



Constitution

(Adopted 9th April 2022)

ARTICLE 1 - THE ORGANISATION

- 1.1 The TAOIST ARTS ORGANISATION (THE ORGANISATION) was founded on 1st February 1995.
- 1.2 THE ORGANISATION has its headquarters in the London area and currently operates in the UK, France and Germany
- 1.3 This Constitution applies to the whole organisation
- 1.4 THE ORGANISATION shall continue to exist until such time as it is dissolved in line with this constitution.

ARTICLE 2 - ORGANISATIONAL AIMS

THE ORGANISATION exists to promote the following aims:

- 2.1 To bring together all those persons, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or disability, wishing to practice the Li Family Arts.
- 2.2 To ensure that the purity and quality of the Li Family Arts is preserved.
- 2.3 To preserve all aspects of the Li Family Arts: physical, meditative, therapeutic, philosophical & spiritual.
- 2.4 To represent the interest of all those wishing to practice the Li Family Arts in all relevant areas and with all relevant organisations.
- 2.5 To promote and maintain high standards of teaching of the Li Family Arts.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATION

THE ORGANISATION has two categories of membership:

- 3.1 Those regularly attending training sessions provided by THE ORGANISATION will be required to pay the appropriate fee and become Full Members of THE ORGANISATION.

Within these categories are sub-groups of members that are defined as follows:

- 3.2 Founder Members are current Full Members who were also Full Members on 1st February 1995.
- 3.3 Overseas Members are those who are Full Members from outside the United Kingdom.
- 3.4 Junior Members are Full Members who are under 16 years of age.
- 3.5 Eligible Members are Full Members over 16 years of age and are the only members entitled to vote at AGMs or EGMs, to nominate officers or propose motions.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Applications for membership and annual renewals should be made by the due date together with the appropriate fee.
- 4.2 Applications for membership shall be subject to the approval of the Committee and will not be unreasonably refused.
- 4.3 An applicant who is refused membership has the right to appeal against the decision Under THE ORGANISATION'S Grievances, Appeals & Whistleblowing policy.

ARTICLE 5 - BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Full Members shall be entitled to preferential rates for attending THE ORGANISATION'S courses.
- 5.2 Full Members shall be entitled to regular assessment of their progress by the Technical Director or his appointee.
- 5.3 Only Full Members shall be eligible to attend residential courses.
- 5.4 All members of THE ORGANISATION shall abide by its aims and constitution.
- 5.5 All members shall pay the appropriate membership fee on or before its annual expiry date.
- 5.6 All members shall have insurance as appropriate to the national system.

ARTICLE 6 - LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 Membership may be suspended or revoked at any time by the Technical Director or a simple majority of the Committee on the grounds that a member has:
- a) acted in a manner contrary to the provisions of this Constitution; or
 - b) acted in a manner contrary to recognised safe training practices, or
 - c) acted in a manner likely to bring THE ORGANISATION into disrepute, or
 - d) committed an act of gross misconduct.
- 6.2 Anyone whose membership has been revoked may appeal against the decision using THE ORGANISATION's Grievances, Appeals & Whistleblowing document.

ARTICLE 7 - THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 THE ORGANISATION shall be administered in accordance with this constitution by a committee (the Committee).
- 7.2 The Committee shall consist of 9 members, 3 representatives each from the UK, France and Germany. The 9 members will include a Chairperson, 2 Vice-Chairpersons, Treasurer and Secretary and 4 other members. The named positions of Treasurer and Secretary are not overriding positions of the whole international ORGANISATION.
- 7.3 Each of the national organisations within THE ORGANISATION shall be entitled to elect three officers as their representative on the Committee. That election may be organised by the national organisation and need not take place at the AGM. The three officers from each country should include the country secretary and treasurer along with one other.
- 7.4 Only Full Members of THE ORGANISATION shall be eligible to serve on the Committee. They shall be proposed and seconded on nomination, and then elected by TAO members.
- 7.5 All officers shall be elected.
- 7.6 There will be sub-committees and co-opted members with roles to be defined by the Chairperson.
- 7.7 The Committee may co-opt additional Full Members of THE ORGANISATION to become non-voting members of the Committee to assist in the performance of its duties.

