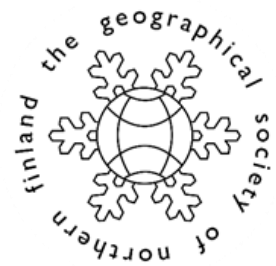


THE RULES OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN FINLAND

Approved at the autumn meeting of Geographical Society Northern Finland on November 13, 2014. Registered in the association register on April 2, 2015. Translated February 17, 2025.



1 § Name and Location of the Association

The name of the Association is Pohjois-Suomen Maantieteellinen Seura ry (The Geographical Society of Northern Finland), and its location is Oulu. The official language of the association is Finnish.

2 § Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the Association is to promote the cooperation among Geographers based in Northern Finland, and the dissemination and accessibility of geography knowledge among the association members and the wider academic community. Additionally, the association aims to raise awareness of geography and geographical expertise in Northern Finland and to participate in societal discussions on important and current geographical topics.

The Association fulfills its purpose by organizing meetings, lectures, excursions, and field trips, as well as engaging in publishing activities. Furthermore, the Association may grant scholarships and awards.

The Association is non-profit.

3 § Members

An individual may be accepted as a member of the Association if they accept its rules and have a degree in geography or if their education/other activities relate to geography.

A supporting member may be accepted as a member if they are an individual, a legal entity, or a foundation that accepts the rules of the Association and wishes to support the activities of the Association by becoming a supporting member.

The Association may also invite individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of geography or its applications, or who have served the Association with merit to become honorary members.

4 § Membership

An individual may join the Association as a regular or supporting member by notifying the Association and paying the membership fee. By paying the membership fee, a member agrees to the Association's rules. The Board, which serves as the Association's governing body, confirms the membership at its meeting.

The members and supporting members of the association must pay the membership fee as determined at the Association's annual meeting. Honorary members do not pay membership fees.

A member may resign from the association by submitting a written notice to the Board or by informing of their resignation at an Association meeting. The resignation takes effect immediately upon receipt of the notice. The resignation is recorded in the minutes of the Association or its board meeting.

The board may expel a member who has failed to fulfill the obligations they have undertaken by joining the association, or if their behavior has significantly disrupted the association's activities or been incompatible with the association's values. A member may also be expelled if they fail to pay their membership fee without a valid reason and do not pay it upon request.

5 § Board of the Association

The Board of the Association (hereafter, the Board) is the governing body of the Association. The Board is responsible for managing the association's assets and implementing the association's decisions. The board prepares the main matters for meetings, supervises and manages the activities of committees and officers established by the association, and handles other matters of the association.

The Board consists of a chair, vice-chair, secretary, finance responsible, notary, editor, and 0-4 other members. At least one board member must be elected from the members of student organization Atlas ry, if possible. Board members are elected at the autumn meeting among the association's members for a calendar year at a time. If a board member resigns during the operational year, a new member may be elected to the board at an association meeting.

The Board is quorate if at least half of its members, including the chairperson or vice-chairperson, are present. The chair or vice-chair calls board meetings. Meetings are open to all members of the association, but they do not have voting rights in these meetings.

The Board prepares and provides statements and proposals requested by the association as necessary.

6 § Signing of the Association's Name

The Association's name is signed by the chair and vice-chair together or by either of them together with the secretary or treasurer.

7 § Financial Year and Auditing

The Association's financial and operational year is the calendar year. The financial statements and annual report must be ready before the end of February. The activities, financial management, and accounts of the Association are audited by two auditors or deputy auditors elected at the autumn meeting. The audit report must be given to the Board by the end of March.

8 § Association Meetings

The Association holds two regular meetings each year:

The spring meeting, held in March-April, where:

- a. The annual report, financial statements, and the auditors' report are discussed.

- b. The financial statements are approved, and the outgoing Board is discharged from responsibility.

The autumn meeting, held in October-November, where:

- a. The chair and other board members are elected.
- b. Other officers of the Association are elected.
- c. Two auditors and two deputy auditors are elected.
- d. The membership fee for regular and supporting members is decided.
- e. The action plan and budget for the next operational year are approved.

An extra meeting is held when the Association's meeting decides to do so, when the Board deems it necessary, or when at least one-tenth (1/10) of the regular members requests it in writing for a specific matter. The extra meeting must be held within one calendar month of the request. The Board calls the association meetings. Notices of meetings are sent to each member by letter or email at least seven business days before the meeting.

Honorary chairs, honorary members, and regular members have voting rights at Association meetings. Supporting members do not have voting rights. Members may also participate in meetings with voting rights via telecommunication or other technical means by prior arrangement. Supporting members and non-members may attend meetings but do not have voting rights.

9 § Association Honors

The Association may invite individuals who have made significant contributions to geography or its applications, or who have served the association well, to become honorary members. The proposal for honorary membership requires a written proposal from at least five members and the Board's supportive statement.

The Association may also appoint an honorary chair for individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the Association's activities. There can only be one honorary chair at a time. The appointment requires a written proposal from at least five regular members, the Board's supporting statement, and a decision by the Association's meeting that is approved by at least three-quarters (3/4) of the voting members.

10 § Amendments to the Rules

The decision to amend the Association's rules must be made at an Association meeting by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the votes cast. The meeting notice must specify that the amendment of the rules will be discussed. The rule change will take effect after the minutes of the meeting in which the change was approved have been verified, and the change has been recorded in the Association register.

11 § Dissolution of the Association

The dissolution of the Association requires a decision in two consecutive Association meetings, with at least two months between them, and approval by at least three-quarters (3/4) of the voting members at each meeting. The Association's assets will be transferred according to the last meeting's decision to an Association or other legal entity or foundation that promotes the association's goals. The last Board

will conduct a final review of the Association's liabilities, taxes, and assets, distribute the funds as determined by the meeting, and notify the Association register of the dissolution.

Other matters will be governed by the applicable association law.