



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS STANDING RULES

Sec. 1. Names

- A. Local chapters of the International Brotherhood of Magicians shall be known as RINGS.
- B. Youth Chapters, known as MAGIC YOUTH AFFILIATES, may be established by RINGS.

Sec. 2. Headquarters

The headquarters of this organization shall be established by and be subject to lawful change by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 3. Membership Fees and Dues

1. Applicants for Active or Youth membership shall be required to pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Board of Trustees which shall include initiation fees, dues for one year, and entitlement to the official magazine of the organization for one year. Active and Youth Members may waive the right to *The Linking Ring*, the I.B.M.'s official magazine, and pay dues at a reduced rate as established by the Board of Trustees.
2. Applicants for Associate memberships shall pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Board of Trustees, which shall include initiation fees and dues for one year and are not entitled to receive *The Linking Ring*.
3. Individuals submitting applications for Active, Youth, or Associate membership through an authorized Ring may be required to pay an additional fee, in an amount fixed by the Ring.
4. All dues and assessments for Active Members, who have attained the age of 65 years and have been members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians for a total of 25 years, may be at a reduced rate, as determined by the Board of Trustees.
5. Members in arrears shall forfeit the right to receive *The Linking Ring*, during the period of such arrearage. Any member whose dues are three years in arrears shall be automatically suspended. A member who reinstates the member's membership status at any time following a lapse of no more than three years will be considered to have uninterrupted membership upon the payment of all back dues owed for the period of such lapse. A member who reinstates the member's membership status at any time following a lapse of greater than three years will be considered to have uninterrupted membership upon the payment of all back dues owed for the period of such lapse only upon the written approval of the Order of Merlin Committee. Only one such reinstatement will be considered for the purpose of adjusting Order of Merlin award eligibility. A member, whose dues are unpaid at the time of the Annual Meeting or Annual Election, shall not be in good standing, may not vote, hold office or be admitted to a business meeting, until such time as the unpaid dues are paid to the Executive Secretary.

Sec. 4. Duties of Appointive Officers and Committees.

A. The International President shall appoint the following officers:

1. A LEGAL ADVISOR licensed to practice law in one of the States of the United States of America, who shall advise the Board of Trustees, Officers and Committees on legal matters, and advise Rings as to their Ring Bylaws and other governing documents, so such documents will not be in conflict with the International Bylaws or Standing Rules.

2. A CHAPLAIN, who shall be an ordained clergyman. The Chaplain shall annually conduct a brief memorial service for departed members and render spiritual guidance as needed or requested.

3. A TERRITORIAL VICE PRESIDENT for each state of the United States, each

Province in Canada and each country where a Territorial Vice President has not been elected, pursuant to the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1B.

4. A RING COORDINATOR, who shall investigate all applications for charters of Rings and submit a complete report with recommendations as to granting of charters to the International President.

B. The International President shall appoint the following special committees and be an Ex-officio member of each such committee:

1. An ANNUAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE, consisting of no fewer than five (5) members, which shall plan and present the Annual Convention in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of these Standing Rules. There may be staggered terms of membership on this Committee. The President may appoint members to fill positions left by vacating members who have served three years. This Committee will also include a Convention Treasurer.

2. An ETHICS COMMITTEE which shall: (a) initiate, promulgate, and interpret rules of conduct which tend to advance the Art of Magic and the welfare of the membership of this organization; (b) investigate violations of oath, pledge, ethics, Standing Rules, Bylaws, and the conduct of any member or Ring which may tend to bring the organization into disrepute; (c) initiate or recommend the institution of disciplinary action or proceedings against any member of the organization or Ring affiliated therewith in any of the matters mentioned above; and (d) make recommendations to the Board of Trustees concerning ethical matters.

3. A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, at least one member of which shall be a person licensed to practice law in one of the States of the United States of America. This Committee shall conduct investigations and hearings on grievances and other proceedings submitted to it, and shall issue findings, reports and/or recommendations to the Board of Trustees for disciplinary action against members and/or Rings.

4. An AUDIT COMMITTEE of no fewer than three members, which shall cause an audit or review to be made of the books and records of the Headquarters Office, International Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer for Conventions, and Business Manager of *The Linking Ring* prior to the Annual Business Meeting and submit a report at this Meeting.