ARTICLE 8 - APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 8.1 Tony Swanson is and shall remain the Technical Director until he chooses to appoint his successor. In the event that he fails to make such an appointment and is unable to do so, his successor will be appointed by a majority of those with at least 1st Tengchi grade who are Full Members of THE ORGANISATION at the time.
- 8.2 All other officers shall be elected at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. Any member eligible under Article 3 to serve on the Committee, may stand provided they are nominated by at least 2 Eligible Members. Election to these posts shall be by a simple majority of Eligible Members present at the relevant meeting.
- 8.3 No officer shall serve for more than three years without seeking re-election. The whole committee cannot stand for re-election at the same time.
- 8.4 Committee posts will be decided at the first committee meeting after elections have taken place and will be agreed by the members present.
- 8.5 In the event that a two-thirds majority of committee members decide that an officer has not performed their duties satisfactorily or has ceased to comply with Article 7, that officer may be suspended or terminated with immediate effect. If the officer is suspended they may request an EGM to be held as soon as practicable to allow members to consider a vote of no confidence in the suspended officer.
- 8.6 In the event that a simple majority of committee members decide that a co-opted member has not performed their duties satisfactorily they should terminate the co-option. Should the member wish to complain about that decision s/he should use the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 9 - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Subject to a discretion to delegate as he thinks fit to suitably qualified members of THE ORGANISATION the Technical Director has sole responsibility for:

- i. The assessment and grading of members
- ii. The authorisation of Instructors and Senior Instructors
- iii. The appointment of members of the Technical Team and Assessors
- iv. Provision of continuing training for Instructors and Senior Instructors
- v. Creating and keeping up to date THE ORGANISATION'S Coaching Manual and Instructors Administration Pack
- vi. Ensuring that information on current best practice in martial arts training is available to all instructors
- vii. Deciding, with reference to the Coaching Manual, any questions relating to ethical technical or teaching aspects of the Li Family Arts

ARTICLE 10 - INSTRUCTORS

Instructors:

- i. Are eligible Members who have attained the level as agreed with the Technical Director.
- ii. Have received the Technical Director's authorisation to teach.
- iii. Must only teach a class in which they have received that authorisation.
- iv. Must abide by the rules and guidelines set out in the Instructor's pack.

ARTICLE 11 - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- 11.1 A Committee meeting requires a quorum of five members of whom one should be the Chair and one the Treasurer or Secretary.
- 11.2 Except in extreme circumstances there shall be no less than four Committee meetings each year.
- 11.3 The Committee shall take decisions based on a simple majority of members present except at EGMs where a two-thirds majority decision is required.
- 11.4 The Committee shall have responsibility to manage all aspects of the administration of THE ORGANISATION other than those defined under Article 9.
- 11.5 At every meeting minutes of the previous meeting shall be presented in writing and must be agreed and seconded by members who were present at the previous meeting.
- 11.6 Any full member may inspect the minutes.
- 11.7 All THE ORGANISATION's income shall be used or invested by the Committee for the administration of THE ORGANISATION and the furtherance of its aims.
- 11.8 Upon the dissolution of THE ORGANISATION the Committee shall make appropriate arrangements for the use of any surplus funds remaining after the discharge of THE ORGANISATION's debts

ARTICLE 12 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 12.1 Except in extreme circumstances the Annual General Meeting shall be held within six months of the end of THE ORGANISATION's financial year.
- 12.2 Notice of the time and place of the meeting together with the proposed agenda shall be published to members on THE ORGANISATION's website at least twenty eight days in advance.
- 12.3 The business to be conducted at the AGM shall include the publication of accounts, the election of committee members, any changes to the constitution and votes of no confidence in officers.
- 12.4 Votes of no confidence, if not arising from a decision by the committee to suspend, must be proposed by at least two Eligible Members with two weeks' notice to the officer in question who shall be given an opportunity during the meeting to reply to the case against them. Such votes can only be passed by a two-thirds majority of Eligible Members present at the relevant meeting. If passed the officer must resign from the Committee and has no further appeal but may invoke the grievance procedure if s/he wishes.
- 12.5 Otherwise decisions shall be made by a simple majority of Eligible Members present.

ARTICLE 13 - EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 13.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by a two-thirds majority of the Committee or by a written request to the Committee from ten Eligible Members.
- 13.2 The notice requirements for an EGM are those prescribed under article 12.2.

- 13.3 An EGM shall be required to deal with any matters which would be dealt with at an AGM but for their urgency. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of Eligible Members present, except that votes of no confidence shall require a two-thirds majority.
- 13.4 THE ORGANISATION can only be dissolved through an EGM held specifically for that purpose. A motion for dissolution shall not be carried without a two-thirds majority of Eligible Members present.

ARTICLE 14 - ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to this Constitution must be discussed at a Committee meeting and agreed by a majority. The Constitution changes must be recommended to the TAO membership, for their approval by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 15 - DISSOLUTION

THE ORGANISATION may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Any surplus funds will be dealt with as prescribed in Article 11.8.

This Constitution was adopted at a general meeting of THE ORGANISATION on 9th April 2022

Signed by:

Chairperson:

Secretary:

Treasurer: