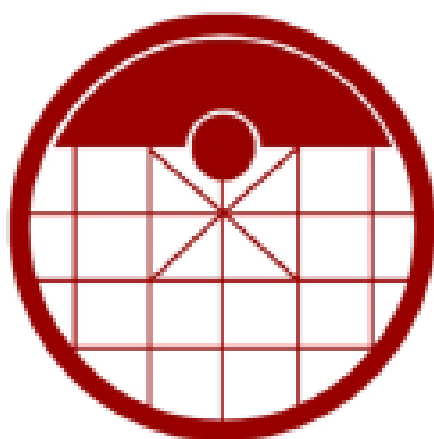


The Constitution of the Asian Xiangqi Federation



(Abridged in 2018)

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Chapter 1: General Outline

1. Name and Emblem

The official Chinese name of the federation is 亚洲象棋联合会, and its Chinese abbreviation is 亚洲象联. The official English name of the federation is the Asian Xiangqi Federation, which is abbreviated as A.X.F. Hereafter, it would be referred to as ‘the Federation.’

The emblem of the Federation consists of a circle depicting one portion of a Xiangqi board with a Red colored circle placed at the intersection for the king in the array. The emblem is shown below.



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 through Xiangqi.
- 2.2 to promote Xiangqi and encourage the study of Xiangqi and its related disciplines; to bolster 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 There were eight countries and regions that founded the Federation. They were: China, Chinese Hong Kong, Chinese Macau, Malaysia, East Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Each country or region would 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 having the recommendation of the local Olympics Committee, the local National Sports Administration or having the stamp of approval and recommendation from official bodies in that country or region.
- 4.4 The Executive Council of the Federation shall examine and discuss the application documents and the existing condition of the applicant. If the application documents and existing conditions are suitable, the Executive Council will submit the application documents to the Congress for consideration. The applicant will require a minimum of two-thirds of the votes by the quorum at the Congress in favor of the application for admission into the Federation.
- 4.5 The member affiliated to the Federation shall be the sole unified national organization in that country (region). If another organization in the same country or region were to apply for membership, that organization must first gain the approval and recommendation of the Federation's member organization in that country or region. The application documents will be presented to the Executive Council of the Federation for further examination before the Federation's Executive Council would submit the application documents for discussion at the Congress. The applicant will require a minimum of two-thirds of the votes by the quorum at the Congress in favor of the application for admission into the Federation.

5. Obligations and Rights of Members

- 5.1 Members of the Federation shall pay funds as stipulated by the Executive Council and an annual subscription on time. The annual subscription fee is collected based on the fiscal year. Any member organization who does not pay the annual subscription fee within six months after a fiscal year has ended, unless having obtained permission from the Executive Council to delay payment, would be treated as having terminated their membership from the Federation. The Treasurer shall inform any member, who has failed to pay his annual fee when the fiscal year has ended, his obligations and remind the member organization of the above stipulations.
- 5.2 The annual subscription fee is 2000 Hong Kong Dollars.
- 5.3 For events that have been commissioned by the Executive Council, the Federation reserves the right to recruit special contributions, or accept grants or donations from members.
- 5.4 Members shall abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation, and observe the decisions and resolutions adopted at the Congress.
- 5.5 If the need arises, members of the Federation may supply the Federation with an office for the Secretariat, Publishing House, or Liaison Offices as conditions permit.
- 5.6 Members of the Federation may be entrusted to host Xiangqi tournaments or activities commissioned by the Federation.
- 5.7 Members 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 Members who have joined the Federation for at least twelve months will have the right to elect and be elected, have the right to speak at Congress meetings and have the right to vote.
- 5.9 Members of the Federation are entitled to all rights issued by the Federation.

6. Associate Members

Xiangqi organizations or groups in non-Asian countries, if they fit the stipulations of the Federation, may apply as associate members. The application documents will be presented to the Congress meeting. A minimum of two-thirds of the votes by the quorum at the Congress in favor of the application is required for the applicant to be admitted into the Federation. The obligations for associate members are the same as members in the Federation, and they would also enjoy all rights that members are entitled, but they would not have the right to elect, be elected or vote.

