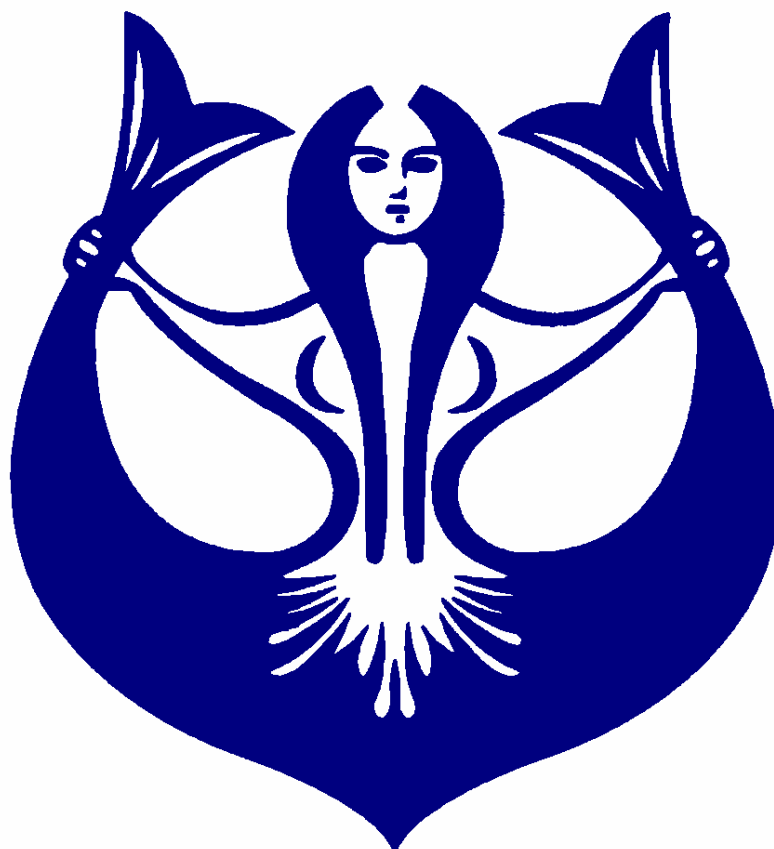


*CONFEDERATION MONDIALE DES ACTIVITES SUBAQUATIQUES*  
*WORLD UNDERWATER FEDERATION*  
*CONFEDERACION MUNDIAL DE ACTIVIDADES SUBACUATICAS*



*ARTICLES OF  
ASSOCIATION*

*Version 27/05/2004*

*Extraordinary General Assembly  
(Rome 01/05/04 )*

On 9 – 10 - 11 January 1959 the WORLD UNDERWATER FEDERATION, in brief “C.M.A.S.”, was set up in Monaco. The list of founding federations is annexed to the present articles of association.

## **SECTION I:**

### **NAME – HEAD OFFICE – AIM - DURATION**

#### **1.1 Name**

1.1.1 The name of the Confederation is:

- in French: CONFEDERATION MONDIALE DES ACTIVITES SUBAQUATIQUES
- in English: WORLD UNDERWATER FEDERATION
- in Spanish: CONFEDERACION MUNDIAL DE ACTIVIDADES SUBACUATICAS
- and in brief: C.M.A.S..

#### **1.2 HEAD OFFICE**

1.2.1 The Head Office of the Confederation is established in 74, Viale Tiziano, ROME, 00196 (ITALY).

1.2.2 It may be transferred to any other location in Italy by a simple Board of Directors' decision, subject to approval by the next Ordinary General Meeting.

1.2.3 Its removal to another country requires a decision by a two-thirds majority of the votes present or represented at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

#### **1.3 AIM**

1.3.1 C.M.A.S. is a strictly civil non-profit making organisation.

1.3.2 The aim of C.M.A.S. is to use all appropriate means to develop and encourage the understanding and conservation of the underwater world as well as the practice of aquatic and underwater sports and activities.

1.3.3 In general terms the Confederation aims:

- to promote the creation of new national underwater federations or associations in countries when non such exist;
- to organise or grant the right to organise on its behalf relevant exhibitions, congresses, competitions , international championships and courses;
- to support all relevant events in relation with the C.M.A.S. aims.
- to seek the Confederation's admission to all world sports or cultural organisations and the International Olympic Committee in particular;
- to do everything possible to co-ordinate underwater activities world-wide.

