The Charter for the Asia Pacific Camp Association

PREAMBLE

Recognizing that the Asia Pacific region is home to an extraordinary diversity of cultures, languages, landscapes, and traditions,

Acknowledging that this diversity is a powerful foundation for promoting mutual understanding, respect, regional friendship, and collective resilience among young people across the region,

Affirming our shared belief that the camp experience, a form of education that is camp-based, rooted in nature, experiential learning, intercultural exchange, and community living—fosters essential values and characters such as empathy, resilience, leadership, well-being, and global citizenship,

We, the founding members, including 14 representatives from countries and regions that include China, Hongkong, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan, unite to form the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA), to champion the transformative power of camping for youth development across the region.

Through this Charter, we form an organization that commits to building a collaborative and inclusive regional platform that connects camp professionals, educators, organizations, institutions, governments, and communities; to promoting peace and sustainability in the region and around the world through youth engagement; and to building a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community of practice that celebrates the diversity of the Asia Pacific region.

Together, we strive to empower the next generation, celebrate our shared humanity and diversity, and shape a peaceful and sustainable future for the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND LEGAL STATUS

The name of the organization shall be the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA), which shall operate as an independent, non-governmental, non-profit international organization. Its legal registration is in Hong Kong, China and its headquarter shall be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to all members. The Association shall comply with the legal and regulatory requirements of its host country.

ARTICLE II: MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) exists to advance the shared vision of youth empowerment, peace, and intercultural harmony through the vehicle of camp experience and education. Rooted in the belief that camping offers a unique and holistic approach to youth development, APCA seeks to strengthen the camping

movement across the Asia Pacific region by fostering collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. APCA recognizes that the International Camping Fellowship (ICF) is an equal partner in the worldwide camping movement and will join hands with ICF on issues that matter to both organizations and the camping communities around the world.

The Asia Pacific Camp Association serves as a regional hub that connects national camp associations, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and individuals who are committed to using camping as a means of education, character-building, leadership development, community engagement, and intercultural understanding.

To advance this mission, the Association pursues the following objectives:

1. Promote holistic youth development by supporting physical, emotional, social, and ethical growth through structured camp experiences.
2. Foster intercultural exchange and regional solidarity by connecting young people across nations, cultures, and communities to learn from one another in shared camp settings.
3. Elevate the quality and professionalism of camps through the development of training programs, certifications, and leadership development for camp educators and staff.
4. Facilitate the sharing of knowledge, research, and best practices related to camp education, outdoor learning, and youth engagement across the region.
5. Advocate for the recognition of camping as a vital component of formal and non-formal education systems, aligned with national youth development policies and global goals.
6. Encourage accessibility and inclusion by promoting equal opportunities for all youth, especially those from underserved, rural, or marginalized communities, to benefit from camp experiences.
7. Celebrate the region's diverse cultural and environmental heritage by integrating indigenous knowledge, local traditions, and sustainable practices into camp programs.
8. Represent the Asia Pacific region within the global camp community, serving as its collective voice in international forums and collaborations.

Through these objectives, APCA aspires to build a more connected, compassionate, and capable generation—one camp at a time.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility for Membership

Membership in APCA is open to organizations and individuals who support its mission and seek to contribute to the development of youth through camp education in the Asia Pacific region.

Eligible members may include, but are not limited to:

- National and regional camp associations;
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofits, and civil society groups

engaged in youth, education, or outdoor learning;
- Educational institutions, including schools, universities, and research centers;
- Governmental or intergovernmental agencies supporting youth development or non-formal education;
- Accredited camps or camp operators;
- Individual camp leaders, trainers, researchers, counselors, and youth workers.

