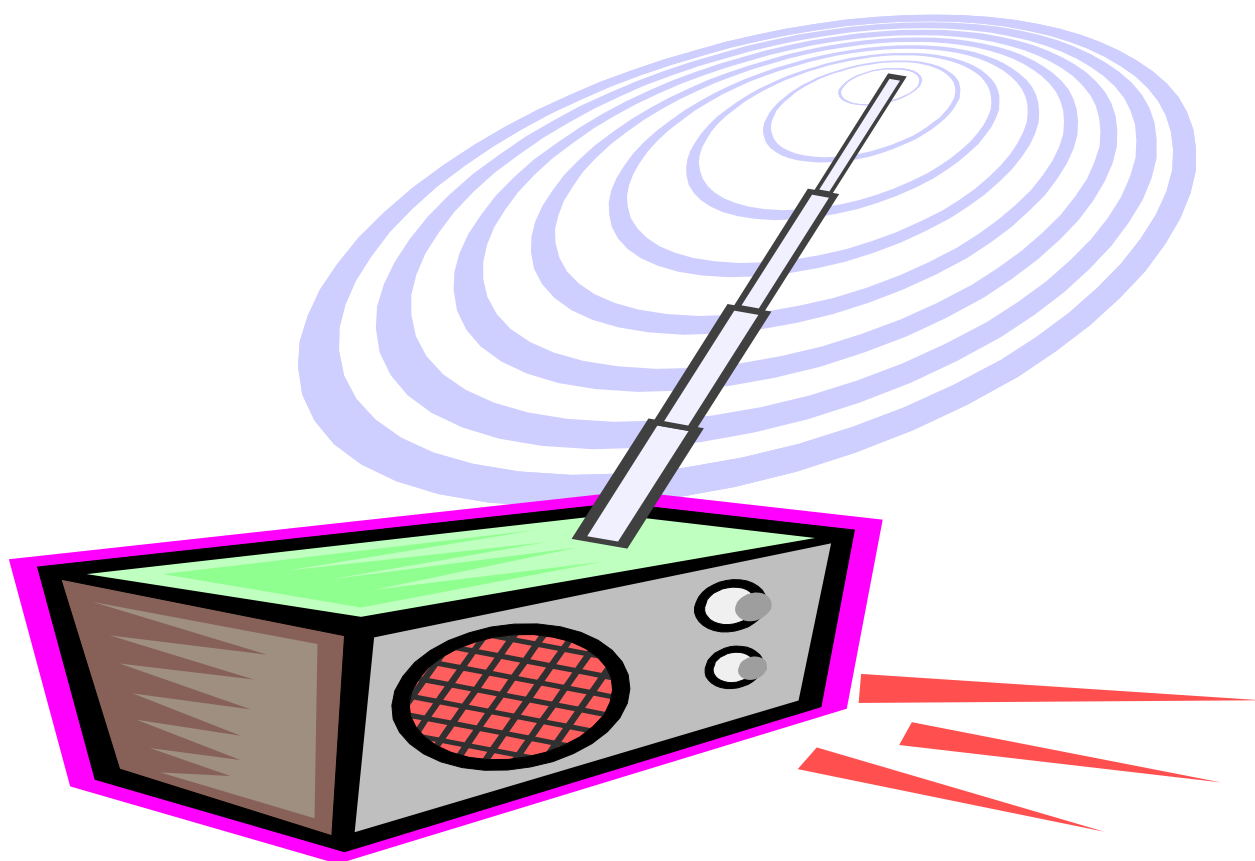


F.I.R.A.C.

Fédération Internationale des Radio-Amateurs Cheminots



FIRAC Rules and Regulations

Article 1 Name and seat office of the Administration

The Association is named:- "Fédération Internationale des Radio Amateurs Cheminots" or in German:- "Internationale Vereinigung der Eisenbahn-Funkamateure" It was founded on the 20th September 1964 in Hamburg.

The Officers of FIRAC under Article 20 of the Rules of FISAIC (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Artistiques et Intellectuelles de Cheminots), constitute the technical committee for the sphere of Amateur Radio.

The Association has its 'seat' in the country of the President of FIRAC, - the elected member from the general meeting.

