

The Constitution of the Asian Xiangqi Federation



(Revised in 2018)

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Chapter 1: General Outline

1. Name and Emblem

Chinese name: 亚洲象棋联合会 (Ya Zhou Xiang Qi Lian He Hui), Chinese abbreviation: 亚洲象联 (Ya Zhou Xiang Lian). English name: Asian Xiangqi Federation, English abbreviation: A.X.F.

Emblem:¹



2. Objects

The objects of the Federation are as follows:

- 2.1 to use Xiangqi as a medium to forge friendships and promote unity among Xiangqi players and enthusiasts with their fellow citizens in Asian countries and regions; and also to enhance the close ties of Asia with the other continents.
- 2.2 to promote Xiangqi and encourage the study of Xiangqi, thereby bolstering the globalization of Xiangqi.

3. Address

The official place of business shall be Alm Dr, Carlos D' Assumpcao No. 181/187, EDF Kong Fai Com. 9 J&K, Macau.

Chapter 2: Membership

4. Members

- 4.1 China, Chinese Hong Kong, Chinese Macau, Malaysia, East Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, the eight founding members of the federation, each have the same extent of authority and obligations in the Federation.
- 4.2 Any Xiangqi organization in Asian countries or regions who are willing to abide by the Federation's constitution and its laws are eligible to apply for membership in the Federation.
- 4.3 When considering the suitability of the applicant, the Xiangqi organization's credentials would be the first criterion to be considered. The credentials are defined as the applicant having obtained the recommendation and approval from the Olympics Committee, the National Sports Administration or official bodies located in the country or region to which the applicant belongs.
- 4.4 The Executive Council of the Federation shall democratically consider all applications and submit the application for consideration by the Congress, at which a minimum of two-thirds of favorable votes by the quorum at the Congress is required for an applicant to become a member of the Federation.
- 4.5 Each country or region can only have one Xiangqi organization affiliated to the Federation as a member. If another Xiangqi organization from the same country or region wishes to apply for membership in the Federation, it must first obtain the approval and recommendation of the members of that country's or region's Xiangqi organization before the Executive Council of the Federation will further examine the application and submit the application for consideration by the Congress, at which a minimum of two-thirds of favourable votes by the quorum at the Congress is required for the applicant to become a member of the Federation.

¹ The emblem of the Federation consists of a circle depicting part of a Xiangqi board with a red circle placed at the starting position for the king in the array.

5. Obligations and Rights of Members

5.1 Members organizations of the Federation shall pay funds as stipulated by the Executive Council and an annual subscription fee. The annual subscription fee is collected based on the fiscal year of the Federation. Any member organization that fails to pay the annual subscription fee within six months after the close of a fiscal year shall, unless it has obtained permission from the Executive Council to delay payment, be treated as having elected to terminate its membership with the Federation.

The Treasurer shall inform any member organization that has failed to pay the annual subscription by the end of the fiscal year about the failure to do so and remind the member organization of the above stipulations.

5.2 The annual subscription fee is HK\$ 2,000 (two thousand Hong Kong Dollars).

5.3 The Federation reserves the right to raise special contributions, or accept grants or donations from member organizations in respect of events that have been commissioned by the Executive Council.

5.4 Member organizations shall abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation, observe the decisions and resolutions adopted at the Congress, and assist in furthering the work of the Federation.

5.5 If the need arises, member organizations of the Federation may supply the Federation with an office for the Secretariat, Publishing House, or Liaison Offices as conditions permit.

5.6 Member organizations of the Federation may be entrusted to host Xiangqi tournaments or activities commissioned by the Federation.

5.7 Member organizations of the Federation may appoint representatives to participate in Xiangqi tournaments or activities commissioned by the Federation. The member organization shall bear the costs of transportation.

5.8 Member organizations that have joined the Federation for at least twelve months will have the right to elect and stand for election, have the right to speak at Congress, and have the right to vote.

5.9 Member organizations of the Federation are entitled to all rights issued by the Federation.

6. Associate Members

Xiangqi organizations or groups in non-Asian countries may, if they conform to the stipulations of the Federation, apply to be associate members. Acceptance as an associate member requires a minimum of two-thirds of the votes by the quorum at the Congress. Associate members have the same obligations as members and are entitled to enjoy all rights of members but do not have the right to elect, stand for election or vote.

7. Penalties and Termination of Membership

Members and associate members that wish to withdraw from the Federation shall send a written request of withdrawal to the Secretariat six months in advance. Any member or associate member that fails to observe the Constitution or the Federation's decisions, or defames the Federation, is liable be penalised by the Executive Council through the issuance of a warning, or suspension of rights. In severe cases, a member or associate member may be expelled if a minimum of two-thirds of the entire Congress has voted in favor of doing so.