7. Penalties and Termination of Membership

Members and associate members who wish to withdraw from the Federation shall send a written request of withdrawal to the Secretariat six months in advance. The Executive Council reserves the right to penalize a member organization or associate member organization who has seriously violated the Constitution, failed to observe the decisions and resolutions or caused defamation of the Federation's reputation. Offenders will be dealt with strictly. The Executive Council would pass judgment, and issue a warning, or suspend the member's rights. In severe cases, a decision to expel the offender will be adopted if a minimum of two-thirds of the entire Congress has voted in favor of doing so.

Member organizations withdrawn from membership or expelled member organizations shall not claim for the refund of the 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 organization of the Federation.
- 8.2 The Executive Council is responsible for the management of the Federation and properties belonging to the Federation. The Executive Council is elected based on Article 10.
- 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 elected based on Article 11.
- 8.4 The office of the Secretariat would also serve as the Administrative Office.
- 8.5 Auditors are elected based on Article 23.
- 8.6 Eligible candidates may be selected as Honorary Presidents. The sponsorship fee is one hundred thousand US dollars.
- 8.7 Distinguished persons, Xiangqi grandmasters or people from the general public who have contributed significantly to the development of Xiangqi may be elected as Honorary Life Presidents for Life.

9. Congress

- 9.1 The Congress shall appoint one person to serve as the President of the Congress, a required number of Vice-Presidents, and one person to serve as the Secretary-General. The total number of people selected 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 recall 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 summon 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 that have been organized by member organizations that have been authorized by the Federation. The venue and date of the next Congress meeting are 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. The notification of the convening of the Congress meeting shall be sent three months in advance. The agenda of the Congress will not become ineffective even though there has been a change in the notification.
- 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 by at least fifty percent 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 and two Vice-Presidents or over half of the member organization have agreed to convene for an Extraordinary Congress Meeting, the objects and reasons for the requisition may be sent via email or announced in the Federation's official interactive group (which may be or telefaxed or by means of a written letter for voting. If the majority of member organization within the valid date agree in favor, the resolution will be seen as passed. The Secretariat will notify all member organization 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 for counsel.
- 9.4 Each member organization may nominate a minimum of one delegate or a maximum of seven delegates to attend the Congress meeting. All delegates are eligible to be elected, whether or not they attend the Congress meeting. Each member organization would be entitled to only one vote. The quorum for the Congress meeting will be more than one-half of the member organizations represented. If there the quorum is not reached, nothing on the agenda is to be processed. The President would announce that the Congress meeting would be postponed to another date, which would be held again at the same venue within seven days. 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 An Extraordinary Congress Meeting would fail to be convened for lack of a quorum (more than half of the member organizations represented).
- 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 only allowed to speak only when invited. Honorary Life Presidents, Honorary Presidents, Honorary Consultants, may be invited to attend the Congress Meeting, but they would not be eligible to vote, be elected or elect.

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, Director of the Study Commission, Director of the Arbiter Commission, Director of the Publication Commission, Director of the Qualification Commission, Director of Commission for Xiangqi promotion, 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 resigned from the post or was found unsuitable to continue his duties, the member organization of that member has the right to inform the Federation with a written letter to denounce his duties or nominate another nominee to fill in the vacancy. If a member organization was dissolved for any reason, the membership of the organization would be revoked, and any member of the Executive Council that has been recommended by that organization would be considered automatically revoked.
- 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 If a new member organization joins the Federation, another member of the Executive Council is automatically added. However, the total number of Executive Council members may not exceed 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 called for a meeting with a written letter in favor of convening. If for any reason whatsoever, an Executive Member or Executive Members are absent from the Executive Council Meeting, the meeting shall proceed if the quorum is met. The quorum of the Executive Council meeting shall be more than one half 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 required number of Supervisors. The number of Supervisors must 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 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 quorum, and all elected persons are eligible to be re-elected.

13. President and Vice President

13.1 The President is in charge of the Federation. The President would also preside over the Congress meeting and serve as head of the Executive Council.

13.2 The Vice-Presidents would serve in the Executive Council. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in his duties. One of the Vice-President shall act as the President in his absence.

14. Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General

14.1 The Secretary-General is responsible for the routine administrative duties of the Federation and is in charge of the Secretariat.

14.2 The Deputy Secretary Generals are members of the Executive Council. The Deputy Secretary Generals shall assist the Secretary-General in his duties. One of the Deputy Secretary Generals shall act as the Secretary-General when the Secretary-General is unable to fulfil his duties. The Secretary-General may appoint Deputy Secretary-General(s) to attend meetings or deal with certain affairs.

14.3 The Secretary-General has the authority given to him by the Constitution. The Secretary-General is responsible for the following tasks:

14.3.1 He shall prepare the Plan for Working Arrangements and the Annual Report of the Federation for presentation to the Executive Council.

14.3.2 He shall execute and implement resolutions passed by the Executive Council.

14.3.3 He shall keep all records, except financial, of the Federation and be responsible for their accuracy.

14.3.4 He shall maintain an up-to-date register of Member Associations, and also donors to the Federation. He shall also be responsible for the safekeeping of the register.

14.3.5 He shall appoint temporary staff to help with affairs of the Federation, assist the temporary staff and help the temporary staff to apply for traveling expenses or payments from the Federation.

15. Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer

15.1 The Treasurer is 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. The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in his duties. The Deputy Treasurer shall act as the Treasurer when the Treasurer is unable to fulfil his duties.

15.3 The Treasurer is responsible for the following tasks:

15.3.1 He shall submit the annual report of the financial position of the Federation for the previous fiscal year.

15.3.2 He shall propose an estimate of the coming year's expenses to the Executive Council.

15.3.3 He shall collect the annual fees from Member Associations, accept donations and contributions that are beneficial to the Federation, and issue receipts on behalf of the Federation.

15.3.4 He shall announce the account preparations monthly.

15.3.5 He shall be in charge of all the finances of the Federation and shall receive and pay out money on behalf of the Federation. He shall keep a book of accounts and transaction records.

16 Publishing Commission

16.1 The Chairman of the Publishing Commission is a member of the Executive Council and is responsible for the Publishing Commission.

16.2 The Chairman of the Publishing Commission is responsible for the following tasks:

16.2.1 He is responsible for authorizing the publication, distribution, and keeping of publications of the Federation.

16.2.2 He is responsible for hiring temporary staff to assist in publication, assist the temporary staff and help the temporary staff to apply for traveling expenses or payments from the Federation.

16.2.3 He is also responsible for the maintenance of the website of the Federation.

17 Arbitration Commission

- 17.1 The Chairman of the Arbitration Commission is a member of the Executive Council.
- 17.2 The Chairman of the Arbitration Commission is responsible for the following tasks:
 - 17.2.1 He is responsible for convening meetings for Arbiters, reviewing the rules, making drafts and making amendments to the institution of Xiangqi, the Rules of Xiangqi and Examples of the Rules of Xiangqi.
 - 17.2.2 He is responsible for drafting and making amendments to the Rules for Arbitration, and also responsible for rules and regulations for the conduct of the arbiters.

18 Commission for Academic Affairs

- 18.1 The Chairman of the Commission for Academic Affairs is a member of the Executive Council.
- 18.2 The Chairman of the Commission for Academic Affairs is responsible for the following tasks:
 - 18.2.1 Draft and submit proposals for academic exchanges in Xiangqi, Xiangqi seminars, training courses for coaches, training courses for arbiters, and any academic activity or pursuit that would promote Xiangqi.
 - 18.2.2 Promote and preside over the activities mentioned above.

19 Commission for Titles and Awards

- 19.1 The Chairman of the Commission for Titles and Awards is a member of the Executive Council.
- 19.2 The Chairman of the Commission for Titles and Awards is responsible for the following tasks:
 - 19.2.1 He is responsible for reviewing the constitution regarding the presentation of awards, medals, honours and other honorary titles and ratifying the ratings of the players and eligibility of the arbiters.
 - 19.2.2 He is responsible for presiding over meetings discussing the presentation of awards, medals, honours and other honorary titles to eligible persons.