5. A DEALERS COMMITTEE of which at least two members shall be established dealers in magic merchandise, which shall recommend to the Board of Trustees a standard of ethics and procedures for dealers to be adopted by the I.B.M. to guide dealers in their relations with each other and with the members of the I.B.M., and shall devise rules for consideration by the Convention Committee pertaining to dealers displaying at the Annual Convention.

6. A SICK AND CONVALESCENT COMMITTEE which shall have the responsibility to do such acts as will tend to bring cheer to ill members of the I.B.M.

7. An I.B.M. AWARDS COMMITTEE responsible for the design and procurement of all I.B.M. awards, certificates and incentives and establishment of the criteria for granting of any such awards and recognitions. This committee shall include the following subcommittees:

- a. *The Linking Ring* Awards Subcommittee — chaired by the Executive Editor and responsible for selection and awarding of the annual *The Linking Ring* awards.
 - b. Ring Quality Awards Subcommittee – responsible for the design, procurement and awarding of Ring Quality Awards.
 - c. Convention Contest Subcommittee – responsible for the design, procurement and delivery of convention contest trophies and awards and the establishment of contest rules.
8. A FLEMING MEMORIAL COMMITTEE which shall, with the approval of the International President, waive the payment of yearly dues of such members of this organization who, in the opinion of the Committee, become financially unable to continue their membership. The records of this Committee shall be the property of the I.B.M. and shall be permanently maintained as confidential information.
9. A TERRITORIAL VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS/RING COUNSELOR COMMITTEE which shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees for the effective functioning of the Territorial Vice Presidents.
10. An ENDOWMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE consisting of no fewer than three members, which shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the ED&F Trustees (subject to the approval of the I.B.M Board of Trustees) which are not inconsistent with that certain Trust Agreement dated November 13, 1973 (the “ED&F Trust Agreement”), as may be amended from time to time; provided, however, that in no event shall any committee member be authorized or permitted to perform any fiduciary duties required to be performed by the ED&F Trustees under the ED&F Trust Agreement.
11. A MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE which shall identify and examine issues pertaining to the growth and retention of membership of the organization and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Trustees.
12. A YOUTH COMMITTEE including at least two youth members, which shall:
 - (a) Promulgate, implement, and carry out programs for Youth Members, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees; and
 - (b) Establish and oversee Youth Chapters, to be known as Magic Youth Affiliates. These Youth Chapters shall exist and operate in conjunction with active Rings, in accord with the Youth Chapter’s Charter and subject to applicable rules and procedures which may be adopted by the Board of Trustees.
13. A LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE which shall identify and critically examine broad issues which may have a significant effect on the future strength and viability of the I.B.M. and recommend specific courses of action to the Board of Trustees. The Committee shall be comprised of the President Elect, the International Vice President, and six additional members who shall be appointed to staggered three-year terms such that only onethird of the appointed members are replaced each year. The International President shall appoint the Committee’s Chair.
14. A PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE which shall be responsible for all matters concerning publicity relating to the I.B.M.
15. A MANAGEMENT TEAM which shall consist of the International Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer for Conventions, Business Manager of *The Linking Ring*, Executive Secretary (nonvoting), and the Board member charged with overseeing the Headquarters Office, plus three members at large. The Team shall be responsible for the development of the proposed fiscal year budgets for The I.B.M. to be submitted to the Board for review and approval at the Midyear Board Meeting prior to the fiscal year (October 1 – September 30) of the proposed budget, and the monitoring of the approved budgets. The Team shall also be responsible for the development of recommendations pertaining to other tasks as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.
16. An ORDER OF MERLIN COMMITTEE, of no fewer than three members, shall oversee the recognition and awarding of various classes of membership for

uninterrupted membership in the I.B.M. which have been established by the Board of Trustees. The Committee may organize annual events for Order of Merlin members.

17. An EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, which shall offer guidance at the request of the Executive Editor on matters regarding questionable or potentially libelous materials being considered for publication in *The Linking Ring*.

18. Such other Special Committees as the International President deems necessary.

C. No Committee, appointee, or person shall incur any obligations against this organization unless specifically authorized in writing by the International President or by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 5. *The Linking Ring* Magazine

A. An Executive Editor and a Business Manager shall be hired annually by the Board of Trustees and/or their designed agents and shall be directed and compensated as determined by the Board of Trustees.