1.3.4 C.M.A.S. seeks, in particular

**a) at sports level:**

- to issue the rules for the international competitions of the different sports disciplines;
- to publish the calendar(s) of the various competitions;
- to ratify results and records set in the various C.M.A.S. sports disciplines;
- to appoint C.M.A.S. judges and referees;
- to combat drug-taking by all appropriate means;

**b) at technical level:**

- to standardise diving teaching rules in member federations/organisations and set universal standards for the various technical licences;
- to establish and maintain contacts with any other international bodies that share C.M.A.S. aims.

**c) at scientific level:**

- to conduct and publish the results of scientific research in partnership with national federations and like-minded international bodies, universities, museums, centres of research and others.

1.3.5 In order to finance its operations the Confederation may undertake all financial operations (stock and shares and real estate) provided they do not change the strictly civil and voluntary nature of its activity.

#### **1.4 DURATION**

1.4.1 The duration of the Confederation is unlimited

#### **1.5 C.M.A.S. ORGANIGRAM**

1.5.1 The following bodies are responsible for the management of the various C.M.A.S. activities:

- a) The Technical Committee for technical aspects of sports diving
- b) The Scientific Committee for all scientific aspects of sports diving
- c) The Sports Committee for all competitive events.

1.5.2 The duties, missions and prerogatives of the Committees are outlined below

1.5.3 The number of Sports Commissions and their duties, missions and prerogatives are outlined in the Internal Regulations.

## SECTION II.

### COMPOSITION - ADMISSIONS AND EXPUSIONS – MEMBERSHIP FEES

#### **2.1 COMPOSITION**

- 2.1.1 C.M.A.S. consists of
  - 2.1.1.1 National Federations, Associations and Organisations that may be public-sector or private, but are all non-profit,
  - 2.1.1.2 international federations or organisations
  - 2.1.1.3 commercial organisations can be admitted only as no voting members, hereinafter designated « affiliated organisations ».
- 2.1.2 These may apply to join one, two or three Committees specifying, for the Sports Committee the discipline/s in which they want to participate.

#### **2.2 ADMISSIONS**

- 2.2.1 The Board of Directors gives admissions for a provisional period of 2 years and under reserve of approval of the first General Assembly that will be held after the end of this testing period.
- 2.2.2 All admission requests:
  - a. must be drafted on the official form
  - b. must be signed by the candidate body's legal representative
  - c. must be addressed to the C.M.A.S. Secretariat
  - d. must be accompanied by a report on the organisation's history and activities and by details of its current Board of Directors and articles of association.
  - e) must be accompanied by the receipt of a liability insurance of civil responsibility protecting its members for all the activities carried out by the requiring federation or organisation.
- 2.2.3 **Admission - Conditions ( National Federations or Organisations )**
  - 2.2.3.1 The national federation, affiliated with right of vote to the Scientific and/or the Technical Committees, may express negative opinion about the affiliation of another association of the same country to these two Committees.
  - 2.2.3.2 **Scientific Committee**  
If there is already a federation from the same country affiliated to the Committee, the candidate organisation can only be admitted as a non-voting member of the Scientific Committee
  - 2.2.3.3 **Technical Committee**  
If there is already a federation from the same country affiliated to the Committee, the candidate organisation can only be admitted as a non-voting member of the Technical Committee. The affiliated Federation without right of vote for the Technical Committee must apply Federation's standard and C.M.A.S. pedagogical material for all certification.  
The federation of the country affiliated with right of vote, can make quality controls and may issue a report of negative advice to C.M.A.S.
  - 2.2.3.4 **Sports Committee**  
If there is already a federation from the same country affiliated to the said committee, the candidate organisation can only be admitted as a member of a commission of which the affiliated federation in the applicant's own country is not already a member. In such cases the applicant would only have voting rights for the elections and the approval of the report of the President of the Commission(s) it has been admitted to. This Committee gathers the sports commissions
- 2.2.4 **Admission - Conditions ( International Federations, International organisations and commercial organisations )**  
**International** Federations, international organisations **and commercial organisations** can only be admitted as non-voting members of the Scientific and/or Technical Committees.
- 2.2.5 A federation cannot be against the affiliation of another Federation with a commission of which it is not member.
- 2.2.6 Only Federations affiliated with a Commission may participate at competitions of this discipline and have right of vote for such Commission.

#### **2.3 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- 2.3.1 Member organisations pay an annual membership fee to the Scientific, Sports and Technical Committees and to any sports commission they are affiliated to.
- 2.3.2 The amount of the said fees is proposed by the Board of Directors for ratification by the General Meeting.

