences and other academic meetings.
- (2) Publish a journal and other necessary documents.
- (3) Conduct surveys and research.
- (4) Engage in international academic and educational activities.
- (5) Other activities and operations necessary to achieve the Society's goals.

Chapter 2: Membership

Article 5: Types of Membership

The Society shall have two types of members as below; the membership fees shall be determined by bylaws.

- (1) Regular members: Individuals engaged in or interested in debate research, education, or practice.
- (2) Student members: Students engaged in or interested in debate research, education, or practice. The qualifications for student membership shall be defined in the bylaws.

Article 6: Admission and Resignation

Individuals who wish to become members under Article 5 must agree with the purposes of the Society, complete the prescribed procedures, and receive approval from the Board of Directors.

Article 7: Re-admission

Individuals who have been expelled according to the provisions of Articles 12 (2) to (5) shall not be re-admitted.

Article 8: Rights of Members

Members of the Society shall have the following rights:

- (1) The right to make a presentation at the annual conferences.
- (2) Opportunities to participate in other activities of the Society.
- (3) The right to be eligible for election as an officer.
- (4) The right to vote at the general assembly.

Article 9: Duties of Members

Members of the Society shall fulfill the following duties:

- (1) Adhere to the constitution and the bylaws.
- (2) Pay membership fees.

Article 10: Loss of Membership

A member shall lose the membership due to the following reasons:

- (1) Resignation.
- (2) Death or declaration of absence.
- (3) Expulsion.

Article 11: Resignation

Members who wish to resign must submit a resignation notice with reasons.

Article 12: Expulsion

A member may be expelled by the president after consultation with the Board of Directors if they:

- (1) Are in arrears with membership fees.

- (2) Violate the duties of a member of the Society.
- (3) Engage in conduct that damages the honor of the Society or is contrary to its objectives.
- (4) Engage in acts lacking academic integrity.
- (5) Engage in other behaviors not suitable for an educator or researcher.

Chapter 3: Organization and Officers

Article 13: Organization

The Society shall have the following bureaus:

- (1) Administrative Bureau (Office).
- (2) Editorial Bureau (Editorial Board).
- (3) Conference Bureau.
- (4) Public Relations Bureau.

Article 14: Officers

The society shall have the following officers:

- (1) One President.
- (2) One Vice President.
- (3) The Chiefs of the Bureaus.
- (4) Directors (without Bureau assignment).
- (5) Auditors.

Article 15: Duties of the President

The President represents the Society and oversees its operations.

Article 16: Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President assists the President and acts in his/her stead when the President is absent.

Article 17: Duties of the Bureau Chiefs

The Bureau Chiefs are responsible for the following:

- (1) Chief of the Administrative Bureau (Secretary General): All administrative tasks, including financial operations.
- (2) Chief of the Editorial Bureau (Editor-in-Chief): Operations related to the Society's journal.
- (3) Chief of the Conference Bureau (Conference Director): Operations related to the annual conference.
- (4) Chief of the Public Relations Bureau: The society's public relations activities.

Article 18: Duties of the Directors

The directors assist the President in daily operations and execute resolutions passed by the Board of Directors and the general assembly.

Article 19: Duties of the Auditors

Auditors audit the Society's business and finances and report the results to the Board of Directors and the general assembly.

Article 20: Term of Officers

The term of the Society's officers shall be two years, although reappointment is not precluded. Reappointment requires approval by the Board of Directors.

Article 21: Post-presidency

The former President must remain as a director for one term (two years) after their presidency.

Article 22: Election of Officers

- (1) The Board of Directors elects and appoints one President during officer elections.
- (2) The Board of Directors selects all officers, except auditors, during officer elections, and the President appoints them.
- (3) The Board of Directors elects auditors, which must be approved by the general assembly.
- (4) Officers continue their duties until their successors are appointed.

Article 23: Dismissal of Officers

An officer may be dismissed by the President with the decision of the Board of Directors and the general assembly if the officer engages in conduct unsuitable for their role during their term.