20 Popularization Commission

- 20.1 The Chairman of the Popularization Commission is a member of the Executive Council.
- 20.2 The Chairman of the Popularization Commission is responsible for the following tasks:
 - 20.2.1 He is responsible for collecting materials studying the popularization of Xiangqi (which would be the Internationalization of Xiangqi) and drafting proposals for the popularization of Xiangqi.
 - 20.2.2 He shall draft working proposals, working plans and the steps required.
 - 20.2.3 He is responsible for implementing the resolutions related to the popularization of Xiangqi that has been passed at the Congress meeting.

Each of the staff mentioned above may establish a working committee to carry out its work should the need arise. The list of members in the working committee shall be reported to the Executive Council and require approval before the working committee can be formed.

21 Executive Council Member

- 21.1 Member organizations representing different countries or regions shall convene once every four years to nominate representatives with written applications.
- 21.2 The Executive Council Member is responsible for the following tasks:
 - 21.2.1 He is to represent his Member Organization to attend Executive Council meetings.
 - 21.2.2 He shall accept tasks and responsibilities delegated by the Executive Council, and implement resolutions that have been passed by the Executive Council within his responsibilities.
 - 21.2.3 He shall be responsible for notifying his Member Organization of the Federation's activities.

22 Auditor

The Congress meeting shall appoint one to two volunteers as Auditor(s). 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

The Executive Council may draft, amend or revoke various regulations only if they do not contradict or have conflict with the Federation's Constitution. The Executive Council, subject to the provision of this constitution, shall have the power to do the following:

- 23.1 The Executive Council may draft proposals to organize international or regional tournaments; make proposals to amend the Institution of Xiangqi, the Laws for Arbiters, training courses, and other Xiangqi promotional activities.
- 23.2 The Executive Council may draft the regulations for awarding medals and prizes, titles and other honorary titles.
- 23.3 The Executive Council may draft proposals to deal with player discipline and the principles of punishment.
- 23.4 The Executive Council may draft proposals to deal with temporary staff hired by the Secretariat or Publishing Commission for a working committee. Once the resolution is passed, the Secretariat would inform all Member Organizations of the resolution for implementation.
- 23.5 The Executive Council may regulate the proceedings at Congress meetings to deal with specific businesses.
- 23.6 The Executive Council may regulate the procedure of various proceedings and convening of meetings. The Executive Council may also regulate the quorum, the method of voting and the procedure of dealing with various issues.
- 23.7 The Executive Council may appoint other Executive Council Members and grant authority and power to the members.
- 23.8 The Executive Council may regulate the rights and postings of staff in the Federation, safe keep the Federation's official seal and regulate its use.
- 23.9 The Executive Council may draft the regulations for financial reporting and accounts, and the roster of Member Organizations, the roster for donations.
- 23.10 Carry out the objects of the Federation.

Chapter 6 Finances

24 Opening a Bank Account

The Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, will open a joint bank account with the President, Vice President, Secretary General and two members (approved by the Federation) of the local Member Organization in the country or region where the bank is located. The total number of people opening the bank account will be seven people. The joint bank account would be opened in a chartered bank in the name of the Federation at a suitable venue determined by the Federation. The Federation's funds will be kept in the bank. Funds may be withdrawn from the bank account when: (1) one of the Deputy Treasurers, (2) one of the President or Vice President or Secretary General, (3) one of the two members of the local Member Organization mentioned above, are present to sign a joint letter to release the funds. The regulations for the finances of the Federation are regulated by the Executive Council.

Chapter 7: Dissolution

25 Dissolving of the federation

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

- 25.1 The Federation shall be dissolved by an Extraordinary General Meeting called for this purpose with a minimum of two-thirds of the total voting membership of the Federation in favor of the resolution for dissolution.
- 25.2 The Member Organization of the Federation have ceased to exist.

Chapter 8: Amendments

26 Amendments to the constitution

Any amendments to the Constitution are valid only if two-thirds of the members at the congress meeting vote in favour of the amendment. The amendment would be put into immediate effect once it is passed.

This Constitution appears in two languages, Chinese and English. In the case of any disagreement about interpretation, the Chinese text will be authentic.

Amended on the 26th of October 2018 at Shanghai.