Article 2 Purpose/aims of FIRAC

The FIRAC aims to:

- realise the main objective of all radio amateurs - friendship without frontiers.
- ✓ promote and support collaboration between railway men/women of all countries and between national groups.
- ✓ encourage and support the formation of national groups in all countries and urge them to join FISAIC.
- ✓ encourage the partnership of groups and between national groups.
- ✓ prepare and help organise meetings and international events (Congress, regional events like the BENELUX meetings and
- ✓ meetings with a theme (- special events etc.), in the framework of FIRAC.
- ✓ prepare and organise international contests and set the rules for these events and make them known.
- ✓ organise the different networks (European and Non European) and appoint a person in charge.
- ✓ maintain the continuation of FIRAC and its extension in the whole World by searching for new members.
- ✓ co-ordinate and make known all the technical activities of the national groups.
- ✓ promote publicity, internal and external, for FIRAC by a special officer in FIRAC who will make up and circulate the timetable (calendar) of events.
- ✓ circulate for the information of railway radio amateurs a handbook, containing at least information for: -
 - 1 .the structural "tree" of FIRAC
 2. internal Rules and Regulations
 3. Net(works) - national and international
 4. Rules for international contests
 5. Requirements to obtain the FIRAC diploma and national diplomas circulate the call signs of FIRAC radio amateurs

FIRAC does not follow any political, union or denominational purpose and discussions on these subjects or their vocation are not wanted.

It is recommended that members stay within their national society, as in the I.A.R.U. (International Amateur Radio Union).

Article 3 Subscriptions

FIRAC is a non profit making organisation. The financial means of obtaining it's objectives is from the subscriptions of members, grants and donations.

All the national groups pay an amount for each of their members which is fixed annually by the AGM during the Congress, with respect to the Treasurer's report. The subscription applies also to members not in a national group. (MC's)

The unit of money of the FIRAC is the E.C.U. (until the E.C.U's introduction, the unit is the Swiss Franc,)

The subscriptions are to be paid by the 1st December, by a payment method that will not have charges to the Treasurer,

If possible by GIRO to the Treasurer.

The amount of the subscription total is set by the number of members on the 1st November of the previous years.

Article 4 Membership

National groups of railwaymen, radio amateurs and individual members in countries where there is no exiting FIRAC group (MC's) - must apply for membership to FIRAC by written request to the President.

It is the whole membership at the AGM that gives it's agreement to allow membership of a national group, and who is responsible for individual members of countries that do not have an existing national FIRAC group.

The different groups of a country must get together to become one and the same association, because in the A.G.M. of FIRAC each country only has one vote.

The members are expected to promote and support the FIRAC objectives - as set out in Article 2.

The costs of participation in FIRAC events are to be paid by the participants or their national group.

FIRAC works under the aegis of FISAIC. In consequence the national groups must normally be members of FISAIC. The other national groups must likewise keep to the following conditions:

- ✓ they cannot, normally, organise a FIRAC Congress under the aegis of FISAIC.
- ✓ they cannot normally offer their candidate to run for President or Vice President.

The interests of the individual members (MC's) are looked after by a person chosen by the FIRAC Officers in the course of the AGM.

The position/capacity as a member is lost by resignation, exclusion or breaking up of his/her national group or by death.

A resignation only takes effect at the end of the year. It must be notified by letter to the President before 30th September.

An expulsion may be announced at the AGM when a national group or single member:

- ✓ infringes several rules/regulations of FIRAC
- ✓ acts against the intentions/interests of FIRAC
- ✓ makes late payment of the FIRAC subscription for more than 2 years without any valid reason.

The resignation or expulsion does not exempt the payment of any late subscriptions or the current year.

In the case of a national group's being broken up, its members must continue to belong to FIRAC as individual members.(MC's)

Article 5 Organisation of FIRAC

The organising parts of FIRAC are:

1. the AGM.
2. the Committee.

Article 6 The General Meeting

The AGM is made up of the participants to an International FIRAC Congress, which is held regularly - actually every year.

The venue and the date are fixed by the organiser in arrangement with his country's society and with the FIRAC Committee. The invitations are put out by the country's society of the radio amateurs group who organise the Congress.

The AGM can validly consider whether there are enough national groups present or represented.

At the time of the voting, each country can only have one vote, held by the national President. The representatives of the individual members (MC's) can likewise only possess one vote.

A national group, in the case of their President's being detained/absent, can give a vote, in writing to a member or to another national group.

During the AGM the voting takes place, generally by show of hands, with the exception of the voting for the new officers, which must be done by secret ballot.

Decisions are made by a simple majority. In the case of a tie, the vote of the President of FIRAC is decisive.

Changes to the Rules and Regulations require the agreement of at least 2/3rds of the votes.

