



RULES OF PROCEDURE - English translation

Only the French version of this text shall prevail

I - PREAMBLE

Women's Obediences, members of the C.L.I.M.A.F., confirm their commitment to the essential and timeless principles of Freemasonry. This is particularly true of the principle according to which Freemasonry is an order made up of free and upright individuals assembled in regularly constituted LL, which tend to form the core of the union.

They are based on the humanistic values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which they consider to be one of the legacies of the history of Freemasonry. They promote universal brotherhood based on mutual tolerance and respect, and reject all forms of discrimination.

They proclaim absolute freedom of conscience of their members and do not formulate or impose any dogma.

They respect the principle of full mutual tolerance.

They consider Freemasonry as a means of seeking the truth.

They defend the equality of all human beings.

II - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. Women's Obediences, members of the C.L.I.M.A.F., declare that they recognise:

a) Obediences whose Lodges operate on the model of the Just and Perfect Lodge;

b) Independent Lodges operating on the same model, namely:

They are composed of at least seven Sisters Master Masons;
they practise the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason;
they use symbols of construction in their Ritual, in a close tyled place, where columns J and B may be found; and in the presence of the three Great Lights of FM which include the Square and Compasses.

2. Member Obediences must respect traditional operating principles, such as:

- the separation between Lodges working in the 1st to the 3rd degree and jurisdictions working in the subsequent degrees or orders;
- separation of powers (legislative - executive and disciplinary);
- summoning at least one annual Convention or annual General Assembly which elects the Grand Master, President or Worshipful Master;
- limiting the number of terms of Grand Master, President or Worshipful Master to a maximum of 6 consecutive years, according to customs followed in the Obediences.

3. Member Obediences of the C.L.I.M.A.F. undertake not to create Lodges on the national territory of other active member Obediences and to respect the principle of non-interference with regard to each of the member Obediences.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE C.L.I.M.A.F.

CHAPTER 1 - DEFINITION OF MEMBERS

Article 1: Active Members

Active members of the C.L.I.M.A.F. are those Obediences that have been accepted by an ordinary General Assembly.

Active members are automatically represented on the Council.

Article 2: Members on probation

a) Definition of probationary member

Women's Obediences whether or not stemming from members of the C.L.I.M.A.F., or independent women's lodges that are not partners of an active member Obedience may be admitted on probation after having obtained the approval of the ordinary General Assembly.

Probationary members are not represented on the Council.

(b) Probationary membership status

Can apply for probationary membership:

- a women's obedience created by a member Obedience of the C.L.I.M.A.F..
- a women's obedience not created by a C.L.I.M.A.F. member obedience, but with 7 years of activity.
- an independent Women's Lodge, which is not a partner of an active member Obedience.

The application is subject to a vote at the Ordinary General Assembly. After a favourable decision by at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present or represented, the Obedience or Lodge is then admitted as a member on probation for a period of 3 years. In this capacity, it may attend meetings of the Council and the Ordinary General Assembly, but has only a consultative vote. Its representatives may not be elected to any of the offices of the Bureau or be reimbursed for expenses. At the end of this 3-year period, and after the affirmative vote of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present or represented at the Ordinary General Assembly, the Obedience is then admitted as an active member of the C.L.I.M.A.F.

Article 3: Provisions common to active and probationary members

- a) They participate at the Ordinary General Assembly where they submit an activity report
- b) They participate in seminars and any other event organized by the C.L.I.M.A.F.
- c) They receive all information distributed by the C.L.I.M.A.F.

Article 4: Membership dues

Members pay annually:



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- a. a fixed basic fee
- b. one fee per S (capitation).

On 31 December of each year, members inform the C.L.I.M.A.F. Treasurer of the number of their members.

CHAPTER 2 - ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Article 5: Application for admission

All applications shall be sent in writing to the President of the C.L.I.M.A.F., who will forward it to the Council for consideration and to the General Assembly for decision. The application must contain the following annexes:

1. an extract from the deliberations of the decision-making body authorising membership and containing the express agreement to respect the Constitution, Preamble, Declaration of Principles and Rules of Procedure of the C.L.I.M.A.F.
2. a history of the Obedience
3. a copy of its Constitution and General Regulations
4. the rituals of the first 3 degrees of the Rites practised
5. the number of Sisters, Lodges and the geographical location of the Lodges
6. any other information deemed useful.

Article 6: Examination of applications

Upon receipt of the application, the Council will examine the candidature within 6 months. The Council's opinion is submitted to the next ordinary General Assembly for decision.

CHAPTER 3 - DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Article 7: Disciplinary Rules

Any substantiated complaint may be addressed to the President, dated and signed, by an active member Obedience.

The President shall forward it as soon as possible to all active members.

The Council sets up an commission of enquiry composed of three of its members who do not belong to the Obediences in conflict. The commission shall report the results to the Council within 6 months of its appointment.

The Council may appoint a Conciliation Committee. Its mission is to liaise with the parties concerned. It shall report to the Council within three months of its appointment.

