 **Association of International Bubble Artistes (AOIBA) Constitution**

**The name** of the Association shall be the Association Of International Bubble Artistes, to be known as AOIBA.

 **Aims**
The aims of the Association shall be:

To act as a recognised, credible body linking bubble artistes from around the world and to provide a forum for discussion of common interests among its Members;

To foster collaboration between bubble artistes through mutual support and shared knowledge and to ascertain and represent the views of its Members on matters relating to and affecting their professional interests;

To encourage community outreach to share the joy, entertainment and therapeutic benefits of the art of bubbles.

To improve, enhance and elevate the art form and its use for entertainment and therapy.

**The Association:**
is a non-profit making organisation and shall not systematically aim to make a profit; and shall use any profit or surpluses of income over expenditure for the maintenance and improvement of its activities in pursuance of the Association’s objectives.

**Powers**
The Association has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objectives or is conducive or incidental to doing so.

The Association has the power to refuse an application for membership if it believes it is in the best interests of the Association.

**Memberships**

Full Membership of the Association shall be open to any Professional Bubble Artiste or Bubbleologist subject to being proposed and seconded by existing members and by showing an adequate level of skill either by direct demonstration or by video evidence. There will follow a period of probation of one year before full membership is granted subject to the applicant following the Association’s codes of conduct.

Each Member of the Association shall as a condition of membership pay insofar as required an annual subscription. The Association may by resolution in General Meeting determine categories of Membership, including categories of approved organisation, and the rates of subscription (if any) payable by persons within such categories. Such resolution may also delegate to the Committee the power (i) to offer a membership fee rebate, or to impose an additional fee, conditional upon the means by which the subscription is to be paid, and (ii) to offer a reduced or no fee to any category of Member for a limited introductory period. Subscriptions shall be paid on or before 1st October each year. Any Member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears shall automatically cease to be a Member, but shall be reinstated forthwith upon payment.

Apprentice Membership of the Association shall be open to any person interested in, and showing knowledge of, Bubble Artistry or Bubbleology Apprentice Membership is subject to being vouched for and mentored by an existing member and can continue until the Apprentice is deemed to have reached a sufficiently high standard to merit full Membership. Each member may serve as mentor for one apprentice at any one time.
Apprentice Members shall pay a subscription as decided by the committee.be entitled to participate in some activities of the Association. They may not describe themselves as members of the Association but as Apprentices of the Association. They shall not enjoy any voting rights whatsoever or be eligible for election to the Committee or office

The Committee shall have power to remove any Member from Membership of the Association if it considers it in the interests of the Association to do so.

**Code of Conduct**
Members are expected to treat one another, other performers, patrons and others whom they come into contact with through their work with honesty, kindness, dignity and respect.

While the sharing of knowledge and ideas is encouraged between members of the Association, professional bubble performers treat intellectual property with respect and consideration, seeking permission and giving credit, when possible, to the originators.

**Values**
The Association is founded on and committed to the principles of unity, trust, fellowship, equality and inclusivity.

 To have a proactive approach to diversity and inclusion amongst our members, and to ensure the membership both prevents discrimination, and is more representative of world populations in terms of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, age, neurodiversity, physical ability or citizenship. Aliens and misfits welcome.

The Association will seek to share advice amongst members about best practice in order to protect the welfare of our members, their customers, the public and the environment.

**Management**
The administration of the Association shall be conducted by the officers supported by a Committee composed of up to 6 elected Members of the Association and 3 officers.

The administration team will conduct their business using an online platform for discussion. Opinions from other members of the Association can be gathered using a social media platform.

There shall be a President of the Association who shall be voted for by the members then appointed by the Committee.
A retiring President is invited to suggest nominations for a replacement.

The Officers are : Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. One of whom shall act as Membership Secretary, The Officers shall hold office for two years, with the possibility of renewal;
The Committee is free to co-opt individuals onto the Committee where it is felt that this would be of benefit to the Association.
The Officers shall be elected by the Members during the AGM period.

**General meetings**
Being an International Association it is likely that arranging physical meetings of a committee would be impractical so an online decision making process shall be used.
When no physical meeting is possible in a given year the AGM can normally be conducted online over the month of September when all members will have a chance to vote for Officers, Committee Members and any other business on the agenda.
This agenda and annual accounts will have been made available to all members two weeks beforehand.

Election of officers and committee members shall be by ballot of all full Members.
Each candidate for election shall be proposed and seconded by Members of the Association.
In the event of a contested election there shall be a ballot of the entire membership conducted within two weeks of the meeting.
Co-options shall be for a maximum period of one year and may be renewed. Any problem relating to the interpretation of this clause is to be settled by the Chair of the Association whose decision is to be final.

**Rules & procedures at all meetings:**
The Committee may determine its business and procedure at its discretion. A quorum for a Committee meeting, online or physical, shall be the Chair (or his/her designate) and three other members. The duration for an online committee meeting shall be agreed by the members of the committee.

The Chair of any Meeting shall have a casting vote.

**Amendments to the constitution:**
The Constitution of the Association may be altered by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members participating and voting at any General Meeting. Notice of fourteen days shall be given of any proposal to make such an alteration.

**Dissolution:**
If the Management Committee by a simple majority, decide at any time, on ground of expense or otherwise, that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Organisation, it shall call a Special Meeting of the Organisation. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities, shall be given or transferred as the Committee sees fit.

**Date of Constitution –** July 2020