

Statutes of the SOE-YO

Article 1: Name and definitions

1. SOE is short for Societas Ophthalmologica Europe and is the European Society of Ophthalmology with representatives from 44 National Ophthalmological Societies in Europe.
2. YO stands for Young Ophthalmologists
3. A young ophthalmologist is defined as an ophthalmologist in training or in the first 5 years of independent practise.
4. All YO's who are member of one of the 44 National Ophthalmological Societies in Europe are members of SOE-YO by definition.
5. The YO's, of associated nations of the SOE, are welcome within the SOE-YO.
6. The SOE-YO committee is the official leader and legal representative of SOE-YO.
7. The SOE-YO group has a General Assembly every second year, during the concurrent SOE meeting. At the GA, members of the SOE-YO committee are chosen.
8. If SOE terminates of any reason the SOE-YO will terminate as well.

Article 2: Objectives.

The SOE Young Ophthalmologists group (SOE YO) aims to serve the collective needs of YOs in Europe.

The aims of SOE YO include:

- Ensuring sessions and content relevant to YOs at the SOE Congress, and other meetings involving SOE
- Encouraging networking and formation of collaborative links between YOs from different European countries
- To provide a platform for discussion of ophthalmic professional examinations, in particular the EBO exam
- Support for collaborative training across Europe, in the form of observerships and fellowships
- To increase awareness regarding future challenges posed by the unification of Europe, and to provide a platform for discussion
- To promote SOE and encourage participation from the younger generations
- To provide a platform for discussion and a voice for young ophthalmologists on matters that can have an impact on their future careers e.g. new technologies, techniques or European policies

The object of the SOE-YO does not include making profit to be distributed to any founder or to its officers, nor to other parties, unless the distribution to the latter has an idealistic or social purpose.

Article 3: The SOE –YO national representatives

1. All 44 counties part of the SOE, can nominate one official national YO representative.

2. The SOE-YO national representative is elected by the national societies. If there is a national YO organization, it should be given the responsibility for having the election. However, the national society needs to approve the elected candidate.
3. Election of a national YO representative is for 4 years. If the YO national representative is no longer a YO or has stopped being able to work within SOE-YO, the involved national society should ensure a replacement of a new national representative.
4. It is possible to nominate a second representative. But that person is an alternate since only one can be the official.
5. In valid absence of the ordinary representative the second take the vacant seat.
6. The national representative has to be a citizen and has to work in the country they represent in the main part of their period. Absence from the country they represent above 12 months is a legal reason to replace the national representative with a new.
7. Countries who are associated members of SOE, can also nominate a SOE YO National representative. But these national representatives can't vote at the general assembly and can't become members of the SOE-YO committee.
8. In the unlikely event that a National representative become too busy to manage their Representative duties and unable to respond to 3 consecutive communications by the SOE YO committee, then the SOE-YO committee will find an alternative National representative to be nominated. In the first case the National society will be contacted to nominate a new representative. In the unlikely event a National Society does not nominate a National Representative then the SOE YO committee is free to suggest a nomination to the National society for approval.

Article 4: The SOE YO committee

1. The SOE YO committee has 9 members i.e. 7 European SOE YOs, 1 international, non-European YO representative and 1 mentor.
2. Term will be for two years starting from each (GA) at the time of a SOE congress.
3. Re-election is only possible one time (4 years in total) for ordinary members.
4. There are 3 officers among committee members i.e the chair, the chair elect and the past-chair.
5. At the fist committee meeting after the GA, a voting within the committee nominates the next chair elect.
6. When the chair elect becomes chair after two years, he or she is voted in by acclamation.
7. If the chair elect has not been nominated, the chair is elected among the committee members.
8. When appointed chair-elect, the total time within the committee is prolonged and be will be 6-8 years. 0-2 years as member, 2 years as chair elect, 2 years as chair and 2 years as past chair.
9. You need to be a YO when you are appointed as chair elect.
10. Subcommittee chairs are elected on the first committee meeting after the GA.
11. Transition rule: Years within the committee count from its first election in 2017. From 2017 we will increase the total numbers of committee members from six to seven. Furthermore, the election of a president elect may be post-phoned a year.

Article 5: General assembly and election

1. The committee members will be elected at the SOE meeting every second year.
2. The election will take place at the general assembly at a preannounced place. The agenda and time have to be announced at least two weeks before the SOE conference.
3. To be a legal general assembly at least 50% (22 NR) needs to be present. If the assembly has not achieved quorum at the time of the assembly, a new assembly is done half an hour later and then quorum is 50% of present members.
4. The National Representatives elect the members of the committee
5. Ordinary SOE-YOs can run for election as well, if not enough National representatives are running for a seat in the committee.
6. A widespread geographic distribution of committee members is wanted to ensure balanced representation from all across Europe.
7. YOs will be encouraged via our newsletters and website to come forward if they are interested in a position as committee or subcommittee member.
8. At the General Assembly the chair-elect will call out the names of the possible candidates.
9. Every candidate is encouraged to send a short description of agenda and CV for the SOE-YO homepage, 2 weeks before the conference. Each candidate may have a 2 min talk before the election.
10. It's desirable if candidates give their candidature at least 2 weeks before the meeting. However, it may be possible to give candidature at the General Assembly.
11. Physical presence at the SOE meeting is not mandatory to be elected, since a substitute can read up their speech if needed.
12. Election will be written and anonymous, the SOE secretariat will serve as officials.
13. All SOE-YO's are allowed to speak at the election process.
14. Only SOE-YO national representatives (or their legal substitute) who are physically present are allowed to vote. It's possible to vote on 5 candidates. (Five crosses on a list of the candidates)
15. If only a number of candidates, equal to the number of seats on election, are at disposal, all candidates are elected without voting.
16. The chair and the chair elect are not part of the election having accepted two more years in duty at the time of the election. However, if more than 50% of the present National representatives present are unsatisfied with their leadership, they can claim by raising hands that the chair/ chair elect or both should go into the group of electable candidates
17. The past chair steps out of the committee, two years after being chair.
18. If the chair and chair elect are not put at election (5.15), The remaining five SOE-YO members of the committee are included in the election.
19. The SOE-YO committee elects the International member
20. The mentor is appointed by the SOE Education Committee (6.1)
21. After the election, all national representatives and SOE-YO members who would like to take part in a subcommittee in the next period are invited to step forward.

Article 6: The work of the SOE-YO committee

1. The SOE-YO Committee operates under the guidance of the SOE Education Committee. The SOE Education Committee will provide a mentor from within their committee.
2. Responsibilities as a member will include supporting and developing programs that address the needs of European young ophthalmologists; attendance at the biennial SOE Congress; participation in quarterly telephone conference calls; and participation in email communications throughout the year.
3. Every committee member in charge of tasks is encouraged to form subcommittees consisting of ordinary SOE'YO members and national representatives to 'shadow' and assist in these tasks. They will not join the main committee conference calls.
4. After the GA on the SOE meeting, the new committee will have a face to face meeting introducing new members and planning of work until next conference call.
5. All committee members and shadow members are encouraged to attend the European YO meeting (EMYO) where a face to face meeting will be held to encourage growth and development of YO objectives.
6. The seven SOE-YO members base decisions within the committee on majority votes. At least 4 committee members should participate. In terms of equal distribution of votes the mentor's vote will tip the balance.
7. The SOE-YO committee is served, helped and guided by the SOE secretariat.
8. The SOE-YO chair will take part in the SOE board meetings as an observer. Every year the annual report for the activities in the SOE-YO committee will be presented at the annual SOE Board meeting.