Section 2: Categories of Membership

APCA shall recognize the following categories of membership:

1. Institutional Members
   Organizations with a national or regional mandate to promote camp education and youth development, or organizations and institutions whose work aligns with APCA's mission but who do not represent a national or regional camp body. Designated representatives of the Institutional Members are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and may hold office within the Association.
   In the case where the Institution is no longer an APCA member, its representatives shall also automatically lose all privileges associated unless the representatives choose to join the Association as individual members.
2. Individual Members
   Individuals within the Asia Pacific Region whose work aligns with APCA's mission but who do not represent any organizations or institutions. Individual Members are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and may hold office within the Association.
3. Affiliate Members
   Individuals, independent educators, or organizations from outside the Asia Pacific region that support APCA's mission. Affiliates may participate in events and discussions but are not eligible to serve on the Board of the Directors and may not hold office.

Section 3: Rights and Responsibilities of Members

All members shall have the right to:

- Participate in APCA programs, initiatives, and discussions;
- Receive updates, publications, and invitations to regional or international events;
- Contribute to the development and sharing of best practices and knowledge.

All members shall have the responsibility to:

- Uphold the values, mission, and Charter of the Association;
- Actively contribute to the advancement of youth development through camping;
- Comply with APCA's policies, code of conduct, and financial obligations as applicable.

Section 4: Admission Process

Applications for membership shall be submitted in writing to the APCA Secretariat and reviewed by the Membership Committee (led by a Vice President) or Executive Committee. Admission is subject to approval and the fulfillment of any membership criteria or fees established by the Association.

Section 5: Suspension and Termination

Membership may be suspended or terminated under the following conditions:

- Failure to adhere to the Charter, policies, or ethical standards of APCA;
- Non-payment of dues or financial obligations after due notice;
- Written resignation submitted to the Secretariat.

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to suspend or revoke membership following a fair and transparent review process.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The governance of APCA shall rest with its members and executed through representative bodies, i.e., The Board of Directors and its derivative Committees, structured to ensure transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in achieving its mission.

The Board of Directors shall convene, in person or virtually, at least once every year to adopt strategic priorities, elect the Executive Committee, approve reports and budgets, and deliberate on major decisions. Each Full Member holds one vote unless otherwise specified by the Charter.

Section 1: The Board of Directors

1. **Supreme Authority**
   The Board of Directors is the supreme decision-making body of the Association, composed of members (no limitation on the total number of members but in principle not exceeding 3 members from each country or region), who are Individual Members or the representatives of the Institutional Members, in good standing.
2. **Functions**
   The Board of Directors shall:
   - Approve and amend the Charter;
   - Elect members of the Executive Committee;
   - Review and select the hosting countries or regions of the biennial APCC (The Asia Pacific Camp Conference)
   - Review and adopt the annual report, financial report, and strategic plan;
   - Determine membership policies and dues;
   - Address any major decisions affecting the direction of the Association.

3. **Meetings**

   The Board of Directors shall convene at least once every year, either in person or virtually. A special session may be called by the Executive Committee or at the request of 51% of the Board.

4. **Voting**

   On most issues, expect the ones as specified below, each Board Member shall equally have one vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority unless otherwise specified by the Charter. Observers and non-voting members may speak but shall not vote.

   On the following four issues and other issues as may be determined by the Board of Directors, each country or region, as represented by its representatives on the Board, shall have only one vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority unless otherwise specified by the Charter.

   - The election or the APCA President
   - The selection of hosting countries or regions of the biennial APCA Conference (APCC)
   - The amendment of the APCA Charter
   - The dissolution of the APCA

5. **Term and Election**

   a.) Members of the APCA Board shall consist of two categories:

   Founding Board Members: The 14 Founding Board Members consist of representatives from the aforementioned founding member countries and regions. To ensure the continuity and stability of the Association, the Founding Board Members shall serve, as they wish and are in good standing, five consecutive terms of 10 years (till December 31st, 2035).