## **2.4 RESIGNATION – SUSPENSION - EXPULSION**

- 2.4.1 Any organisation affiliated to C.M.A.S. may resign from one or more Committees or Commissions to which they belong by simply sending a registered letter.
- 2.4.2 The subscription fee for the current year is still due.
- 2.4.3 Expulsion for non-payment of membership fees is the exclusive prerogative of the Board of Directors against which the can be no appeal.
- 2.4.4 Any organisation affiliated to C.M.A.S. can also be suspended or struck off the membership list notably for non-compliance with C.M.A.S. articles of association, regulations or decisions or for any action in conflict with C.M.A.S.'s stated aims which may therefore be detrimental to the Confederation's activities, development and performance. Suspension and expulsion procedures are set forth in the Disciplinary Procedure Code.
- 2.4.5 If, after having been admitted to C.M.A.S., the activities of the affiliated Federation or Association with right(s) of vote decrease to such a point that it is no longer really representative and another federation requests affiliation with C.M.A.S., the first may lose its right(s) of vote in favour of the second by majority at the C.M.A.S. Annual Meeting.

## **SECTION 3**

### **The Scientific, Sports and Technical Committees**

- 3.1 The Scientific, Sports and Technical Committees operate as outlined in Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the C.M.A.S. Internal Regulations

## **SECTION 4.**

### **CDC ( C.M.A.S. Diving Centres )**

### **CSC (C.M.A.S. Scientific Centres)**

#### **4.1 CDC**

- 4.1.1 Whatever their juridical status all recreational diving organisations (holiday villages, hotel diving centres etc) may negotiate a convention with C.M.A.S. under the terms of which they agree to operate under C.M.A.S. technical and safety regulations and standards. They will acquire the status of C.M.A.S. Diving Centre ( CDC ).
- 4.1.2 CDCs have no voting rights. C.M.A.S. will grant to each national federation a percentage on each certificate issued in its territory, percentage to be fixed by the general assembly. Such percentage will be deducted from the order of cards or certificates issued by federations.
- 4.1.3. The quality control of these organisations is up to the National Federation that can express negative opinion at any moment.
- 4.1.4. Such conventions are authorised by the C.M.A.S. Board of Directors, on advice from the Technical Committee, initially for a probationary period of 1 year.
- 4.1.5. Should the applicant's country already possess an organisation affiliated to the Technical Committee, with right of vote, whose licensing system is recognised by C.M.A.S. as equivalent to its own, that organisation will be informed about all request of agreement of contract and will have the possibility to express a report of negative motivated opinion that will be examined by the Board of Directors that will take its decision by 2/3 majority.

#### **4.2 CSC**

- 4.2.1 Whatever their juridical status all organisations set up to develop, teach and popularise scientific diving and/or scientific research and/or conservation may negotiate a convention with C.M.A.S. under the terms of which they agree to operated under C.M.A.S. technical regulations, scientific standards and safety rules. They will then acquire the status of C.M.A.S. Scientific Centre ( CSC ). These CSCs will only be entitled to issue scientific licences.
- 4.2.2 A CSC has no voting rights. C.M.A.S. will grant to each national federation a percentage on each certificate issued in its territory, percentage to be fixed by the general assembly. Such percentage will be deducted from the order of cards or certificates issued by federations.
- 4.2.3 The C.M.A.S. is responsible for CSC quality control.
- 4.2.4 Such conventions are authorised by the C.M.A.S. Board of Directors, on advice from the Scientific Committee, initially for a probationary period of 1 year.
- 4.2.5 Should the applicant's country already possess an organisation affiliated to the Scientific Committee whose licensing system is recognised by C.M.A.S. as equivalent to its own, that organisation will be informed of any request of agreement of contract and will have the possibility to express a report of motivated opinion about such candidature. The Board of Directors will take a decision by simple majority.
- 4.2.6 CSC are authorised to issue scientific certificates that are nor replacing technical certificates of autonomous diver.

## SECTION 5.

### GENERAL MEETINGS - CONDUCT

#### **5.1 MEETINGS**

General Meetings may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.

##### **5.1.1. A General Meeting is composed of:**

the delegates of affiliated organisations which have voting rights and have paid their current membership fees

5.1.1.1 Any member so defined is represented by right by its Chairman or, should that not be possible, by one of its members who must bring with him/her a proxy document signed by the Chairman and bearing the words « PROXY VOUCHER » written in one of the three official C.M.A.S. languages.

