

Bylaws of the International Society of Difference Equations (ISDE)

Article I: Goals and Objectives

- To promote difference equations and discrete dynamical systems, defined broadly, as two of the fundamental subjects in Mathematics.
- To promote discrete models as models of premiere mathematical importance in the natural sciences, engineering, economics, etc.
- To coordinate activities in the areas of difference equations and discrete dynamical systems such as organizing conferences, annual meetings, workshops, special sessions, etc.
- To lend support to researchers in difference equations and discrete dynamical systems from developing countries and those who need help by making available copies of research articles, lecture notes, technical reports, journal articles, and books.
- To promote the publication of books, monographs, lecture notes and expository articles in the areas of difference equations and discrete dynamical systems.

Article II: Management

Section II.1. President of the Society

The President, who serves as the chair of the Board of Directors, shall assume a leadership role in furthering the Society's goals and objectives. The President shall be the representative and advocate for the Society at functions and activities that further the goals of the Society.

Section II.2. Vice President

The Vice President assumes the role of President in case the President cannot or is no longer willing to serve. The Vice President is charged with maintaining the Society membership list. S(he) screens and accepts or rejects membership applications and provides an annual update of membership list, which is communicated to all Officers and Members of the Society.

Section II.3. Treasurer

The duty of the Treasurer shall be to collect and disburse monies related to Society business. The Treasurer shall maintain one or more Trust Account(s) in the name of the International Society for Difference Equations (i.e., savings accounts, etc.). The Treasurer and the President of the Society shall be the joint Trustees of the Society's account(s). These accounts are to be opened in a reputable Bank in the European Union and/or in the USA. The accounts shall be for and only for Society business.

The Treasurer is responsible for an accurate accounting of all Society financial business. The bookkeeping of Society business shall include at least two separate ledgers, which are to be kept current by the Treasurer.

- Ledger A shall account for Receivables such as dues, gifts and bequests to the Society and Payables such as scholarships, prizes or other forms of support approved by the Society.
- Ledger B shall be maintained for use by organizers of annual ICDEA conferences. It shall be used to account for any Receivables relevant to conferences, such as Registration fees or external support, and Payables as directed by the Conference Organizer.

Copies of these Ledgers shall be presented to the Board of Directors at their annual meeting or upon request of the President.

Section II.4. Board of Directors

The Society shall be managed by the Board of Directors, headed by the President and the Vice-President. The Board of Directors shall also be known as the Board, and its individual members shall be known as Directors. The number of Directors shall be nine: the President, the Vice-President and seven members-at-large. The Directors serve for two years.

President shall call a meeting of the Board at the request of two or more Directors.

Section II.5. Election Committee

The President appoints three Society members to serve on the Election Committee (designating one as the chair) with the approval of a majority of the Directors. Election Committee members serve terms of two years each. The Election Committee conducts all elections held by the Society membership.

Section II.6. Other Officers

The President shall appoint, subject to approval of a majority of the Directors, a webmaster and a newsletter editor (who can be, but need not be, the same person).

Section II.7 Office of the Society

The principal office of the Society shall be located at the office of its President.

Article III: Members

Section III.1. Membership

Scientists who share the stated purposes of the Society and who have educational, research or practical experience in difference equations and/or discrete dynamical systems shall be eligible for membership.

Section III.2. Membership Dues

There are two types of memberships in the society:

- Regular membership: free
- Sponsoring membership: Sponsoring members receive a free annual subscription of the journal of difference equations and applications and a discount in the registration fees of the annual meetings of the society.

Both membership dues and the discount in registration fees for sponsoring members are determined by the Board of Directors.

Section III.3. Membership Applications

The Vice President shall evaluate the qualifications of the applicants and accept or reject the applicant on the basis of procedures subject to approval of the majority of the directors.

Section III.4. Voting Rights

Each member of the Society shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section III.5. Termination of Membership

The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of two-third of the Board, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing. Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the President of the Society.