   Rotating Board Members: The remaining Board Members shall be Rotating Board Members, who are, on an incremental schedule, elected by the Full Board for a term of two (2) years, with eligibility for one consecutive re-election. The composition shall reflect the geographical diversity of the Asia Pacific region. Priority of admission shall be given to representatives of newly-joined member countries or regions when electing new Board Members. In principle, each individual country or region shall not exceed three (3) Board Members, Founding or Rotating.

   b.) Terms

   The Founding Board Members shall elect the first cohort of Rotating Board Members by December 31st, 2025, who shall commence its first term starting January 1st, 2026 for two years. The second cohort of additional Rotating Board Members shall be elected by the Full Board (consisting of the 14 Founding Board members and the first cohort of Rotating Board Members) by December 31st, 2026 and commence its first term starting January 1st, 2027.

   To ensure vitality and diversity of the Association, one-third of the Board of Directors (except the Founding Board Members) shall be re-elected every year, starting in 2028.

Specifically:

The first cohort of the Rotating Board Members shall be elected to the Board by the end of 2025 and shall serve its first term in 2026 and 2027. Similarly, the second cohort shall be elected to the Board by the end of 2026 and shall serve its first term in 2027 and 2028.

The third cohort shall be elected to the Board by the end of 2027, replacing the first cohort, and shall serve its first term in 2028 and 2029. Similarly, the fourth cohort shall be elected to the Board by the end of 2028, replacing the second cohort, and shall serve its first term in 2029 and 2030.

So on and so forth, the rotation continues.

c.) Eligibility and Admission:

All Individual Members and representatives of the Institutional Members of the Association who are in good standing are eligible to be elected to and serve on the Board of Directors.

To be admitted as members of the Board of Directors, the candidates shall be nominated by at least two (2) of the current members of the Board of Directors, based on criteria such as participation, contribution, and reputation etc. The nominated candidates shall submit application forms as required by the Board, who shall vote for the admission with at least a simple majority of the Full Board.

Section 2: The Executive Committee

1. **Role and Authority**

   The Executive Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Board of Director's decisions and for overseeing the daily affairs and strategic direction of APCA between sessions of the Board meetings.

2. **Composition**

   The Executive Committee shall include:

   - President (must be Board Member)
   - Vice Presidents (at least three, preferably from different subregions)
   - Secretary-General (must be Board Member)

3. **Term and Election**

   Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years, with eligibility for one consecutive re-election. The composition shall reflect the geographical diversity of the Asia Pacific region.

4. **Meetings**

   The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year, physically or virtually, and may act on urgent matters between Board of Director sessions.

Section 3: Officers and Their Duties

1. **President**
   - Serves as the chief representative of APCA;
   - Presides over the Board of Directors and Executive Committee

meetings;
    - Provides leadership in fulfilling the Association's mission;
    - Represents APCA at official events and in external partnerships;
    - Upholds professional standards of camping movements in the region
2. **Vice Presidents**
    - Assist the President in fulfilling the APCA's mission and objectives;
    - May represent key subregional interests within the Asia Pacific Region;
    - May be assigned to oversee specific portfolios or thematic areas such as membership, training, research, conferences, or international relations;
    - Act as deputies in the absence of the President.
3. **Secretary-General**

    The **Secretary-General** serves as the chief administrative officer of the Association and leads the **Secretariat** and **Treasurer**, which functions as the permanent operational arm of APCA.

    Duties of the Secretary-General:
    - Implement decisions of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee;
    - Coordinate the day-to-day affairs of APCA, including member communications, event organization, and program delivery;
    - Maintain records, manage documentation, and produce reports;
    - Supervise the staff and activities of the Secretariat;
    - Manage external partnerships and regional coordination.

    The Secretariat:
    - Shall be hosted by a designated member institution, organization, or country approved by the Executive Committee;
    - May be permanent or rotate every designated term (e.g., every 2 or 4 years), based on decisions made by the Board of Directors;
    - Shall consist of professional staff and volunteers as needed to fulfill its responsibilities;
    - Serves as the primary point of contact for members, partners, and the public;
    - Manages finances, communications, publications, and event logistics under the oversight of the Treasurer and Secretary-General.