5.1.1.2 For each General Meeting the SG will draft a list of affiliated organisations holding one or more votes, which have paid their current year's membership fee. The delegates of these organisations sent to the General Meeting must sign the list when they collect their ballot papers.

5.1.1.3 Any affiliated organisation unable to attend a GM may appoint a proxy as provided for in SECTION 7 of the present articles of association.

5.1.1.4 Postal votes are prohibited.

5.1.1.5 Only fully paid-up voting members who have fulfilled their C.M.A.S. obligations are entitled to participate in the different votes.

5.1.1.6 Observers may only take part in the debate through the official delegates of their own organisation.

##### **5.1.2. Powers and Status of the General Meetings**

5.1.2.1 Group decisions are taken at the General Meetings, which may be designated Ordinary or Extraordinary, according to the nature of the decisions they are to take.

5.1.2.2 Such decisions apply to all C.M.A.S. members including those absent or dissenting.

##### **5.1.3. Provisions applying to all General Meetings**

###### **5.1.3.1 Summons - Venue**

a) General meetings are convened by the C.M.A.S. Board of Directors at least three months beforehand by a circular letter or, if members so require, by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt paid by those requiring such a service.

If a Meeting is unable to deliberate due to lack of the required quorum, a second Meeting is convened that has to meet within a minimum of one month and a maximum of six months of the first under identical terms. The notification and the summons to this second Meeting present the same Agenda as the first.

The second Meeting deliberates without any quorum requirements.

b) Meetings take place at the C.M.A.S. Head Quarters or in any other place proposed by the Board of Directors.

However all Meetings on second summons will be held at the C.M.A.S. registered Head Offices.

###### **5.1.3.2 Agenda**

The Agenda of General Meetings is drafted by the Steering Committee and is included in the circular and notification letters.

However, any group representing at least 7 voting organisations may demand the inclusion of any draft resolutions with the exception of those concerning the introduction of candidates to the Board of Directors.

Such requests must reach the C.M.A.S. Head Office at least 75 days before the General Meeting.

These draft resolutions are then automatically added to the Agenda of the General Meeting.

The revised Agenda has to be circulated to all member organisations at least 45 days before the General Meeting.

The General Meeting cannot deliberate on items that are not on the Agenda – nor, on second summons, deliberate on an Agenda that differs from the original Meeting's Agenda.

###### **5.1.3.3 Attendance Sheet**

For each General Meeting an Attendance Sheet is drawn up including:

- the identification of each affiliated organisation present and his number of votes;
- the identification of each affiliated organisation represented, the number of votes it possesses and for which it has given proxies;
- Proxies are checked and attached to the Attendance Sheet.
- The Attendance Sheet, signed in the margin by the members and representatives present, is certified as exact by the Secretary of the GM Bureau.

#### **5.1.3.4 Presiding Officers**

The General Meeting is chaired by right by the C.M.A.S. Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.

The Board of Directors proposes three or more members for the Meeting's approval to act as the General Meeting Bureau. Candidates must all be of different nationalities, none must be standing for any C.M.A.S. post, nor may any single candidate hold or represent more than one vote. Once appointed, these presiding officers will designate one of their members as Secretary.

Their role is to check and sign the Attendance Sheet; to ensure that debates are properly conducted; to take action against any irregularities that may arise at the Meeting, after consulting the Legal Commission; to count votes and see that they are properly recorded; to ensure that minutes are drafted: by the C.M.A.S. Secretary General.

#### **5.1.3.5 Votes, Number of Votes at C.M.A.S. General Meetings**

- 1) At Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings the quorum is calculated on the basis of all C.M.A.S. votes for the current year.
- 2) Each member has one, two or three votes, depending on whether he/she is member of one, two or three
- 3) The voting takes place and votes are expressed by a show of hands, except when the Chairman or the Board of Directors demand a secret ballot.  
In addition, any delegate representing 5% of the votes may also call for a secret ballot.
- 4) All elections are by secret ballot.

#### **5.1.3.6 Votes, Number of votes for the approval of reports of Committee's President and their elections**

- 1) These points will be in the agenda of C.M.A.S. General Assembly
- 2) Required quorum for the validity of votes is calculated on the total of votes of each Committee for the current year
- 3) Each affiliated organisation has one vote for the Committee of which it is a member
- 4) The voting takes place and votes are expressed by a show of hands, except when the Chairman of the Assembly demands a secret ballot.  
In addition, any delegate representing 5% of the votes may also call for a secret ballot.
- 5) All elections are by secret ballot.
- 6) Candidatures to the post of President, proxies, results of elections and the term of the offices must observe conditions established in Title 7 of those Statutes.
- 7) If the post of Chairman of the corresponding Committee is vacant, from the beginning or after, the Executive Board (or the Board of Directors) will appoint a provisional substitute, to be submitted to the approval of the next General Ordinary Assembly, for its ratification and official appointment.

