

Steering Committee By-Laws

Article I: Purpose

The International Competition on Computational Models of Argumentation (ICCMA) is intended as a regular scientific competition for the evaluation of research grade prototypes or commercial products freely available for research purposes addressing relevant problems in computational argumentation.

The ICCMA competition shall take place at least every two years and be managed by the Steering Committee in accordance with these bylaws. Other activities consistent with this purpose may be pursued, at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

Article II: Meeting

The Steering Committee shall meet in person or via teleconference at most five weeks after the announcement of the results of each competition (mandatory meeting), and at such other times as it may from time to time determine.

Article III: Steering Committee Officers and Members

The Steering Committee shall have the following Officers, serving from the first day of the month following the mandatory meeting at which they were elected, until the first day of the month following the first mandatory meeting four years after the one at which they were elected:

1. President. The President shall:
 - (a) supervise the affairs of the ICCMA competition; and
 - (b) chair all meetings of the Steering Committee.
2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assist the President, and chair all meetings in the President's absence. In the event the President is unable to complete his or her tenure, the Vice-President shall assume the powers of the Presidency for the balance of the President's term of office.

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3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep:
- (a) correct and complete minutes of the meetings; and
 - (b) a current register of members of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee shall consist of these three Officers, plus four additional members serving from the first day of the month following the mandatory meeting at which they were elected, until the first day of the month following the first mandatory meeting four years after the one at which they were elected. The President and the Vice-President may not serve two consecutive terms in the same position, but the Vice-President may succeed to the Presidency.

A member of the Steering Committee, including Officers, may serve at most two consecutive terms. The first term starts on 1st September 2015. The transitory period is *ex gratia*.

Election of a current member to an office does not extend the maximum period on the Steering Committee. After a break of at least two years, a former member of the Steering Committee may become a member again under the same conditions as new members.

All Officers and Steering Committee members shall be elected by a vote of the current Steering Committee members at the mandatory meeting.

One or two organizers (holding at least a PhD or equivalent) of a competition will be invited to join as new Steering Committee members in the mandatory meeting following the announcement of the competition results. For each new entry to the Steering Committee one of the longest serving members will resign from the Steering Committee. In case there are several longest serving members, and no volunteers, a random selection between them will identify the member who will resign.

Transitory rule

The first mandatory meeting will be held no later than August 2015. Before that meeting, the provisional Steering Committee consists of:

- Federico Cerutti;
- Nir Oren;
- Hannes Straß;
- Matthias Thimm;
- Mauro Vallati;
- Serena Villata.

The *Pro-Tempore* Officers are:

- *Pro-Tempore President*: Nir Oren;
- *Pro-Tempore Vice-President*: Hannes Straß;
- *Pro-Tempore Secretary*: Mauro Vallati.

Article IV: Elections

Candidates for the positions of Officer and Steering Committee members shall be nominated by the members of the current Steering Committee. The members of the current Steering Committee are unrestricted in their discretion to nominate candidates, but shall take care to obtain an expression of willingness to take on the responsibilities of the office from the candidate prior to nomination.

Election to the position of Officer is by simple majority of all Steering Committee members present. If no candidate receives a majority vote on the initial ballot, a second ballot shall be held between the candidates who received the most votes in the initial vote. If no candidate has received a majority after the second vote, the President shall select the Officer from the candidates who have received the most votes.

Election to the additional, non-officer positions on the Steering Committee is by ordering the number of votes cast for each candidate. Each member of the Steering Committee gets a number of votes to cast equal to the number of positions to be filled, and the candidates who received the most votes are elected. No more than one vote may be cast by a member for each candidate. Proxy votes are not allowed. Ballots shall be secret if a member present so requests. In the event of a tie, the current President shall select the new members from the candidates who have received the most votes.

In the event that the Vice-President, the Secretary or a member of the Steering Committee is unable to complete his or her tenure, the Steering Committee shall appoint persons to fill the vacant position until the time of the next mandatory meeting, at which time the vacant position will be filled by the regular election procedure.

Article V: Steering Committee Responsibilities

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for setting policies and procedures governing the ICCMA competition. These policies and procedures shall provide for (but are not limited to):

1. the selection of the hosting institution — i.e. the institution providing the necessary hardware for running the competition — and approving the date of the forthcoming competition;
2. the selection of the organisers for the forthcoming competition;

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3. accepting competition proposal made by the organisers, including but not limited to accepting number and description of tracks, and CPU/memory limits;
4. selecting and obtaining an overall agreement with the venue organisers;
5. the certification of the results of each competition;
6. all other decisions necessary for the management of an international scientific competition.

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for initiating other activities consistent with the purposes of the ICCMA competition. These activities may include (but are not limited to):

1. the sponsorship or co-sponsorship of additional scientific events;
2. an affiliation with a professional journal;
3. the publication of a website; and
4. the establishment of working relationships with other groups active in the field.

A quorum for meetings of the Steering Committee shall consist of five members. Decisions shall be determined by a majority of those present. For matters arising at times when it is not feasible to call a meeting, decisions of the Steering Committee may be made by votes sent to the President or the Secretary by e-mail. A quorum for such e-mail voting shall consist of five members, and decisions shall be determined by a majority of those voting. Meetings shall be called at least one week in advance providing a tentative agenda.

Article VI: Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members of the Steering Committee at a duly constituted meeting.

Approved by the Provisional Steering Committee on 26th March 2015.
Amended by the Steering Committee on 19th October 2021
(Article III, paragraph 5).