



SUOMEN SAUNASEURA
FINSKA BASTUSÄLLSKAPET
THE FINNISH SAUNA SOCIETY

Rules of the Finnish Sauna Society

Confirmed at the autumn assembly on 2 November 2020

1 § Name and domicile

Suomen Saunaseura ry ('the Finnish Sauna Society'), Helsinki.

2 § Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to safeguard Finnish sauna traditions, enhance knowledge of the sauna and highlight the significance of bathing in the sauna in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

In order to achieve this, the Society:

- 1) safeguards traditional ways of using the sauna
- 2) continues the development of the modern Finnish sauna
- 3) promotes research into the Finnish sauna
- 4) awards grants for studies on and promotion of the sauna culture
- 5) gathers information and observations about saunas
- 6) distributes information and releases publications about the Finnish sauna and sauna bathing culture
- 7) maintains a Vaskiniemi Sauna house for its members, as well as for presentation and research purposes
- 8) promotes the creation and operations of associations and communal saunas that share the same objectives
- 9) aims to serve as an umbrella organisation for Finnish sauna associations and may be a member of the sector's international organisations.

3 § Members

Honorary chairperson and honorary members

At the Executive Committee's proposal, the Society may appoint a former chairperson as its honorary chairperson and a person who has significantly promoted the Society's objectives as its honorary member.

Permanent members

Members who joined before 1970 and have paid their membership fees continuously for 20 years are made permanent members, exempt from membership fees.

Full members

A Finnish citizen over the age of 18, recommended by two members and approved by the Executive Committee may become a full member.

Youth members

A Finnish citizen aged 15–21 who is a student, comes recommended by two members and is approved by the Executive Committee may become a youth member.

Foreign members

A foreign national approved by the Executive Committee may become a full member of the Society. The proportion of foreign members of the Society's overall number of members may not exceed one third.

Community members

A Finnish or a foreign non-profit community with legal capacity, whose operations promote the Society's objectives and which is approved by the Executive Committee, may become a community member.

Supporting members

A Finnish or a foreign community with legal capacity, a company or an individual who wants to support the Society's operations and is approved by the Executive Committee may become a supporting member. Apart from supporting members, all the abovementioned members may cast a vote at the Society's meetings. This amendment to the rules does not infringe the members' rights.

4 § Membership fees

Honorary chairpersons, honorary members and permanent members are exempt from the membership fee.

Full members and foreign members must pay a membership fee, annually set by the Society's autumn assembly, and a joining fee at the time of joining, set by the Society's autumn assembly. Youth members must pay an annual fee, set by the Society's autumn assembly, but they are exempt from the joining fee.

Community members must pay a membership fee every year, annually set by the Society's autumn assembly. Supporting members must pay an annual fee determined annually by the Executive Committee. The annual fees of the supporting members may vary between communities and individuals.

The fees may differ between member groups.

5 § Termination of membership

A member may resign from the Society by notifying the Society or the Executive Committee Chairperson in writing, or by giving notice of the matter to be recorded in the Society's meeting minutes. The Executive Committee may expel a member on grounds defined in the Associations Act, or if the member wilfully and repeatedly disregards the Society's recommendations on sauna etiquette. Furthermore, if a member is three months in arrears with their membership fee from the last payment date, they are considered to have resigned from the Society, in accordance with Chapter 3, Section 15(4) of the Associations Act.

6 § Executive Committee

The Executive Committee serves as the Society's Board. It manages the Society's affairs and finances, and leads the activities. The Executive Committee includes a Chairperson, appointed for two years by the Society's autumn assembly, and eight to ten members, appointed for a two-year term by the Society's autumn assembly, half or closest to half of whom take turns to resign annually.

The Chairperson and Executive Committee members may be appointed for up to three consecutive two-year terms. If a person whose term in the Executive Committee would otherwise continue is appointed as the Chairperson, a new member is appointed to the Committee as a replacement for the remaining term. An Executive Committee member appointed in this way may be re-appointed to the Committee for a further two consecutive two-year terms after the initial term. The Executive Committee selects a Vice-Chairperson annually from amongst its members.

7 § Signatures on behalf of the Society

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are authorised to sign documents on behalf of the Society either together or with another Committee member appointed by the Committee, the Executive Director or another person authorised by the Committee. A right to use the Society's bank accounts is granted by the Executive Committee.