#### **5.1.3.7 Votes, Number of votes for the approval of reports of Commission's President and their elections**

- 1) These points will be in the agenda of C.M.A.S. General Assembly
- 2) Required quorum for the validity of votes is calculated on the total of votes of each Commission for the current year
- 3) Each affiliated organisation has one vote for the Commission of which it is a member
- 4) The voting takes place and votes are expressed by a show of hands, except when the Chairman of the Assembly demands a secret ballot.  
In addition, any delegate representing 5% of the votes may also call for a secret ballot.
- 5) All elections are by secret ballot.
- 6) Candidatures to the post of President, proxies, results of elections and the term of the offices must observe conditions established in Title 7 of those Statutes.
- 7) If the post of Chairman of some commission is vacant, from the beginning or after, the Executive Board (or the Board of Directors) will appoint a provisional substitute, to be submitted to the approval of the next General Ordinary Assembly, for its ratification and official appointment.

#### **5.1.3.8 Minutes of General Meetings – Copies - Abstracts**

- 1) The General Meeting decisions are recorded in the minutes for inclusion in a special classified and initialled register.  
These minutes are signed by the Steering Committee in the case of C.M.A.S. General Meetings. The omission of this formality does not invalidate the resolution.
- 2) Copies or abstracts of the minutes of the General Meeting deliberations for production in Court or elsewhere are valid if signed by the C.M.A.S. Chairman or Secretary General.

#### **5.1.4. Special provisions for Ordinary General Meetings**

##### **5.1.4.1 Terms of reference, Powers, Quorum, Majority**

An Ordinary General Meeting is empowered to take any decision that does not modify the articles of association:

- it hears the report of the C.M.A.S. Chairman and decides on its approval.
- it debates and votes on the Committee and Commission reports attached to the Agenda.
- it examines the accounts, balance sheet, and annexes of the years following the last General Meeting and hears the Auditors' report.
- it gives quietus to the Treasurer and the Board of Directors.
- it debates and votes on the organisation's Master Plan for the following year including proposed budget for the same period.
- it establishes the percentage to be paid by CMAS to the National Federations of the price of sale of CDC/CSC certificates.
- it debates and votes on the organisation's Master Plan for the following year. The Board of Directors proposes the Master Plan. The Master Plan includes vision and mission statements, goals to be reached and activities to be carried out
- it establishes subscription fees for affiliation to each of the C.M.A.S. Committees and Sports Commissions
- it debates and votes on affiliation applications
- it debates and votes on expulsion proposals as per Art. 2.4.4.
- it elects a Board of auditors
- it elects the Board of Directors according to modalities established in Art.1of these Articles of Association.
- it may bestow any honorary titles.

Generally speaking, it hears reports of all structures and the motivations of all candidates.

5.1.4.2 It is convened at least once a year

5.1.4.3 A General Meeting is only considered validly constituted to take resolutions on first summons if at least one quarter of all C.M.A.S. votes is represented by those attending.

5.1.4.4 No such quorum is required on second summons.

Its resolutions are passed by a majority of the votes represented at the meeting.

5.1.4.5 The General Elective Assembly is scheduled every four years, but it may be in concomitance with the General Ordinary Assembly if this is scheduled within May 31.

#### **5.1.5. Special provisions for Extraordinary General Meetings**

##### **Terms of reference and Powers of the C.M.A.S. Extraordinary General Meeting.**

5.1.5.1 Only an Extraordinary General Meeting is enabled to modify all or any of the articles of association and to pronounce the dissolution of the Confederation.

5.1.5.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting called to modify the above articles of association may be convened by the Board of Directors or by the Boards of voting member organisations representing at least 33% of all C.M.A.S. votes.

5.1.5.2.1 In both cases amendment proposals must be included in the Meeting Agenda that must be sent out at least three months beforehand.

5.1.5.2.2 It is mandatory that the Meeting be attended by sufficient voting members to represent at least half of all C.M.A.S. votes.

5.1.5.2.3 Should this quorum not be reached, the Meeting is convened again, as set forth in art. 5.1.3.1 and on second summons the Meeting may pass valid resolutions irrespective of the number of members present or represented.