The AGM is empowered to:

1. fix the guidelines to attain the objectives of FIRAC.
2. control the actions of the Officers in relation to the objectives
3. advise and approve the actions of the President and other Officers within this framework.

4. discuss and approve, after the report of the Auditors, and the Treasurer's report, and give corrections to the Officers
5. elect Officers and Auditors.
6. accept the joining of new national groups.
7. fix the amount of the subscription up to the next AGM.
8. exclude a national group or individual member (MC)
9. choose honorary members/Presidents.
10. approve the Rules and Regulations and their modifications or additions.
11. discuss proposals of the Officers.

Article 7 The Officers (Presidium)

The Officers are:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Public Relations Manager

For important issues the officers can co-opt the help of people, for example the following activities:

- ✓ responsibility for individual members (M.C.)
- ✓ contest management.
- ✓ diploma management.
- ✓ responsibility for lists of FIRAC callsigns.
- ✓ responsibility for FIRAC handbook.
- ✓ responsibility for the pages of Internet.

The Honorary Presidents and members must take part in a consultative capacity at meetings of officers.

The officers must particularly:

- ✓ follow up decisions of the AGM.
- ✓ prepare appropriate measures to attain FIRAC objectives and present to the AGM their results.
- ✓ maintain and build liaison between national groups and their members.
- ✓ prepare the AGM
- ✓ convene a meeting of the presidents twice yearly, one of which must be on the day before the AGM
- ✓ publish the calendar of FIRAC events and national events.
- ✓ set up groups to work to resolve any problems.
- ✓ relate the Rules and Regulations to actual conditions and give adequate proposals to the AGM.

The President:

- ✓ represents FIRAC not so much internally but externally
- ✓ he/she supervises the AGM and the Presidents meetings
- ✓ he/she presents to the AGM a report of activities it is his/her responsibility to share out the tasks

The Vice President:

- ✓ replaces the President in the case of his/her unexpected absence
- ✓ he/she takes charge of the duties that the President confides in him/her

The Secretary:

- ✓ prepares meetings of the officers
- ✓ agrees with the President an agenda from the suggestions of the national groups. he/she writes up and distributes the AGM minutes and minutes of the Presidents meetings.
- ✓ it is up to him/her to work between the national groups, the other radio amateur associations and other international authorities.
- ✓ he/she gathers together information coming from the national groups, analyses and distributes this to other countries for information.

The Treasurer:

- ✓ has to manage the funds, the petty cash and associated affairs.
- ✓ he/she must have agreement beforehand with the President about payments that are made.
- ✓ he/she compiles the annual financial report (associated results and a simplified balance sheet) and present them to the AGM - after their having been submitted to the Auditors with any associated documents.
- ✓ he/she presents also the AGM budget plan.

all incomes and expenses must be checked before the AGM by two Auditors who are chosen for 2 years or more by the AGM and must belong to two different national groups and not be officers. They present to the AGM a written report.

The P.R. Manager:

- ✓ is responsible for public relations and occupies himself/herself with the media's and in this way handles the
- ✓ publicity - internal and external.
- ✓ he/she must be of high integrity FIRAC needs to distribute actual clear information that can be well understood.
- ✓ at the time of the Congress the P.R. Manager helps a national group to make contact with the media, prepare
- ✓ press releases and help organise conferences and interviews with the press.
- ✓ the essential purpose of publicity, is to win new members for the national groups and FIRAC and to support all activities to that effect.
- ✓ The P.R. Manager presents an annual written report to the AGM and in this way plans activities for the following year
- ✓ he/she establishes and distributes the programme of events after instructions from the national groups

All activities in the context of FIRAC are unpaid.

The officers remain functional until new officers have been elected to take charge of affairs.

Article 8 Official Languages

The official languages of FISAIC - French and German are also those of FIRAC. English, the international language of radio is also an official language of FIRAC. Correspondence must be made in one of these languages.

In the case of any differences in the texts, the Rules and Regulations must be interpreted in a spirit of goodwill.

During the Congress, other supplementary languages can be used, bearing in mind the time factor. The organisation of these translations and their costs are to be done by the national groups who require them.

Article 9 Dissolution of FIRAC

FIRAC has unlimited duration. It can only be wound up by the AGM by a two thirds majority of votes. The liquidation assets will be given to FISAIC.

Article 10 Putting into force

These rules have been approved by the AGM held on the 21.10.1998 at Sorrento (Italy) and come into force on the 07.11.1998

These rules replace the statutes and internal rules of the 26th August 1967 and their later modifications. (the last on 14th September 1987)