8 § Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee convenes at the invitation of the Chairperson or two members, and meets the quorum when at least five members are present. Minutes are kept of all Executive Committee meetings. If the Chairperson is unable to attend, the Vice-Chairperson serves as their replacement. If the Vice-Chairperson is unable to attend either, the Executive Committee will select another member to chair the meeting.

9 § Committees and functionaries

The Executive Committee may form committees and set rules for them. The Executive Committee may appoint and expel Society functionaries. The Executive Committee may appoint an executive director for the Society.

10 § Financial year

The Society's financial and operating year is the calendar year. The books must be submitted to the



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auditor(s) and operations inspector by 10 April, but no later than a month before the spring assembly.

11 § Society meetings

The Society's autumn assembly is held by the end of November and its spring assembly by the end of May.

The autumn and spring assemblies are convened by the Executive Committee, either by issuing a notification in the Sauna magazine, on the noticeboard of the Society's Saunatalo building or on the Society's website, or by sending an invitation to the members by post or via email using the addresses in the membership records, no later than 14 days in advance. The Society's other meetings are convened and announced in the same manner.

AN AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

- 1) Confirms the joining fee, the following operating year's membership fees and other fees listed in Section 4.
- 2) Selects a Chairperson for the Executive Committee for a two-year term with an absolute majority of the votes cast. The Chairperson's term begins at the start of the following calendar year.
- 3) Decides on the number of Board members (8–10) and appoints the Executive Committee members to replace members whose turn it is to resign. The members' term begins at the start of the following calendar year.
- 4) Appoints an auditor and a deputy auditor, or an auditor and an operating inspector and their deputies. The auditors'/inspectors' term begins at the start of the following calendar year. An auditor and a deputy auditor must be authorised public accountants or an audit firm, approved as a KHT or an HTM auditor. If a KHT or an HTM firm is selected as the auditor, a deputy auditor is not appointed.
- 5) Proposes and decides on the following operating year's operating plan.
- 6) Proposes and decides on the following operating year's estimates of income and expenditure.
- 7) Debates and decides on the other items proposed by the Executive Committee and/or proposals for items to be debated at the autumn assembly made to the Committee by at least ten individual Society members together no less than 21 days before the assembly, of which the Executive Committee's statement and decision proposal must be submitted to the autumn assembly.

A SPRING ASSEMBLY

- 1) Proposes and discusses the previous financial year's income statement and balance sheet, as well as the financial statements and the Board's annual report.
- 2) Proposes and discusses the auditors'/auditor's and operations inspector's report.
- 3) Decides on the approval and confirmation of the annual report and the financial statements, and 4) of granting discharge to the Executive Committee and the Executive Director.
- 5) Selects an Appointment Committee with 3–5 members. The committee's purpose is to make a proposal on the Executive Committee's number of members (8–10) to the autumn assembly, and propose Executive Committee Chairperson candidates and candidates to replace Executive Committee members whose turn it is to resign.
- 6) Debates other items proposed by the Executive Committee and/or proposals for items to be debated at the spring assembly made to the Committee by at least ten Society members together no less than 21 days before the assembly, of which the Executive Committee's statement and decision proposal must be submitted to the spring assembly.

12 § Right to use the saunas and rules of procedure

The Executive Committee decides annually on the Society members' rights to use the Society's saunas and on the members' fees.

The Executive Committee creates and approves recommendations on the sauna etiquette to be followed by the members, and displays them at the Society's sauna building.

The Executive Committee's Chairperson and members may use the saunas freely during their term. The Society's assembly decides on the fees paid to the Executive Committee.

13 § Rule amendments

These rules may be amended at the Society's statutory meeting, if no less than three quarters of the



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votes cast are in favour of the amendment.

14 § Annulment of the Society

The Society may be annulled by two consecutive Society meetings held no less than four weeks apart, if at least three quarters of the votes cast at both meetings are in favour of the annulment. If the Society discontinues its operations, its assets will go to the Finnish Cultural Foundation as an individual fund to be used to support activities that conform to the Society's aspirations.

15 § Provision on entry into force

A two-year term referred to in Section 6 (Executive Committee) begins from the Society's first autumn assembly following an approval of an amendment to the rules.