All withdrawals or expulsions shall not entitle any member or associate member to claim a refund of any admission fee, membership subscription or special contribution already given to the Federation.

Membership in the Federation is not transferable. If the member organization is disbanded, its membership would automatically be terminated.

Chapter 3: The Organization

8. System of Organization

8.1 The Congress is the supreme authority of the Federation. The Congress is made up of the member organizations of the Federation.

8.2 The Executive Council is responsible for the management of the Federation and its properties. The Executive Council is appointed in accordance with Article 10 of this Constitution.

8.3 The Board of Supervisors is responsible for supervising the Executive Council and also responsible for the management of the Federation's financial affairs. The Board of Supervisors is appointed in accordance with Article 11 of this Constitution.

8.4 The office of the Secretariat would also serve as the Administrative Office.

8.5 Auditors are appointed in accordance with Article 23 of this Constitution.

8.6 Eligible candidates may be invited to be Lifetime Honorary Presidents of the Federation. The sponsorship fee is US\$100,000 (one hundred thousand United States dollars).

8.7 Distinguished persons who have contributed significantly to the development of Xiangqi or Xiangqi grandmasters may be invited to be Lifetime Honorary Presidents of the Federation.

9. Congress

- 9.1 The Congress shall have one President, a requisite number of Vice-Presidents, and one Secretary-General (the total number of people should be an odd number). Their tasks and responsibilities are as follows:
 - 9.1.1 To formulate and make amendments to the Constitution of the Federation.
 - 9.1.2 To elect the Executive Council, the Board of Supervisors, and Board of Appeals.
 - 9.1.3 To establish the agenda for conferences, determine the work policies, work responsibilities, and work plans.
 - 9.1.4 To review and approve reports from the Executive Council, the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Appeals and Auditors.
 - 9.1.5 To arrange by-elections, and dismiss the duties of working staff.
 - 9.1.6 To appoint auditors.
 - 9.1.7 To accept new members.
 - 9.1.8 To decide the location of the Secretariat, Publishing Commission or Liaison Offices or relocate them to another address.
 - 9.1.9 The Congress is allowed to participate in meetings held by the Executive Council.
- 9.2 The Secretary-General shall convene a Congress meeting annually. The venue and date of the Congress meeting will usually coincide with tournaments or events that are organized by the Federation or tournaments or events authorized by the Federation that are organized by member organizations. The venue and date of the next Congress meeting is to be decided during the previous Congress meeting. If the President sees the need to change the venue and time of the Congress meeting, he will consult the Secretary-General and two Vice-Presidents before doing so, and then give written notice of the new date of the Congress meeting three months in advance.
- 9.3 Extraordinary Congress Meeting
 - 9.3.1 An Extraordinary Congress Meeting may be summoned by the President and two Vice-Presidents, or on receipt of a written requisition from over half of the Member Organizations. The objects and reasons shall be stated in the requisition which must be delivered to the Federation two months in advance.
 - 9.3.2 After the President together with two Vice-Presidents, or over half of the members, have agreed to convene an Extraordinary Congress Meeting, any resolution may be circulated for voting via email, the Federation's official interactive group, telefax or written letter. If the agreement of a majority of member organizations is obtained within the validity period, the resolution will be seen as passed. The Secretariat will notify all member organizations of the results with 14 days of the voting, and the resolution will be ratified again at the next Congress meeting.
 - 9.3.3 In the event of an emergency, the President, First Vice-President and Secretary General would form a three-person group to deal with the matter.
- 9.4 Each member organization may nominate a minimum of one delegate or a maximum of seven delegates to represent the member organization at a Congress meeting. All delegates are eligible to be elected, whether or not they attend the Congress meeting, and each member organization is entitled to only one vote regardless of the number of delegates in attendance. The quorum for the Congress meeting is more than half of the member organizations represented. If there is no quorum, no business on the agenda is to be transacted, and the President must announce that the Congress meeting would be postponed to a date within seven days at the same venue. If the quorum is still not met at the postponed Congress meeting, another date and venue would be selected for the Congress meeting to be held.
- 9.5 No business shall be transacted at an Extraordinary Congress Meeting if over half of member organizations are not in attendance.
- 9.6 Unless specified, general resolutions shall be adopted with a simple majority vote in favor of the resolution.
- 9.7 Observers may be allowed to attend the Congress Meeting, but they are allowed to speak only when invited. Lifetime Honorary Presidents, Honorary Presidents and Honorary Consultants may be invited to attend the Congress Meeting, but they would not be eligible to vote, stand for election or elect others.