    The hosting terms, responsibilities, and transition mechanisms of the Secretariat shall be detailed in the Association's internal regulations.

    The Treasurer:
    - Oversees the financial affairs such as financial planning, reporting, and auditing of the Association;
    - Prepares annual financial reports and budget proposals for approval by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors;
    - Ensures proper financial controls and auditing practices are followed;
    - Advises the Executive Committee on matters of resource management,

fundraising, and sustainability
- Ensures transparency in resource management.

Section 4: The International Advisory Board

An International Advisory Board may be established by the Board of the Directors or the Executive Committee to provide expert guidance, mentorship, or strategic insight. Members may include senior figures in education, youth development, and camp leadership across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Members of the International Advisory Board shall be nominated by at least two (2) APCA members and be subjected for review of credentials and qualifications by the Executive Committee and approved by a vote of at least a simple majority (51%) of the Full Board of Directors.

Section 5: Committees and Working Groups

To effectively carry out its mission and respond to the evolving needs of its members, the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA), through the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, may establish standing or *ad hoc* committees and working groups to support governance, program implementation, and knowledge sharing, and to address specific areas of work.

1. Types of Committees.

   a.) Standing Committees

   Standing Committees shall be permanent bodies established by the Executive Committee and led by the Vice Presidents to oversee core functions of the Association. These may include, but are not limited to:
   - Membership and Outreach Committee
   - Training and Certification Committee
   - Research and Knowledge Sharing Committee
   - Events and Conferences Committee
   - Finance and Resource Development Committee

   b.) *Ad Hoc* or Special Committees

   Ad Hoc Committees may be formed to address specific issues, projects, or time-bound initiatives (e.g., a Charter Review Committee, a Regional Integration Taskforce, or an Emergency Response Working Group).

   c.) Regional Committees

   Regional Committees may be formed to facilitate coordination and localized activities within subregions of the Asia Pacific (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania, East Asia, Central Asia). These committees may collaborate with local partners to support training, events, or advocacy in line with APCA's mission.

2. Working Groups

Besides Committees, APCA may also establish working groups, which may be created to focus on specific thematic interests or innovation areas such as:
- Environmental education and sustainability in camps
- Inclusion and accessibility

- Youth leadership and alumni engagement
- Digital transformation in outdoor education
- Indigenous knowledge and cultural preservation

Working Groups may include representatives from member organizations, experts, practitioners, and youth leaders. Participation is voluntary and inclusive. Each group shall select a coordinator and submit a brief annual report to the Executive Committee.

3. The Appointment and Terms of the Committees and Working Groups
   a.) Committee and Working Group members shall be nominated by the Executive Committee, or by the Board of Directors, or through open calls coordinated by the Secretariat.
   b.) The term of service for Committee members shall be two (2) years, renewable as needed. Working Group participation may be open-ended or based on project timelines.

4. Reporting and Accountability
   a.) All Committees and Working Groups shall operate under a terms of reference approved by the Executive Committee.
   b.) Each body shall report its activities and recommendations to the Executive Committee at least once annually, and may present findings or proposals at the Board of Directors meetings as appropriate.

5. Secretariat Support

The Secretariat shall provide administrative and logistical support to all Committees and Working Groups and facilitate communication and coordination across regions and thematic areas.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

The Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) shall conduct regular and special meetings to ensure effective governance, participation, and coordination among its members and leadership bodies.

Section 1: The Board of Directors Meetings

1. **Frequency**
   The Board of Directors meetings shall convene at least once every year. The meeting may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format, depending on available resources and regional accessibility.
2. **Notice**
   The Secretariat shall give written notice of the date, location, and agenda of the Board of Directors meeting at least two (2) months in advance.
3. **Agenda and Proposals**
   The agenda shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and may include proposals submitted by members no later than six (6) weeks prior to the

meeting. The final agenda shall be distributed at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.

