



MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

Entities With the Right to Association Membership

Art. 1

The right to membership in the Association is held by all natural persons who accept the rules of the International Statutes and all its attached documents and, where there is a Gar/Ling office, also its regulating Statutes, and whose application for membership is accepted. (Article 4 of the International Statute.) The interested party may acquire a full membership after having participated in the Association's activities and followed the Dzogchen Teaching from the Spiritual Master of the Community for at least three years in sequence . Until then, the participation of the interested party in the activities of the Association will be granted through a Welcome Card that will enable the interested party to participate in all Association's public events and initiatives including the courses and practices of the SMS Base level except that he has no right to take the SMS Base exam. After having paid for the Welcome Card for three consecutive years a person then becomes a member upon payment for the following year.

The members of existing Gars and Lings who are up to date with the payment of their membership fees of the last three years will become automatically member of the IDC at the moment of the renewal of their annual membership, immediately after the Gars/Lings to which they belong have formalized their affiliation to the IDC .

All the members of the Gars and Lings affiliated to the IDC automatically become members of the IDC by paying a consolidated membership fee which includes the membership fee of the Ling, that of the Gar and that of the IDC.

Entities With the Right of Affiliation

Art. 2

Beside the Gars and the Lings, the right to affiliation with the IDC is held by all legal entities such as associations or other entities who accept the rules of the International Statute and all its attached documents and, where there is a Gar/Ling office, also its regulating Statute, and whose application for affiliation is accepted.

The affiliation is subordinated to a resolution of the International Gakyil, in conformity with the procedure set forth in this Membership Regulations.

Types of Association - Membership

Art. 3

The membership types are established by the International Gakyil. The International Gakyil can recommend the introduction of new membership types intended for particular subjects and/or particular geographic areas or countries, with the aim of Association development. The International Gakyil sets the annual membership fees in consultation with the Gakyils in different countries. All types of members, besides Honorary Members, are supposed to pay relevant membership fees.

The requests for the conferment of Honorary Membership need to be submitted to the President of the IDC through the International Gakyil.

Art. 4

The Gar and Ling Gakyils adopt the standard of international membership tiers, and establish their own annual fees for ordinary local membership in consultation with the International Gakyil. The minimum benefits for members are those established by the International Dzogchen Community Association.

Types of Affiliation

Art. 5

Gars become affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community by the means established by the International Gakyil. In the same way the Lings are affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community and to a specific Gar.

Art. 6

Other affiliation types may be established by the International Gakyil. The International Gakyil has the authority to introduce new affiliation types intended for particular subjects and/or particular geographic areas or countries, with the aim of developing the Association's interests. The International Gakyil also sets the annual affiliation fees.

Joining the Association and Membership Renewal

Art. 7

A person participating in the activities of the Association who is interested to eventually become a member should apply for a Welcome Card following the procedures below. He/she should apply for the Welcome Card for three consequent years. After three years, he/she is automatically eligible for membership and can apply following the same procedures for annual renewal as explained below.

The interested party may join the Association by directly applying online at dzogchen.net (the Portal) following relevant instructions. If this is not possible he/she may submit his/her application at the nearest Gar/Ling.

The membership application will be accepted only if the person interested in joining has provided all of the data requested, including in particular the membership type chosen, the means of payment of the annual membership fee and consent to the use of their personal

data according to Italian law (D. Lgs 196/03) and to the law of the country of the relevant Gar/Ling.

A person, resident in a country without Gar and Lings can check on the Portal where is the nearest Ling/Gar where to submit his/her application.

The portal is automatically showing to people residing in a specific country only the Lings of that country and the Gar to which they are affiliated.

If the application is submitted by other means to a Gar/Ling, the Gar/Ling is responsible for completing the membership procedure, registering the member's personal data in the IDC Membership Management System (MMS, on the dzogchen.net Portal), collecting the membership fee etc.

If the application is submitted directly to a Gar by a person residing in a town where a Ling is established, the Gar should assign the applicant to that Ling.

The Gar/Ling collects and verifies the annual membership fee on behalf of the International Dzogchen Community Association and is responsible for completing the membership procedure.

Art. 8

The procedures for **renewing membership** are similar to the procedures followed for membership application described in Art. 7, but there will be no need to re-enter online or provide the information data that are already present in the system. The renewal takes effect with the first payment of the annual membership fee.

In any case in the first three months of the year the members will be sent a standard reminder email via the MMS or a letter by the Gar/Ling informing them of the expiry of their membership.

Any member of a Ling can also pay/renew his/her membership at the Gar where the Ling is affiliated if a specific agreement has been established between the Ling and the Gar in this respect.

In this case the member should communicate his/her affiliation to the Ling at the moment of the payment. It is the responsibility of the Gar to communicate to the relevant Ling the payment/renewal of the Membership fee and should return to the Ling the membership fee share due to the Ling.

In case of payment online, the member has to write the name of the Ling to which he/she belongs in the field "Your preferred community".

