

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation  
*World Governing Body for Muzzle Loading Shooting*



# CONSTITUTION

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**1. *Name and Headquarters***

- a) The name of the Association is and shall be the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation (hereinafter referred to as “the MLAIC”) founded on June 20, 1971.
- b) The Headquarters (postal address) of the MLAIC is in 5000 Aarau, Switzerland.

**2. *Legal Status***

- a) The MLAIC is incorporated as an Association under Chapter Two: associations (articles 60 to 79) of the Swiss Code at the address mentioned above under Article 1 b.
- b) The MLAIC is and shall continue to be a separate legal entity with juristic personality and perpetual succession.
- c) The MLAIC is a not-for-profit Association.
- d) The MLAIC can act and be acted against in its own name.
- e) The property and funds of the MLAIC vest in the MLAIC as a juristic person and no official of the MLAIC shall be liable for the acts or debts of the MLAIC.

**3. *Policy***

The MLAIC shall, in carrying out its objectives and in all its activities and functions, observe the principle that muzzle loading shooting be practiced, administered and promoted on a non-discriminatory, non-political, not-for-profit and democratic basis.

**4. *Objectives***

The main objectives and powers of the MLAIC are and shall be -

- a) To promote an interest in historical muzzle loading firearms by competing with them in their unaltered state and to encourage research into the history of such arms and their use. In the categories where reproductions of such firearms are permitted, to ensure that they are verified or proven replicas of such original firearms.
- b) To administer, promote, foster, encourage and arrange facilities for the sport.
- c) To arrange competitions and matches.
- d) To arrange for, grant and contribute towards the provision of trophies, records, awards and distinctions.
- e) The procurement and provision of amenities and other conveniences considered necessary for fulfilling the objectives of the MLAIC.
- f) The making and enforcement of rules and regulations, as an integral part of the MLAIC legal framework, to implement and to prescribe procedures to achieve the objectives of the MLAIC.

**5. *Subsidiary Objectives and Powers***

In pursuance of the main objectives of the MLAIC, and subsidiary thereto, the further objectives and powers of the MLAIC are and shall be –

- a) To require from any National Association hosting a MLAIC event to obtain insurance of whatever kind, including insurance against accidents of any descriptions and against liability for compensation for injuries to any official, administrator, participant or spectator in consequence of such accident, and against public liability, and to ensure that such insurance policies be maintained and remain in full force for the duration of the event.
- b) To affiliate to other international bodies with similar aims and objectives, when deemed appropriate.
- c) To do all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

**6. *Funds***

- a) The funds of the MLAIC from whatever source (alternatively and to be discussed: “The income or funds of, or donations or bequests to..”), shall be solely used for purposes of the promotion of the stated objectives of the MLAIC, and no portion thereof shall be paid, directly or indirectly, to the officials or member countries of the MLAIC: provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of a reasonable remuneration and/or agreed upon contribution to the expenses of any official of the MLAIC.
- b) Member countries shall make annual contributions in January of each year at an amount set at the Delegates Meeting.

- c) A member country that fails to pay subscriptions for three consecutive years reverts to correspondent status.
- d) The financial year of the MLAIC starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**7. *Language***

The official language of the MLAIC is and shall be English.

**8. *Membership***

- a) The MLAIC shall consist of the National Associations of member countries duly recognised by the MLAIC as well as the MLAIC Committee, namely the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, the Treasurer, the President and the Vice Presidents.
- b) Each National Association is a federation or association of shooting clubs at national level, and where such an Association does not exist, the representative body (not being a single club) may apply to the MLAIC to be recognised as a National Association.
- c) The MLAIC shall recognise only one governing international body per country which shall be reflected on the Members list on the MLAIC Official website.
- d) The details of each National Association or deemed National Association shall be duly notified to the MLAIC for recognition and each shall appoint a Delegate or Team Captain to deal with technical matters pertaining to the participation of its team.
- e) The MLAIC-recognised National Association of each participating member country shall appoint one official Delegate to represent the participating country fully, and to participate in the MLAIC meetings
- f) The MLAIC-recognised National Association of each participating member country may appoint one or more alternates for the official Delegate.
- g) National Association for each country may only change if that organisation formally notifies the MLAIC of a change in its country's representative body.
- h) Any member country may resign from the MLAIC.
- i) The MLAIC may appoint a patron and honorary members. Both, patron and/or honorary members will be elected by the delegates subject to a formal proposal. Patron is a title awarded to an individual who has shown exemplary service to the MLAIC. Honorary member is a title which may be awarded by the MLAIC to dedicated individuals who have retired from the MLAIC. The patron and the honorary members may attend all meetings and speak but may not vote.