Article IV: Meetings and Voting Procedures

Section IV.1. Meetings of Members

The regular meeting of the Society shall ordinarily be held in each calendar year at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. In addition, special meetings can be held at such times and places as the Board may determine.

Section IV.2. Meetings of the Board

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the membership. Special meetings of the Board can be called at the request of the President or and two Directors.

Section IV.3. Voting Procedures

All measures concerning the operation of the Society must be approved by the Board of Directors. A measure before the Board of Directors is approved when a majority of the Board of Directors votes in its favor. A tie vote results in the failure of the measure. Voting by the Board of Directors is conducted by the President by e-mail. The Board may place measures to the Society membership for approval.

Any member of the Society may propose a measure to the Board of Directors. If a member-proposed measure fails to be approved by the Board of Directors, the proposing member may file an appeal (addressed to the President) if supported in writing by 10% of the Society membership (as determined by the Election Committee). Such an appeal will be placed before the Society membership by the Election Committee for a vote. A majority of those Society members voting on the issue is required for passage of the measure. A tie vote results in the failure of the measure.

Article V: Elections

Section V.1. Election of Directors

President shall, with the approval of a majority of the Directors, provide the Election Committee with a list of at least nine nominees, selected from the membership of the Society. If a member of the Election Committee is a nominee, then the President shall appoint replacement that member (with the approval of a majority of the Directors). In addition, a member can be nominated by 10% the Society membership. The Election Committee shall communicate with the proposed nominees in order to ascertain in advance their willingness to serve if elected.

Nominees receiving the highest number of votes from the membership shall be deemed elected. (In the event of a tie vote, a runoff election shall be administered by the Election Committee to determine the winner.) The Election Committee shall report the results to the President and notify the membership of the results by e-mail.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by an appointment by the President (with the approval of a majority of the remaining Directors). Such Acting Directors serve the remainder of the term of the former Director.

Section V.2. Election of the President and Vice-President

The President and the Vice-President, selected from the Board of Directors, shall be appointed by a majority of the Directors. Vacancies in either position shall be filled by the Board of Directors. An Acting President (or Vice-President) shall serve the remainder of the term of the former President (or Vice-President).

Section V.3. Election of the Treasurer

The President appoints, with the approval of a majority of the Directors, a member of the Society to serve as Treasurer. Any member of the Society is eligible to be appointed Treasurer. The term of Treasurer shall be two years. A Treasurer shall be appointed in July of every even numbered year, starting 2008. If the Treasurer is not already a Director, then the Treasurer shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

Section V.4. Succession

Any member of the Board of Directors may be nominated to run for election again, without limit. The President, however, can serve at most two terms in a row.

Section V.5. Election Date

Elections for the Board of Directors shall be held in April of every odd number year, starting 2009. The two-year terms of the Directors, the President, and the Vice-President shall begin on the following August 1 or the day after the annual ICDEA conference, which ever comes last.

Article VI: Amendments

Any member of the Society may propose amendments to these Bylaws to the Board of Directors.

If a majority of the Directors supports a proposed amendment, the Election Committee then places the amendment before the membership for a vote by e-mail. A notification of at least six weeks must be given to the membership before carrying out the vote. An amendment is accepted if approved by two-third of those members who cast a vote.

If a majority of the Directors does not support proposed amendment, the proposing member may file an appeal (addressed to the President) if supported in writing by 10% of the Society membership (as determined by the Election Committee). Such an appeal will be placed before the Society membership by the Election Committee for a vote. A two-thirds majority of those Society members casting a ballot is required for passage of the amendment.

If matters arise concerning the Society not foreseen or covered by these By Laws, then the Board may take action that - in its judgment - best serves the interests of the Society.

Article VII: Disclaimer

Neither the International Society of Difference Equations nor any of its representatives accepts responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the information provided by the Society. In particular, the Society and its representatives shall not be liable for any damage or costs of any type arising out of or in any way connected with the membership.