Affiliation with the Association and Affiliation Renewal

Art. 9

Any entity, interested in being affiliated with the IDC should submit an application directly

to the International Gakyil of the International Dzogchen Community Association. and not to the Lings or Gars.

Following evaluation, the International Gakyil may consult with a specific Gar/Ling to establish the affiliation directly with them.

The terms of the affiliation will be defined case by case through specific agreements.

The duration and modality of renewal of the affiliation will be defined in the relevant Affiliation Agreement.

The affiliated associations will not acquire the status of a member.

All affiliated entities may be requested to pay and affiliation fee.

Duration of Membership

Art. 10

Association membership lasts for one (1) calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31). The duration of affiliations of other entities with IDC, with the exception of Gars and Lings of the International Dzogchen Community whose affiliation is not limited in time, is established in the relevant "Affiliation's Agreements". The International Gakyil can recommend the introduction of other types of membership and affiliation with different durations.

Art. 11

The member loses his/her status if the membership is not renewed by March 31 of the year following the expiry date of the membership. From that moment on his/her membership will be put on hold and the former member will not have the right to the benefits offered by their previous specific type of membership, nor the right of vote. The membership can be re-activated only if the membership fee due is paid by the end of the year. After membership fees are left unpaid for one calendar year, if the former member is interested in reacquiring member status, he/she should apply for a Welcome Card for three consecutive years.

Art. 12

The member is not required to give notice of cancellation of membership with International Dzogchen Community. It is sufficient that they do not renew their own membership. The member must renew their membership at their own initiative. The exception is in countries where the member, according to the laws in force, is considered as "active" and held to payment of the annual Association membership fee until they communicate their cancellation to the relevant membership office within a pre-defined time period.

Rights of Members

Art. 13

Every member has the right to all the benefits offered within their own membership type. Beside the rights and all the benefits offered within their own membership type, all

members of IDC have the right to vote at the IDC General Assembly.

All members of IDC who are not direct members of a specific Gar/Ling enjoy the same benefits of the Gar/Ling members and have the same rights to participate in the Gar/Ling activities but do not have the right to vote at the General Assembly of the Gar/Ling.

Art. 14

Every member is assigned to the Ling of his/her place of residence, or to the Gar of that specific geographic area .

Whenever a member changes his/her place of residence he/she will be reassigned to the nearest Gar/Ling accordingly. The member has to give notice of the change of place of residence at the moment of renewal of Association membership, and change his/her personal data in MMS.

Art. 15

The dissolution of a Ling or a Gar does not lead to the loss of membership status for anyone who had been part of that Ling or Gar (Article 5 of the International Statute). These members will be reassigned to another Ling or Gar.

Art. 16

Further rights are stated in Article 4 of the International Statute.

Rights of Affiliates

Art. 17

Every affiliate has the right to all the benefits offered within their own affiliation type which are stated in the Affiliation Agreements stipulated between the parties.

Art. 18

They will have the right to participate in the activities of the Association, on the base of the clauses stated in the Affiliation Agreement signed with IDC.

Art. 19

The affiliate does not have voting rights in accordance with Article 4 of the International Statute.

Acceptance and Refusal of Membership or Affiliation Applications

Art. 20

Refusal of a membership application and/or renewal of membership will be decided by the International Gakyil jointly with the relevant Gar/Ling Gakyil, in the presence of, for example, behavior or activities on the part of the applicant, which are in obvious conflict

with the principles or aims of the Association. Written notice will be given in case of an application refusal.

Art. 21

The affiliation request will be accepted by the International Dzogchen Community Association, as long as the conditions stated in the “Affiliation with the Association and Affiliation Renewal” section of these regulations are met.

Refusal of an affiliation application can be decided by the International Gakyil in the case of, for example, behavior or activities on the part of the applicant which are in obvious conflict with the principles or aims of the Association. Written notice will be given of an application refusal.

Loss of Membership or Affiliate Status

Art. 22

The status of member or affiliate can be lost in accordance with Article 5 of the International Statute.

Allocation of the Consolidated Membership Fee's Shares

Art. 23

The shares of the consolidated membership fee representing respectively the membership fee of the Ling, of the Gar and of IDC are defined by the International Gakyil in consultation with Gars and Lings Gakyils and may change over time.

The relevant percentages corresponding to the membership fee of the Gar and its Lings have to be entered in the MMS (Manage_Ling_Share).

The share of membership fees respectively due to IDC, Gars and Lings, are never intended to be as a payment for services supplied.

Role of the Gar in Coordinating the Membership

Art. 24

The Gar has responsibility of coordinating management of memberships of all its members, including all members of Lings affiliated with the Gar:

It has the task of:

- defining (in coordination with IG) the annual membership fees
- communicating to the Lings and the city groups all relevant information about the membership;
- collecting the membership fees of Gar members;
- collecting from Lings the share of consolidated membership fees corresponding to the membership fees of the Gar and of IDC;
- disbursing to IDC the shares of the consolidated membership fees corresponding to

- the IDC membership fee;
- the Gar Membership Coordinator has also the role of supporting the Membership Coordinators of the Lings in their use of the IDC MMS (Membership Management System).