If, at the end of the Council's investigation and in the event of failure of the conciliation procedure, the complaint is not withdrawn, the Council is required to refer the matter to the next ordinary General Assembly which decides on the case. The incriminated Obedience is duly convened to present its defence.

A ballot for exclusion is taken by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the active members present.

CHAPTER 4 - ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Article 8 – Composition

All active member Obediences of the C.L.I.M.A.F. send to the General Assembly:

1. Three representatives, of whom the Grand Master or the President is a statutory member.
2. In addition, there is one representative per whole segment of 1,000 Sisters.
3. The representatives are appointed each year, preferably from among the Federal Councillors or Grand Officers currently in office.
4. Their names are communicated to the Council before the Ordinary General Meeting.
5. The delegation of an Active Member Obedience may not exceed one quarter of the members of the General Assembly.

Article 9 - Participation at the General Assembly

All SS belonging to Member Obediences or Lodges are entitled to attend the Ordinary General Assembly without the right to vote.

Article 10 – Invitations

On invitation of the Council, and by way of exception, non-member Obediences may delegate a representative as observer.

CHAPTER 5 – COUNCIL

Article 11 - Composition of the Council

The Council consists of representatives appointed by the active member Obediences, as follows:

1. the Grand Master or President of active member Obediences,
2. there is also one representative per Obedience, chosen from among the representatives at the General Assembly, (cf. Article 8 - point 3)
3. plus one representative per whole segment of 6,000 Sisters who are full members of the Obedience. However, this representation may not exceed one third of the members of the Council.



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The term of office of Council members is one year, renewable for a maximum of six consecutive years.

Article 12 - Powers of the Council

1. The Council is the executive body of the C.L.I.M.A.F..
2. It manages and administers the finances.
3. It ensures compliance with the Statutes, Preamble, Declaration of Principles and Rules of Procedure.
4. It organises ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies.
5. It reports each year on its activities, the state of finances, and presents the forecast budget. All these documents are subject to the vote of the Ordinary General Assembly.
6. It decides in advance on the amount of financial commitments related to activities of its members in the exercise of their mission within the C.L.I.M.A.F.
7. It decides on amendments to these Rules of Procedure by a majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ of Council members present.
8. It may open relations with non-member Lodges or Obediences, by authorising the presence of a Lodge partner of a member Obedience of the C.L.I.M.A.F., or an Obedience as an observer at seminars, ritual meetings and other events.
9. It will deliberate on the change of registered office, and submit its decision to the Ordinary General Assembly.

Article 13 - Voting and representation

1. The quorum required for a valid vote is 2/3 of the Member Obediences.
2. Valid decisions may be taken by a simple majority of representatives present.
3. The Grand Master or the President of an active member Obedience may delegate a deputy or a member of her Federal Council/Grand Council (depending on the name used by the Obedience) to represent her.

CHAPTER 6 – BUREAU

Article 14 – Composition

The Bureau consists of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Grand Masters or Presidents may not hold any of these offices.

The term of office of Bureau members is one year, renewable for a maximum of six consecutive years, with a maximum of three years in the same capacity.

At the end of six consecutive years, a minimum of one year must follow the end of the term of office (before re-applying for Bureau membership).

As far as possible, offices within the Bureau are distributed on a country by country basis, in turn, in the sequence of membership of the C.L.I.M.A.F.

Candidatures for the various functions in the Bureau must be sent with the draft Agenda of the Council that precedes the General Assembly.

Article 15 - Special provisions

A Bureau member may be appointed by the Council for a particular mission, on which she will report.

Article 16 – Presidency

a) The presidency of the C.L.I.M.A.F. is held in turn by the active member Obediences, in the sequence in which they joined, provided that they can prove at least five years' membership.

(b) The President is elected for one year, renewable twice.

During voting, in the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Article 17 - Vice-Presidency

If the President is unable to carry out her duties, the Vice-President shall carry them out in her stead. She will then have the same authority as the President.

Article 18 – Secretariat

The Secretary prepares the minutes of Council meetings and the General Assembly. The draft minutes of the meetings of the Council and the General Assembly shall be sent to members for correction within one month of the meeting.

She holds the attendance list for each Council meeting and General Assembly. She takes all the necessary steps to regularize signatures with the official authorities, in cooperation with the President.

Article 19 – Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for financial management. She is required to deposit the funds in an official institution designated by the Council. She keeps accurate records of income and expenditure. The cash books must be accompanied by the original supporting documents.



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She calls for and collects the fees due from active members and probationary Obediences.

She pays budgeted and current expenses.

After submitting the accounts to the appointed Auditor and the Council, the Treasurer submits them once a year to a vote at the General Assembly, which gives her final clearance and approval of her work.

Article 20 - Audit of accounts

Once a year, the Auditor appointed by the General Assembly shall audit the accounts of the C.L.I.M.A.F. kept by the Treasurer and shall draw up an audit report for the General Assembly.

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