5.1.5.2.4 In all cases, any amendments will require at least two thirds of the votes cast.

5.1.5.3 An ad hoc General Meeting has to be called specifically to pronounce on the dissolution of the Confederation.

5.1.5.3.1 The dissolution may pronounced only by a three quarter majority of the votes cast by the members present or represented, and only if these represent at least two thirds of the total votes of C.M.A.S. in its entirety.

5.1.5.3.2 In case of dissolution, the Meeting will designate one or more commissioners to handle the liquidation of the Confederations assets.

### **5.1.6. Right of communication of voting members**

- 5.1.6.1 All affiliated organisations are entitled to ask C.M.A.S. to send them the documents they need (see following list) to reach an informed opinion on any topics raised and on the management and performance of the Confederation.
- 5.1.6.2 The nature of these documents, the conditions for their mailing and their availability to member organisations are established as follows:
- The following documents must be sent out to all affiliated organisations 45 full days before the relevant Meeting:
    - a) the Proxy Form;
    - b) a list of the candidacies received;
    - c) the text and the explanation of the reasons for the draft resolutions included in the Agenda;
    - d) if appropriate, information on the candidates to the Board of Directors;
    - e) in the case of an Ordinary General Meeting, the Master Plan, the Budgets, the Balance Sheet, the accounts and the annexes thereto.
  - The following documents on the previous three years for presentation at the respective General Meetings are to be held at the C.M.A.S. Head Quarters for consultation by any affiliated organisation with voting rights :
    - Board of Directors' Report,
    - balance sheet, account and annexes,
    - all documents concerning Meeting deliberations,
    - A list of fully paid up members for the current year

## **SECTION 6** **ADMINISTRATION**

### **6.1 Board of Directors**

6.1.1 C.M.A.S. is run by a 21-member Board of Directors, (men and women), which includes

- a) C.M.A.S. President
- b) Vice President
- c) Secretary General
- d) Treasurer
- e) 3 Committee Presidents
- f) 14 -members

All elected by C.M.A.S. General Assembly

Nevertheless, during each General Assembly prior to voting, the President could ask the assembly to substitute one of the following three, Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer, elected with them, by motivating their reasons.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by secret ballot by the General Ordinary Assembly for a four year term. They may be elected again.

At the end of the mandate, the President may be proposed again officially, at the same place by the affiliated organisation of which they are a member or by affiliated federations representing 15% of the total C.M.A.S. votes.

- 6.1.2 Any adult enjoying full civil rights may be elected to the Board as long as he or she belongs to and is proposed by an affiliated organisation with voting rights at the C.M.A.S. AGM.
- 6.1.3 Should any member of the Board of Directors resign, the position will be given to the runner-up in the relevant election to the Board.
- 6.1.4 The Board of Directors meets at least twice a year, convened by the Chairman or at the written and signed request of at least half of its members
- 6.1.5 Its resolutions are validated by the presence of at least one third of its members.
- 6.1.6 Decisions are taken by simple majority of votes present or represented. If no majority emerges, the Chairman casts the deciding vote.
- 6.1.7 The minutes of the deliberations of the Board of Directors are signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.
- 6.1.8 Board members cannot be remunerated for duties they have been entrusted with.
- 6.1.9 The Treasurer checks expense accounts presented with requests for reimbursement. He evaluates the applications in the absence of the applicant.

#### 6.1.10 The Duties of the Board of Directors

##### 6.1.10.1 The Board runs the Confederation.

It has the widest powers to undertake or authorise any action that is not reserved for the General Meeting and is not contrary to the law or the C.M.A.S. articles of association.

In particular the Board:

- a) studies all statutory amendments before they are submitted to the Extraordinary General Meeting for approval.
- b) Drafts and adapts the Internal Regulations according to Statutes alterations, puts them in force and submits them to the Ordinary General Meeting for approval.
- c) safeguards the strict observation of the Confederation regulations.
- d) monitors the running of covenanted organisations.
- e) controls the Treasurer's financial management.
- f) decides whether or not it is appropriate to implement the proposals put forward by the Committees and Commissions.
- g) constitutes the Disciplinary authority within the framework of the Code of Procedure and Sanctions annexed to the Internal Regulations. It confers this power on a Disciplinary Commission, while retaining the power to ratify or quash the decisions of the Commission of Appeal.
- h) maintains all useful relations with sports organisations, government bodies and international organisations, in particular the I.O.C.
- i) has sole power to confer the status of CDC and CSC on any organisation it chooses on the basis of C.M.A.S. specifications and the quality report supplied by the Technical or Scientific Committees.
- j) Should it be necessary, the Board can decide to move the Head Offices to any place in the same country.
- k) awards medals and remunerations.
- l) Drafts and adapts the Master Plan and the Budget and submits them to the Ordinary General Meeting for approval.