B. The Executive Editor shall edit all material for publication in *The Linking Ring* and shall reject libelous materials and questionable advertising. In case of doubt, the Executive Editor shall consult with the Editorial Advisory Committee and with the Legal Advisor and shall be guided by their advice. The Executive Editor shall be responsible for the timely monthly publication and distribution of the magazine and may hire or appoint an Assistant Editor, an Advertising Manager and a reasonable number of Associate Editors. No article, pictorial matter, or magic effect published in *The Linking Ring* may be reproduced without written consent of the Executive Editor.

C. *The Linking Ring* shall be provided only to Active and Youth Members of this organization as a membership privilege. However, copies may be supplied to other members and nonmembers in exchange for contributions to the magazine or for other meritorious reasons, at the direction of the International President or the Executive Editor.

D. Active Members and Youth Members who have permitted their dues to lapse but who later become reinstated may secure back issues, if available, at a price per copy as may be fixed by the Board of Trustees.

E. The Business Manager shall be responsible of all business and financial matters pertaining to the publication of *The Linking Ring*.

Sec. 6. Executive Secretary

A. An Executive Secretary shall be hired by the Board of Trustees and/or their designated agents to manage the Headquarters Office and shall be directed and compensated as determined by the Board of Trustees.

B. In fulfilling the role of managing the Headquarters Office, the Executive Secretary shall: conduct all routine correspondence and business as necessary; compile and maintain a complete roster of all members of the organization; mail statements of dues to all members at least thirty days prior to the expiration of their membership; receive dues, fees, and other monies, and issue membership cards to duly qualified members; distribute election ballots to all voting members in accordance with the Bylaws; duly account for and deposit all monies received as directed by the International Treasurer; and submit a detailed and itemized account of all transactions of the Headquarters Office at the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Secretary will also perform other duties as may be required by the Board of Trustees.

C. Membership cards, numbered serially, shall be issued by the Executive Secretary to all new members. The membership number shall designate the order of admission of the member and may never be changed or reissued to another member except that the number may be assigned to the child or spouse of a deceased member. Reinstated members shall receive their original membership number. New membership cards will be issued with a frequency determined by the Board upon payment of dues. A current card shall be required for admission to and meeting of any Ring, or of this organization, upon demand.

D. The Executive Secretary shall furnish fidelity or surety bond in favor of the I.B.M. in a sum of fixed by the Board of Trustees and paid for by the I.B.M.

Sec. 7. Elections

A. Nominations

1. Each nominee to the Board should have at least one year of prior service to the organization either at the Ring, Territorial or International Committee level.

2. Nominees may be solicited through *The Linking Ring* and the I.B.M. Website, which shall advise members how to express their interest in being on the Board, whom to contact and when to make their interest known.

B. Petitions

1. Official petition forms will be supplied on request by the International Headquarters Office at any time. These forms may be duplicated only in blank form with space for each signatory's signature, printed name, printed address in full and I.B.M. number. No other petition form may be used.

2. Petitions will be submitted in their original form adhering to the following standards:

- a. Each petition must be submitted for a single candidate only.
- b. Electronically sent transmissions and petitions with signatures photocopied will be accepted, which may be subject to review by the International Office.
- c. The person circulating a petition must attest to the authenticity of all signatures contained thereon.
- d. All signatures not accompanied by the printed name, full mailing address, I.B.M. number, and petitions not attested to, will be deemed invalid.
- e. Deadline for the submission of petitions is April 1st preceding the Annual Business Meeting.
- f. The current Bylaws provision for the qualification of petition candidates will be followed.
- g. As soon as verified as specified in the Bylaws, all petitions shall be sealed and stored in the Headquarters for one year.

C. Election Communications - Since an I.B.M. election is an internal matter, the use of advertisements, letters-to-the-editor, or articles and comments in non-I.B.M. media, whether print or electronic shall be prohibited.

1. *The Linking Ring*

a. Equal space will be provided to each individual candidate for the publication of photo-graphs, biographies, qualifications for office and for positive election platforms of both Board nominees and properly qualified petition candidates for international office, at the discretion of the Executive Editor and as may be guided by the International President and Legal Advisor, to be limited to one page each, except for highly unusual cases. These pages will be printed in such amounts as are necessary to mail with each ballot on or about May 1st preceding the election to each overseas member who might not receive the journal in time to exercise the right to vote.

b. In recognition of the fact that the I.B.M. is a brotherhood, there will be no disparaging remarks about any individual or misstatements of facts in these pages. The Executive Editor has the Bylaws-mandated responsibility, in consultation with the International President and the Legal Advisor, to review and approve all material published in *The Linking Ring*.

c. There will be no special inserts in *The Linking Ring* relative to an election except upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

d. Both the International President and the Executive Editor, have the obligation to report both factual matters and their opinions in their monthly columns to the membership. Thus, there can be no formal restrictions on their voicing their opinions

concerning election issues and candidates, other than the sense of propriety, brotherhood, fair play, truthfulness, and duty that each is expected to exhibit.