**9. *MLAIC Bodies and Meetings***

**9.1 The MLAIC committee**

- a) The Committee shall be elected by the Delegates Meeting and shall consist of the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, the Treasurer, the President (the delegate representing the country hosting the next World Championship) and the Vice-Presidents (delegates from countries organizing a Zone or Long Range World Championship) and shall manage and represent the MLAIC.
- b) The nomination, qualifications, elections, responsibilities, entitlements and termination of the Members of the Committee are prescribed in the Rules.
- c) The Secretary General, on behalf of the Committee, shall send the agenda for Committee Meetings to all delegates at least three months before the meeting to allow time for the delegates to discuss it within their Associations. Any matters for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Secretary General at least four months before the meeting.

**9.2 The MLAIC Delegates Meeting is the supreme governing body of the MLAIC and shall consist of:**

- a) The MLAIC Committee.
- b) The members of the MLAIC Commission duly elected by the Delegates Meeting.
- c) The Delegates representing each of the member countries.

**9.3 The MLAIC Technical Meeting shall consist of:**

- a) The MLAIC Secretary General and/or the Deputy Secretary General.
- b) The President and/or the Vice Presidents.

- c) The Team Captains and/or Delegates of the participating member countries.
- d) The administrative officials appointed by the President or Vice Presidents, respectively, responsible for the organisation of the competition.

9.4 Sessions of MLAIC Meetings

The following meetings shall convene during each World Championship held every second year:

- a) The Delegates Meeting to discuss matters on the agenda.
- b) The Technical Meeting for technical instructions to Team Captains, including the appointment of officials and to review the schedule and arrangements for the competition.

**10. *The Powers of the MLAIC Delegates Meeting***

10.1 The powers of the MLAIC Delegates Meeting are –

- a) To amend the MLAIC Constitution with immediate effect following the close of the Championship.
- b) To amend the MLAIC Rules and Regulations with immediate effect following the close of the Championship.
- c) To elect the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer as MLAIC Committee Members.
- d) To elect the MLAIC Commission.
- e) To appoint *ad hoc* Committee(s) or Commission(s) to investigate, address, or advise on any issue as deemed necessary by the MLAIC.
- f) To decide on the dates and venues of the subsequent World / Zone Championship and Long Range World Championship.
- g) To agree on postal matches.
- h) To admit new members, to recognize the resignation of member countries and to consider the exclusion of member countries if found to be acting contrary to the Policy or Objectives of the MLAIC.
- i) To fix the amount of annual contributions.
- j) To consider and decide any other relevant business on the agenda.
- k) To decide on the use of its name and logo
- l) To take any resolutions including the dissolution of the MLAIC.

10.2 The written consent of all member countries will constitute a binding resolution of the MLAIC, whether taken or submitted during a Delegates Meeting, a Special General Meeting or at any other given time.

**11. *Quorum at MLAIC Meetings***

The quorum for the MLAIC Delegates Meeting shall be 50 (fifty) percent of delegates entitled to vote.

**12. *Voting***

- a) All delegates shall be entitled to vote at the MLAIC Delegates Meeting or Special General Meeting and each member shall have one vote.
- b) For amendments to the Constitution, the voting shall be by way of ballot and a two third majority shall be required.
- c) For amendments to the Rules, the voting shall be by way of show of hands and a simple majority shall be required.
- d) The election of MLAIC officers shall be by way of ballot and a simple majority of votes shall be required. In the event of more than two candidates being voted upon and none achieve one-half or more of the votes cast; a run-off election shall be conducted between the two top candidates from the initial election.
- e) All other elections and decisions shall be by a show of hands and a simple majority of votes shall be required.