10. The Executive Council

- 10.1 The Executive Council shall consist of the President, six Vice-Presidents (one of whom will also shoulder the responsibilities of Treasurer), one Secretary General, two Deputy Secretary Generals, one Treasurer, one Deputy Treasurer, Chairman of the Study Committee, Chairman of the Judging Committee, Chairman of the Publication Committee, Chairman of the Selection Committee, Chairman of Outreach Committee, and Standing Directors. The members of the Executive Council other than the President shall be elected at the Congress meeting when office terms have ended. Eligible nominees must be recommended by their country or region's member organization with a written report submitted to the Federation at the Congress meeting for elections of Executive Council Members. If a member of the Executive Council resigns from the post or was found unsuitable to continue his duties, the member organization of that member belongs to has the right to inform the Federation in writing to terminate his duties, or nominate a replacement to fill in the vacancy. If a member organization was dissolved for any reason, the membership of the organization would be revoked, and the position of any member of the Executive Council nominated by that member organization would be considered automatically vacated.
- 10.2 During an election of Executive Council members, if there is a minimum of two-thirds of the votes by the quorum for the Congress in favor, the Executive Council reserves the right to appoint not more than two members into the Executive Council.
- 10.3 For every new member that joins the Federation, the membership of the Executive Council is automatically increases by one, subject to the Executive Council not having more than thirty-eight members.
- 10.4 The Executive Council shall usually meet once a year. A meeting may also be convened by the President and two Vice-Presidents, or when more than half of the Executive Council requests in writing that a meeting be convened. Provided that more than half of the Executive Council is present at a meeting of the Executive Council, the meeting shall proceed notwithstanding the absence of one or more members of the Executive Council.
- 10.5 The Executive Council members hold an office of a period of two years and may be re-elected for a period of four years.
- 10.6 The Federation will cover the costs of food and lodging for the Executive Council during Executive Council Meetings. All other expenditures are to be paid by the Executive Council members.

11. The Board of Supervisors

- 11.1 The Board of Supervisors shall consist of one Chief Supervisor, one Deputy Supervisor, one Secretary and a requisite number of members (the total number of people should be an odd number). The responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors are:
 - 11.1.1 To review the financial accounts of the Executive Council and verify that the budget has been implemented;
 - 11.1.2 To examine and verify the work reports of the Executive Council and provide suggestions.

Chapter 4 Staff

12. Appointment of Staff

The appointment of Staff shall be elected at the Congress. Nominations need not be restricted to those in attendance at the Congress, and all elected persons are eligible to be re-elected.

13. President and Vice President

13.1 The President shall be in charge of the Federation. The President would also be the Chairman of the Congress and the Executive Council.

13.2 The Vice-Presidents shall be member of the Executive Council, and in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall act on the President's behalf in the discharge of his duties.

14. Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General

14.1 The Secretary-General shall be the chief person in charge of the Federation's business affairs, and shall be in charge of the Secretariat.

14.2 The Deputy Secretary-General shall be members of the Executive Council and shall act on the Secretary-General's behalf should the Secretary-General be unable to perform his duties. The Secretary-General may appoint the Deputy Secretary-General to attend meetings, or handle particular matters.

14.3 Apart from being vested with all authority under this Constitution, the Secretary-General shall be responsible for the following tasks:

14.3.1 Propose to the Executive Council the Annual Work Plan and Annual Report of the Federation.

14.3.2 Implement resolutions passed by the Executive Council.

14.3.3 Safekeeping of the official seal and files of the Federation.

14.3.4 Safekeeping and maintenance of the register of member organization and register of donors to the Federation.

14.3.5 Engaging temporary staff to assist the Secretary-General in the execution of relevant duties, and reimbursing them for transport and general expenses.

15. Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer

15.1 The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Council and is a staff of the Secretariat.

15.2 The Deputy Treasurer is also a member of the Executive Council, and shall act on the Treasurer's behalf should the Treasurer be unable to perform his duties.

15.3 The Treasurer shall have the following responsibilities:

15.3.1 Submit the annual report of the Federation's Financial position for the preceding fiscal year.

15.3.2 Propose an estimate of the coming year's expenses to the Executive Council.

15.3.3 Collect annual subscription fees, and accept donations that are beneficial to the Federation, and issue receipts on behalf of the Federation.

15.3.4 Compile and publish monthly accounts.

15.3.5 Control all revenue and expenditure of the Federation, and safekeeping of the Federation's accounts and invoice,.

16 Publications Committee

16.1 The Chairman of the Publications Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council and is responsible for the Publishing house of the Federation.

16.2 The Chairman of the Publications Committee shall be responsible for the following tasks:

16.2.1 Printing, distribution and safekeeping of all publications of the Federation.

16.2.2 Engaging temporary staff to run the publishing house and reimbursing them for transport and general expenses.

16.2.3 Maintenance of the website of the Federation.

17 Judging Committee

- 17.1 The Chairman of the Judging Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council.
- 17.2 The Chairman of the Judging Committee shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - 17.2.1 Establishing the Judging Committee and overseeing the review, drafting and amendment of the system of Xiangqi and the Rules and Regulations of Xiangqi.
 - 17.2.2 Drafting and making amendments to the Rules for Judging, and overseeing the terms of appointment of Judges.