2. I.B.M. Web Page

a. There will be no use of the I.B.M. Web Portal for any political purpose other than that specified in “b” following.

b. Those pages published in *The Linking Ring* carrying each candidate’s photograph, biographical material, qualifications for office and positive platform will automatically be published on the I.B.M. Web Portal.

3. Direct Mail

a. No I.B.M. funds will be used for direct mail purposes. The use of the official I.B.M. membership mailing list or official TVP lists for any purpose is expressly prohibited unless authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 8. Annual Convention Committee

A. The Annual Convention Committee may plan, make, and complete arrangements for the production and presentation of Annual Conventions for the next three succeeding years.

B. A report of the plans and proceedings of the Committee shall be given to the Board of Trustees at the Annual Mid-Year Business Meeting.

C. All monies received by the Committee from all convention related sources shall become funds of the I.B.M. The Assistant Treasurer for Conventions shall submit an itemized financial report to the International Treasurer. The I.B.M. will pay for the establishment of a fiduciary bond for the Assistant Treasurer for Conventions, in favor of the organization and for such sum as may be fixed by the Board of Trustees. The Annual Convention Committee shall secure, on behalf of the I.B.M., its employees and agents, Public Liability Insurance in an amount sufficient to protect the organization, its employees, and agents from any damages and claims for damages that might arise from the presentation of the Annual Convention.

D. The Annual Convention may be held in any town, city, or other place deemed to be suitable by the Annual Convention Committee.

E. No persons shall offer any item of a magical nature or otherwise for sale at an Annual Convention, unless authorized by the Annual Convention Committee.

F. Non-members of this organization shall be charged an amount at least equivalent to one year’s International dues and initiation fee in addition to the registration fee charged an I.B.M. member to attend an Annual Convention. A non-magician spouse, non-magician significant other and/or non-magician parent(s) are not required to pay membership fees and/or an initiation fee to attend an Annual Convention. A non-member shall not be permitted to attend the Annual Business Meeting.

Sec. 9. Rings

A.1. The International President or the Ring Coordinator shall first secure the recommendation of the Territorial Vice President of the state, province, or country in which a proposed Ring is to be organized before granting any Charter or dispensation. No Charter shall be granted until the applicant submits proof, in writing, that the proposed Ring has ten or more qualified active members or approved membership applicants. However, outside the territorial confines of the United States and Canada, an International Ring may be formed by ten or more Associate and Active members, provided that at least two of the ten are qualified Active Members, or approved membership applicants for active membership.

A.2. Links may charter and operate independently of adult sponsoring adult Rings. The International President or the Ring Coordinator shall first secure the recommendation of the Territorial Vice President of the state, province, or country in which a proposed Link is to be organized, before granting any Link Charter or dispensation. No Link Charter shall be granted until the applicant submits proof, in writing, that the proposed Link has two or more qualified active members, and four or more qualified youth members or approved

membership applicants. At least one adult member must be of the opposite gender to provide balanced leadership, protective supervision, and to serve as a suitable gender role model. Links must follow the guidelines set forth in the I.B.M. Link Manual.

B. Upon approval of an application for a Charter by the International President or the Ring Coordinator, the Executive Secretary shall prepare a Charter, listing the names of the Charter Members. The Charter shall have the I.B.M. seal affixed and be signed by the International President.

C.1. Each Ring shall elect from its membership at least the following officers to conduct its affairs: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. An amendment was proposed and adopted to strike Sergeant-at-Arms.

C.2. Each Link shall appoint from its adult members a Link Director and Deputy Link Director to conduct its affairs. The Link Director and Deputy Link Director must be free and clear of any criminal history involving substance abuse, domestic violence, felony, or sex related crime.

D. The Secretary of each Ring or Link Director, on expiration of their term of office, shall surrender the Charter, together with all other books, records, and property of the Ring or Link, to their successor.

E. No Ring shall permit other than qualified members of both its Ring and the I.B.M. to attend its business meeting, nor shall it admit to membership anyone other than those who are I.B.M. members in good standing.