The above list is not exhaustive.

Board members may attend all Committee and Commission meetings on a consultative basis.

##### 6.1.10.2 The Board of Directors may also create any position it deems useful for the Confederation and select the person to fill it.

The persons in these positions may be invited to attend Board meetings on a consultative basis.

##### 6.1.10.3 The Board of Directors takes all operational decisions required for the organisation's functioning, in particular:

- it announces the admission of organisations to the various Committees, subject to the ratification of the next General Meeting.
- it approves agreements between C.M.A.S. and other organisations as per arts. 4.1 et 4.2
- it promptly implements amendments to Committee regulations, between one General Meeting and the next.
- it ratifies the international calendar proposed by President of the Sports Committee and grants the Confederation's patronage to the proposed events.
- it ratifies the regulations proposed by individual Sport Commissions for their particular discipline
- In general terms it takes all decision that may be required for the proper conduct of the Confederation in between one C.M.A.S. General Meeting and the next.
- it hears the activity report of the Board of Directors' Steering Committee.

## 6.2 **Steering Committee**

### 6.2.1 The Board of the Steering Committee comprises:

- The C.M.A.S. Chairman
- The C.M.A.S. Deputy Chairman
- The C.M.A.S. Secretary General
- The C.M.A.S. Treasurer
- The Presidents of the three Committees.

### 6.2.2 The C.M.A.S. Chairman, or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman will preside over its meetings

### 6.2.3 The Steering Committee handles C.M.A.S.'s day-to-day business and drafts resolutions for approval by the Board of Directors. The Committee may decide to delegate some of its duties to others of its own choice..

### 6.2.4 The Chairman represents C.M.A.S. in all civil and legal matters. In the Chairman's absence, however, and in the case of Court appearances, it will be necessary to appoint a legal representative endowed with the relevant special powers.

**SECTION 7.**  
**CANDIDATURES, PROXIES & ELECTIONS**

**7.1 CANDIDATURES**

7.1.1 Both men and women are eligible for nomination to the positions of :

- C.M.A.S Chairman
- Board of Directors
- Committee Chairmen
- Commission Chairmen
- Auditors

Nominations have to be received by the C.M.A.S. Head Office at least 60 days before the General Meeting.

7.1.2 Eligibility

Candidates will only be eligible if :

- a) the fees due for the current and previous years have been paid by the affiliated organisation to which the candidate belongs, before the deadline for submitting candidacies
- b) a summary of the candidate's underwater activities is attached
- c) candidacies are signed by the Chairman of the affiliated organisation to which the candidate belongs, unless exonerated under the provisions of art. 6.1.1
- d) Candidates have to be physically present unless exceptional circumstance accepted by the General Assembly by 2/3 majority of votes, present or proxies.

7.1.3 Each Organisation may present a maximum of two nominations only for election as members of the Board of Directors.

7.1.4 45 days before the General Meeting the nominations received will be circulated at the same time as the General Meeting Agenda.

7.1.5 Nobody can be elected to two C.M.A.S. positions.

**7.2 PROXIES**

7.2.1 Any affiliated organisation unable to attend the Meeting may give a proxy to another affiliated association or organisation with voting rights.

7.2.2 Validity

To be valid, it is mandatory that the proxy be

- written on the relevant official form
- drafted in the name of the bearer or his/her affiliated organisation on the understanding that this proxy is strictly non-transferable.
- signed by the Chairman of the issuing affiliated organisation and bearing the hand-written words « PROXY VOUCHER » written in one of the official C.M.A.S. languages.

7.2.3 Number

In addition to the number of votes his Federation has, if the bearer is himself the official delegate of that Federation, no individual may represent more than

- a) 6 votes at a C.M.A.S. General Meeting
- b) 2 votes for the approval of reports of Presidents of Committees and their election
- c) 2 votes for the approval of reports of Presidents of Commissions and their election

**7.3 ELECTIONS**

7.3.1 All candidates are elected for a four year period. They can be re-elected.

7.3.2 The President and his Board ( VP, SG and T), Presidents of Committees, Presidents of commissions and auditors are elected by majority of present or represented votes.

7.3.3 For the election of the members of the Board of Directors, 14 candidates having obtained most votes, present or proxies, are elected.