Chapter 4: Meetings

Article 24: Board of Directors and General Assembly

The society shall have a Board of Directors and a General Assembly.

- (1) The Board of Directors is the highest executive body of the Society, responsible for its business and management. The officers defined in Article 14 (1) to (5) shall constitute the Board of Directors.
- (2) The General Assembly, consisting of all members, is the highest decision-making body of the Society and deliberates on significant matters related to its business and management.

Article 25: Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors may be convened by the President.

Article 26: Board of Directors Meetings Requirements

The Board of Directors cannot meet and make decisions unless at least two-thirds of the current number of officers are present. However, officers who have delegated their voting rights in writing (including email) in advance are considered present.

Article 27: Chairperson of the Board

The President serves as the chairperson of the Board of Directors meetings. In the event of the President's inability to attend, the Vice President shall serve as the chairperson.

Article 28: Decision Making of the Board

Decisions of the Board of Directors require a majority of the officers present. In case of a tie, the chairperson will make the deciding vote.

Article 29: Record of Board Meetings

The minutes of the Board meetings are prepared and preserved by the Office.

Article 30: General Assembly

The regular General Assembly meeting is held annually during the annual conference, convened by the President, to handle the following matters:

- (1) Business report and financial statements.
- (2) Business planning and budget.
- (3) Approval of officers.
- (4) Other matters deemed necessary by the Board or the General Assembly.

Article 31: Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly

The President may convene an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly as necessary, upon recommendation by the Board of Directors or the auditors.

Article 32: Chairperson of the General Assembly

The chairperson for each General Assembly meeting is selected by mutual election among the members present.

Article 33: Convening the General Assembly

The General Assembly is convened with at least 10 days' notice, which includes the agenda, date, and location of the meeting.

Article 34: General Assembly Meeting Requirements

The General Assembly cannot meet and make decisions unless at least one-fifth of the current members are present. However, members who have delegated their voting rights in writing (including email) in advance are considered present.

Article 35: Decision Making of the General Assembly

Decisions of the General Assembly are made by a majority of the members present. In the case of a tie, the chairperson will make the deciding vote.

Article 36: Notification of General Assembly Decisions

The key points and decisions of the General Assembly are notified to the members.

Article 37: Record of General Assembly Meetings

The minutes of the General Assembly meetings are prepared and preserved by the Office.

Chapter 5: Finance

Article 38: Assets

The assets of the Society shall consist of:

- (1) Income from activities.
- (2) Donations.
- (3) Goods.
- (4) Real estate.
- (5) Other incomes.

Article 39: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Society begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st of the following year.

Chapter 6: Miscellaneous Provisions

Article 40: Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution must be deliberated by the Board of Directors and approved by at least two-thirds of the attendees at the General Assembly.

Article 41: Dissolution

The dissolution of the Society requires the decision of three-fourths of the attendees at the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

Article 42: Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution

The remaining assets upon the dissolution of the Society will be donated to public welfare projects similar to the purposes of the Society, as decided by three-fourths of the attendees at the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

Article 43: Bylaws and Regulations

The bylaws and regulations of the Constitution are separately determined by the decision of the Board of Directors.

Supplementary Provisions

The Constitution shall be enforced starting from March 22, 2015.

The Constitution shall be enforced starting from March 18, 2018.

The Constitution shall be enforced starting from April 1, 2024.

Bylaws

1. Regarding Article 5 on Membership Fees:

- (1) The annual membership fee for regular members shall be 5,000 yen.
- (2) The annual membership fee for student members shall be 1,000 yen.

2. Regarding Article 5 on Qualifications of Student Members:

Student membership is granted by presenting a valid student ID (enrollment certificate). The validity period is one year, and the membership automatically reverts to regular membership unless re-applied. Individuals with full-time employment positions (or with other stable income sources) are not eligible for student membership.

These bylaws shall be enforced starting from April 1, 2024.