F. Each Ring shall have the right to determine who shall become its members so long as such determination does not violate any other provision of these Standing Rules or the Bylaws of this organization. However, Ring membership once having been granted cannot be withdrawn by a Ring unless the member is suspended or expelled by the I.B.M.

G. A member in good standing may affiliate with any Ring by making application in a manner prescribed by the Ring. A member of any Ring may affiliate with other Rings without relinquishing their membership in the Ring which they first joined by continuing to pay their dues in the original Ring and by also paying such additional dues as may be fixed by the other Ring (s), for dual membership.

H. Each Ring shall have the right to fix and receive its membership fees.

I. The International President may revoke or suspend any Charter in the event a Ring fails to maintain ten Active or Associate members or three Active or Associate and seven Link members in the instance of a Link, in good standing or for other just cause. Upon suspension of a Ring or revocation of its Charter, a Ring shall, upon demand of the International Executive Secretary, surrender its Charter and all Ring property and records pursuant to Section 11 (B) of these Standing Rules.

J. Each Ring may appoint a representative and an alternate as its Representative at the Annual Convention or Business Meeting. The Representative shall be authorized to submit recommendations of the Ring both to the Annual Convention and the Business Meeting. Such Representative or alternate shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees and may submit recommendations but may not vote.

K. The granting of a Charter to any Ring does not authorize such Ring to incur any obligations or liabilities for or on behalf of this organization.

L. A Ring Secretary or Link Director shall submit annually to the I.B.M. Executive Secretary, but not later than November 1 of each year, a report listing all of the Ring's members, the names of its duly elected officers and the number of regular monthly meetings for the previous year. The report should indicate whether the Ring is incorporated or unincorporated. The report shall include such other data as may be requested by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 10. Duties and Privileges of Members and Code of Ethics

A. In all instances, we should remember that the I.B.M. is first and foremost a brotherhood and that the making of any denigrating or deliberately misleading statements may be grounds for filing of a formal grievance and possible expulsion from the brotherhood.

B. The Code of Ethics of this organization shall be the Joint I.B.M.-S.A.M. Ethics Statement adopted July 1993 by the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians.

C. Members may mention membership in the I.B.M. in publicity materials; however, no statement or implication of endorsement by the I.B.M. may be included in any publicity materials without the express written consent of the Ethics Committee or as approved by the Board of Trustees.

D. Except as noted, members shall not reveal the modus operandi of magic effects or principles to the lay public. Exceptions are (1) where the intent is clearly to teach, so that the recipient may learn how to make and/or perform the effect or effects, rather than simply to satisfy curiosity; (2) where the method of an effect is integral to the plot, as in a detective novel or play; (3) where the method is important to the history of the performer or inventor or the evolution of the effect under discussion, as in a magic history or biography; and (4) where an effect is performed and then the simple method is revealed as a gag or stunt. However, the Ethics Committee, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, may grant a member the privilege of a specific exception if they decide that the Art of Magic is not injured thereby.

E. Members, in case of doubt concerning the interpretation of the Code of Ethics, shall consult with the Ethics Committee. No member may be prosecuted by this organization, or affiliate thereof, or shall be subject to discipline, for pursuing a course of conduct approved by the Ethics Committee.

F. All information obtained within the I.B.M. is for the exclusive use of members and for no other persons. Any member disclosing such information to members not in good standing, or to non-members, to the detriment of this organization, or violating the Code of Ethics as set forth in the foregoing Sections, shall be subject to discipline.

Sec. 11. Regalia and Records

A. All Official Forms, Seals, Membership pins, reproductions of the Emblem for use of members or Rings, and such other articles and supplies as may, time to time, become available, shall be issued by this organization and may be obtained from the Executive Secretary at a price to be fixed by the Board of Trustees.

B. In the event of surrender or revocation of the Charter of a Ring, all Ring property, records, articles and official documents bearing the name "International Brotherhood of Magicians," shall become the property of this organization and must be returned to the Executive Secretary or deputy appointed by the International President.

Sec. 12. Adoption and Amendments of Standing Rules

A. Amendments of these standing rules may be made at any Board of Trustees Meeting by majority vote of the voting members present.

B. Standing Rules should contain only such rules as may be adopted with or without previous notice by a majority vote of the voting members present at any Board of Trustees

meeting. The vote on their adoption, or their amendment, before or after adoption, may be reconsidered. They may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any Board meeting.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS STANDING RULES

Adopted – June 2011

Amended – July 2022