18 Academic Affairs Committee

- 18.1 The Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council.
- 18.2 The Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - 18.2.1 Drafting and submitting proposals for academic exchanges pertaining to Xiangqi, Xiangqi seminars, training courses for coaches, training courses for Judges, and any other academic activity or pursuit that would promote Xiangqi.
 - 18.2.2 Promote and preside over the activities abovementioned activities.

19 Selection Committee

- 19.1 The Chairman of the Selection Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council.
- 19.2 The Chairman of the Selection Committee shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - 19.2.1 Drafting the rules and principles for the conferment of awards, honorary titles, and all other forms or honours.
 - 19.2.2 Presiding over all relevant matters pertaining to selection of recipients of awards and honors.

20 Outreach Committee

- 20.1 The Chairman of the Outreach Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council.
- 20.2 The Chairman of the Outreach Committee shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - 20.2.1 Drafting and researching a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of Xiangqi (including Internationalization of Xiangqi).
 - 20.2.2 Proposing to the Executive Council working proposals, work plans and the steps required to achieve the above.
 - 20.2.3 Implementing all decisions of the Executive Council and Congress related to the popularization of Xiangqi.

Each of the Chairmen mentioned above may, as the need arises, be assisted by establishing a working committee, and must submit the names of members in such working committee to the Executive Council for approval.

21 Executive Council Member

- 21.1 Each member organizations representing different countries or regions shall have a representative who shall be a member of the Executive Council. The representatives shall be nominated in writing and appointed once every four years at the Congress meeting.
- 21.2 An Executive Council Member shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - 21.2.1 Represent his member organization to attend meetings of the Executive Council.
 - 21.2.2 Accept tasks and responsibilities delegated by the Executive Council, and implement resolutions that have been passed by the Executive Council.
 - 21.2.3 Keep his member organization updated about information pertaining to the Federation.

22 Auditor

The Congress shall appoint one to two volunteers as Auditors. The official term for an Auditor is four years, and he may be re-elected.

Chapter 5 Regulations

23 Draft, amend or revoke various regulations

Subject to there being no conflict with this Constitution, the Executive Council may lay down, amend or revoke various regulations, and shall have the power to deal with the following matters:

- 23.1 The organization of international or regional Xiangqi tournaments, rules and regulations for the system of Xiangqi, rules for Judges, training courses, and plans for other activities that promote Xiangqi.
- 23.2 Principles for the award of medals and prizes, honorary titles and other forms of honours.
- 23.3 Discipline of Xiangqi players and conditions for imposing penalties.
- 23.4 Proposals for the hiring of temporary staff for the Secretariat or publishing house. Once the aforementioned regulation has been stipulated, the Secretariat would inform all member organizations of the same.
- 23.5 Determining the procedure at Congress meetings to deal with specific business.
- 23.6 Regulating the procedure of various proceedings and convening of meetings, including setting the quorum, the method of voting and the procedure for dealing with various issues.
- 23.7 The Executive Council may appoint and grant authority to other Committees as appropriate.
- 23.8 Regulating the authority and duties of staff of the Federation, and safekeeping and regulating the use of the Federation's official seal.
- 23.9 Laying down regulations governing financial affairs of the Federation and for the safekeeping and reporting of accounts, the roster of member organizations, and the roster of donors to the Federation.
- 23.10 Giving effect to the provisions of this Constitution.

Chapter 6: Finances

24 Opening a Bank Account

A bank account, in the name of the Federation, with a licensed bank situated in a place deemed suitable by the Federation, shall be jointly opened by the following seven persons: the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, the President, one Vice President, the Secretary-General and two members approved by the local member organization in the country or region where the bank is situated. The Federation's funds must be deposited with the bank. Funds may be withdrawn from the bank account only with three joint signatures from the following three groups: (1) either the Treasurer or the Deputy Treasurer, (2) either the President, Vice President or Secretary-General, and (3) either of the two members of the local member organization in the country or region where the bank is situated. The Executive Council shall determine the regulations to govern the finances of the Federation. .

Chapter 7: Dissolution

25 Dissolution

The Federation shall be dissolved in any of the following situations:

- 25.1 The Federation shall be dissolved if not less than two-thirds of all member organizations of the Federation vote in favor of dissolution.
- 25.2 All member organizations of the Federation have ceased to exist.

Chapter 8: Supplementary Article

26 Amendments to the constitution

Any matters not covered by this Constitution must be the subject of an amendment to the Constitution that is effective only if passed by not less than a two third majority at the Congress. The amendment would be put into immediate effect once it is passed

(This Constitution may be translated. The Chinese text shall be the accurate text), Amended at Shanghai on the 26th of October 2018.