

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 practice.
4. All YOs who are members of one of the 44 National Ophthalmological Societies in Europe are members of SOE-YO by definition.
5. The YOs, of associated nations of the SOE, are welcome within the SOE-YO.
6. The SOE-YO Executive Committee is the central organising body of the SOE-YO.
7. The SOE-YO Executive Committee has a General Assembly (GA) every second year, during the concurrent SOE Congress. At the GA, members of the SOE-YO Executive Committee will announce the new committee members and will discuss future plans with the national representatives.
8. If SOE terminates for any reason the SOE-YO will terminate as well.

Article 2: Objectives.

1. The SOE YO organisation aims to serve the collective needs of YOs in Europe.
2. The aims of SOE YO include:
 - a. Ensuring sessions and content relevant to YOs at the SOE Congress, and other meetings involving SOE.
 - b. Encouraging networking and formation of collaborative links between YOs from different European countries.
 - c. To provide a platform for discussion of ophthalmic professional examinations, in particular the EBO exam.
 - d. Support for collaborative training across Europe, in the form of Observerships and fellowships.
 - e. To increase awareness regarding future challenges posed by the unification of Europe, and to provide a platform for discussion.
 - f. To promote SOE and encourage participation from the younger generations.
 - g. 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.

3. 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 countries who are 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 organisation, it should be given the opportunity to have the election. However, the national society needs to approve the elected candidate.
3. The national YO representative will serve for a term of 2 years. If the YO national representative is no longer a YO or has stopped being able to work within SOE-YO, their national society should nominate a replacement for 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 the valid absence of the official representative, the second takes the vacant seat.
6. The national representative must be a citizen and work in the country they represent in the main part of their period. Absence from the country they represent for 12 months is a legal reason to replace the national representative with a new one.
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 becomes unable to manage their Representative duties or does not respond to 3 consecutive communications by the SOE YO Executive 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 event a National Society does not nominate a National Representative or does not respond to two requests for a nomination from the Secretariat then the SOE YO Executive Committee is free to suggest a nomination to the National Society for approval.
9. National Representatives will be updated when:
 - a. A Representative has served a full term of 2 years.
 - b. They are no longer a YO.
 - c. The National Society of the Representative wishes to put a new Representative forward.

- d. If a National Representative is no longer eligible and their National Society does not nominate a representative, the SOE Committee will be free to select a candidate from that country.
10. Roles of National Representatives should include supporting the work of the YO community and supplying posts and articles for SOE Social Media and YO Newsletters.

Article 4: The SOE YO Executive Committee

1. The SOE YO Executive Committee should be made up of 5 members: 4 European SOE YOs and 1 international, non-European YO representative.
2. The SOE YO Executive Committee should have 1 mentor, who is an SOE Board or Committee member.
3. The SOE YO Executive Committee has a term for two years starting from the announcement at the SOE congress.
4. The maximal length of the mandate for members is 4 years.
5. Prior to the next SOE Congress, between 3-6 months, the Executive committee will nominate the next chair and new SOE YO Executive members.
6. When appointed chair, the total time within the committee is prolonged and will be 4-6 years (i.e., 0-2 years as member, 2 years as chair and 2 years as past chair).
7. To be appointed as Chair the individual must be a YO.
8. The SOE YO Executive committee is free to choose new committee members from the SOE National Representatives or YOs from the wider YO community throughout Europe.
9. Only SOE National Representatives or YOs who have a proven track record of being engaged in the work of the SOE YO Community in the period of the past 2 years or as a leader in their national YO Community should be considered.
10. The Past Chair steps down from the committee, two years after being the Chair.
11. Sub-committee chairs are elected on the first committee meeting after the new committee announcement, which should take place during the SOE Congress.
12. The SOE YO Executive Committee is responsible for the running of the SOE YO community.
13. SOE YO Executive Committee members will lead the subcommittees and oversee the running of the SOE YO.
14. Sub-committees should meet at least once every three months and a member of the SOE YO Executive should attend.

15. SOE YO Executive members can be replaced by a new member if they are non-responsive and non-active for a period more than 3-6 months.
16. SOE YO Executive committee can replace a Sub-committee member if they are non-responsive over a period of 3-6 months.
17. The SOE-YO Executive Committee elects the International member.
18. The mentor is appointed by the SOE Education Committee

Article 5: General assembly

1. The general assembly serves to announce the new SOE YO Executive Committee members, to gather all the National Representatives with the SOE YO, to connect all the national representatives, to discuss plans of the Committee, and to vote for important decisions.
2. The agenda and time of the general assembly will be announced at least two weeks prior to the SOE congress.
3. All SOE-YO's are allowed to speak at the General Assembly. Only SOE-YO National Representatives (or their legal substitute) who are physically present are allowed to vote. If there is a vote during the General Assembly, to be legal, at least 50% (22) national representatives need to be present. If the assembly has not achieved a quorum at the time of the assembly, a new assembly will meet half an hour later and then the quorum is 50% of the present members.
4. During the General Assembly, the SOE secretariat will serve as officials.
5. During the General Assembly the chair will announce the names of new SOE YO Executive Committee members.
6. After the announcement of the new committee members at the General Assembly, all National Representatives and SOE-YO members who would like to take part in a sub-committee in the next period are invited to step forward.
7. If no National Representatives put themselves forward for a particular sub-committee, then the SOE YO Executive committee can select active YOs to join the committee.
8. National Representatives attending the SOE Congress must attend the General Assembly.
9. All new committee members are encouraged to send a CV for inclusion on the SOE-YO homepage. Each new committee member may have an opportunity to introduce themselves at the General Assembly.

10. YOs will be encouraged via newsletters and the SOE website beforehand to step forward if they are interested in a position as sub-committee member.

Article 6: The work of the SOE-YO Executive committee

1. The SOE-YO Executive Committee operates under the guidance of the SOE Education Committee.
2. The YO Executive Committee will request a mentor from the SOE Education Committee.
3. Responsibilities as a member of the SOE YO Executive Committee 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.
4. Every committee member in charge of tasks is encouraged to form a sub-committee consisting of SOE YO members and National Representatives to assist in these tasks. They will not join the main committee conference calls.
5. After the new committee announcement at the SOE meeting, the new committee will have a face-to-face meeting introducing new members and planning of work until the next conference call.
6. All Executive committee members and Sub-committee members are encouraged to attend the European YO meeting (EMYO) where a face-to-face meeting will be held to encourage the growth and development of YO objectives.
7. The five SOE-YO Executive committee members base decisions within the committee on majority votes. In terms of equal distribution of votes the mentor's vote will have the deciding vote if there is no majority in a vote.
8. The SOE-YO committee is served, helped and guided by the SOE secretariat.
9. The SOE-YO chair will take part in the SOE board meetings as an observer and report the activities of the SOE YO Community.