- f) Voting by proxy shall be permitted where the written proxy is received by the Secretary General prior to the commencement of the voting.
- g) The Secretary General or, in his absence, the Deputy Secretary General, shall not have a vote, but shall have a decisive vote in the event of a tie.
- h) A declaration by the Secretary General of the result of a show of hands or a ballot, as the case may be, shall be conclusive.

**13. *Special General Meetings***

- a) In the event of a request by at least one fifth of the member countries of the MLAIC, or due to unforeseen circumstances which could hinder the MLAIC in achieving its objectives, the Secretary General shall notify the members of the MLAIC in writing of the issues at stake and arrange a virtual Special General Meeting.
- b) The written notice shall be given by electronic means, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Special General Meeting.
- c) The Secretary General shall arrange the Special General Meeting by conference call or alternative electronic means upon acknowledgement of receipt by the Delegates.
- d) The requirements pertaining to quorum and voting majorities are *mutatis mutandis* applicable.
- e) Voting by electronic means shall follow the electronic deliberations and the Secretary General shall inform the MLAIC members of the outcome of the voting.
- f) Any decision of such a meeting shall have immediate effect.

**14. *Books and Accounts***

- a) The MLAIC shall cause books and records to be kept in which a true and satisfactory account of all transactions shall be recorded. Any statements required shall be extracted, prepared and certified by the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
- b) All moneys received shall be deposited to the credit of the MLAIC in its banking account and all disbursements be accounted for by both the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
- c) The insolvency of the MLAIC shall be disclosed to the member countries as soon as it is known by the Treasurer.

**15. *Administrative Information and Tools***

Delegate shall provide postal and electronic address to the Secretary General who shall keep a register of the names and addresses, postal and electronic, of the Delegates as well as the MLAIC Committee member countries.

**16. *Exclusion of Liability and Indemnity***

The MLAIC shall not be responsible or be held liable for the actions of any of its Committee or National Associations of member countries.

**17. *Dispute Settlement***

- a) All disputes shall be settled by means of mediation or arbitration within the framework of the MLAIC. However, any member country Delegate who has not consented to a resolution which infringes the law or the articles of association/Constitution is entitled to challenge such resolution in court within one month of learning thereof.
- b) In the event of a prevailing dispute, the MLAIC Delegates Meeting shall appoint an *ad hoc* committee consisting of the Secretary General, one MLAIC Commission member and three Delegates to resolve the dispute by means of mediation or arbitration. A Delegate may not take part in any dispute resolution pertaining to a team member, family member or compatriot.

- c) The decision of the aforesaid tribunal shall, subject to Article 17.d, be final.
- d) In the event of a persisting dispute, the aggrieved parties shall, at their own costs, approach the International Sport Council (Court of Arbitration in Sport - CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, to resolve the dispute.
- e) A decision by the International Sport Council (CAS) shall be final and binding on all the parties.

**18. *Jurisdiction***

The Swiss Court or the Court in the country of the President hosting a World Championship, or the Court in the country of the Vice-Presidents hosting a Zone Championship, or in the country where the Long Range World Championship is hosted, shall have jurisdiction over any litigation arising from the said Championships or any resolution taken by the MLAIC.

**19. *Conflict between the Constitution and Rules and the Swiss Code***

In the event of a conflict between any of the provisions of the Constitution or Rules of the MLAIC and the requirements for incorporation under Swiss law in terms of Chapter Two: Associations of the Swiss Code read with the Swiss Code of Obligations SR 220 as appropriate, the Swiss Code shall prevail.

**20. *Interpretation of MLAIC Constitution***

- a) Whenever the context may require, any pronouns used herein shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine or neuter forms, and the singular form of nouns and pronouns shall include the plural and vice versa. /clause/number-and-gender.
- b) The MLAIC Rules shall contain a section on interpretation.
- c) The Secretary General may, in agreement with the Committee and the Commission, publish information and photos on the official website of the MLAIC to clarify the Rules. Where any such clarification is in conflict with the Rules, the Rules shall prevail.

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