**SECTION 8.**  
**GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES AND OTHER C.M.A.S. BODIES**

**8.1 GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES**

8.1.1 Countries in the same region of the world can join up to form a C.M.A.S. zone on the initiative of one or more bodies affiliated to C.M.A.S. in that part of the world.

**8.2 OTHER BODIES**

**8.2.1 *Board of Auditors***

8.2.1.1 The General Meeting elects a Board of Auditors composed of two persons belonging to two different member organisations.

8.2.1.2 The General Meeting elects a substitute auditor able to undertake the functions of the designated auditors should one of them not be able to carry out his/her mission.

8.2.1.3 The auditors are required to ascertain:

- the accuracy of the accounts and balance sheet
- the existence of documents justifying income and expenditures.
- that incomes and expenditures are in accordance with the Master Plan and Budget decided by the Ordinary General Assembly.

8.2.1.4 The Auditors report to the General Meeting before it deliberates on the Treasurer's report.

**8.2.2 *Medical and Prevention Commission***

There is also a Medical and Prevention Commission which answers directly to the Board of Directors and does not depend on any Committee and whose members are appointed accordingly to Internal Regulations.

**8.2.3 *Disciplinary and Appeal Commissions***

The Board of Directors has the power to discipline and sanction which it delegates to a Disciplinary Commission that decides in first instance and then a Disciplinary Board of Appeal. The Board of Directors is however the highest disciplinary body and reserves the power to ratify or reverse the decisions of the Appeal Commission.

**8.2.4 *Legal Commission***

There is also a Legal Commission which works directly to the Board of Directors and does not depend on any Committee and whose members are appointed in compliance with the Internal Regulations.

**8.2.5 *Board of Seniors***

8.2.5.1 The Board of Directors may grant honour to all former member of the Board of Directors for his past tasks.

8.2.5.2 Those Honorary Members compose the Board of Seniors

8.2.5.3 The latter may meet upon request of C.M.A.S. President, Vice President or Secretary General, and it may be asked to express its opinion on all important matter concerning C.M.A.S.

8.2.5.4 Members of the Board of Seniors participate, by right, to General Assemblies, meetings of the Board of Directors, Committees and Commissions as advisors.

**8.2.6 *Honorary Committee***

The Honorary Presidents, the Honorary Vice Presidents and the Honorary Members compose the Honorary Committee, they may participate, as advisors, at the meetings of the Board of Directors and General Assembly.

**SECTION 9.**  
**ENDOWMENTS AND ANNUAL RESOURCES.**

**9.1 ENDOWMENTS AND ANNUAL RESOURCES**

The Confederation essentially covers its running costs out of :

- a) membership fees paid by affiliated Federations, Associations or Government bodies.
- b) any enrolment fees for competitions or events organised by the Confederation.
- c) any other source authorised by the Laws and Regulations that may be applied to the Confederation, notably any subsidies available.
- d) income from its assets.

The World Underwater Federation may acquire real estate.

It has the right and the authority to negotiate loans from national or private banking institutions for property purchasing purposes.

## **SECTION 10.**

### **DISSOLUTION, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, COMPETENT JURISDICTION**

#### **10.1 DISSOLUTION**

- 10.1.1 The dissolution of the Confederation may only be decided by an Extraordinary General Meeting convened specifically for this purpose.
- 10.1.2 A majority of three-quarters of the votes, representing at least two thirds of total C.M.A.S. votes, is required.
- 10.1.3 In the event of dissolution, C.M.A.S. must appoint a liquidator.
- 10.1.4 Any net assets will be donated to similar associations or to national or international organisations with aims similar to those pursued by the Confederation.

#### **10.2 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

- 10.2.1 The official language of the Confederation is French, English and Spanish, which have equal status. Nevertheless, in case of difficulty in the interpretation of the articles of association, rules of every type and official documents, the French text will be considered. This document will be the original.

#### **10.3 COMPETENT JURISDICTION**

- 10.3.1 The law applied in the country where C.M.A.S. has its Head Quarters will prevail in all matters not covered by the present articles of association without prejudice of jurisdiction *ratione materiae* of the Sports Arbitrate Court.
- 10.3.2 Competent Jurisdiction  
Any litigation arising from the interpretation or implementation of the present articles of association or the Internal Regulations will be under the jurisdiction of the competent courts of the country in which the C.M.A.S registered offices are located. Similarly, those registered offices constitute the C.M.A.S. domicile for legal purposes.