4. **Quorum**
   A quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the actual number of members of the Board of Directors. If quorum is not met, the meeting may proceed for consultation but no binding decisions may be adopted.
5. **Decision-Making**
   Each member on the Board of Directors in good standing shall have one vote unless otherwise specified in the Charter. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes cast, unless otherwise required by the Charter (e.g., Charter amendments, the Association dissolution etc).
6. **Language**
   English shall be the official working language of the Board of Directors meetings. Interpretation or translation may be provided when feasible.

Section 2: Executive Committee Meetings

1. **Frequency**
   The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per year. Additional meetings may be called by the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary-General, or at the request of one-third of Executive Committee members.
2. **Format**
   Meetings may be held physically, virtually, or in hybrid format. Written decisions may also be adopted through electronic circulation if necessary.
3. **Quorum and Voting**
   A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be made by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 3: Special Meetings

1. **Extraordinary General Meetings**
   A Special or Extraordinary Board of Directors meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee or upon request of at least one-third of Board to address urgent or significant matters.
2. **Emergency or Thematic Meetings**
   APCA may organize emergency or issue-specific meetings of members, committees, or working groups to address particular concerns, projects, or opportunities, including but not limited to:
   - Disaster response coordination
   - Regional training and policy updates
   - Strategic planning retreats

Section 4: Records and Transparency

1. **Minutes**
   Minutes shall be recorded for all official meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Draft minutes shall be circulated to attendees

within two (2) weeks of the meeting and finalized upon approval by the Board or the Executive Committee.

2. **Accessibility**
   Summaries of meetings, decisions, and outcomes shall be made available to all members, upon request, through the Secretariat and may be published on the official website or other communication channels.

ARTICLE VI: BIENNIAL ASIA PACIFIC CAMP CONFERENCE (APCC)

Section 1: Purpose and Significance

The Biennial Asia Pacific Camp Conference (APCC) shall be a flagship event organized by the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA), held every two years in a rotating host country or region within the Asia Pacific region. This international gathering shall serve as a major platform for advancing the mission of APCA by facilitating dialogue, collaboration, and innovation across the field of camp education and outdoor experiential learning.

The purpose of the Conference is to:

1. Promote the exchange of knowledge, research, best practices, and innovative models in the fields of camp education, outdoor learning, and youth development;
2. Strengthen connections and promote friendship among member countries and regions, organizations, educators, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region and beyond;
3. Celebrate diversity in cultures and traditions in the Asia Pacific through camp-related activities and programs;
4. Provide opportunities for professional development, training, and capacity building;
5. Showcase camp-related products, services, and technologies through exhibitions;
6. Foster cross-border partnerships, collaborative projects, and regional cohesion within the APCA community and beyond.

Section 2: Frequency and Scope

The Conference shall be held once every two (2) calendar years, with the inaugural conference to be held in the Year of 2025, under the guidance and coordination of the APCA Executive Committee and/or designated Committees/Working Groups so established for the purpose of coordinating stakeholders involved in the organizing of the conference. The conference shall include keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, networking sessions, academic presentations, and an exhibition component for camp-related industries and service providers.

Participation shall be open to all APCA members, as well as the broader public including professionals, institutions, and individuals with an interest in camp education, outdoor learning, and youth development.

Section 3: Host Selection and Bidding Process

1. **Eligibility**: Any Institutional Members of APCA, with the endorsement of relevant governmental agencies, and in good standing, may apply to host the Conference,
2. **Bidding Timeline**: The call for bids shall be issued by the APCA Secretariat at least twenty-four (24) months before the intended Conference year, except for the Inaugural Conference, or scenarios due to unforeseen factors or influences.
3. **Bid Submission**: Prospective hosts shall submit a formal proposal including:
    - Proposed venue and facilities
    - Organizational capacity and local partnerships
    - Preliminary budget and financial plan
    - Logistical and accessibility considerations
    - Commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and regional representation
4. **Evaluation and Decision**: The APCA Executive Committee, or a designated conference committee led by a Vice President, shall review and evaluate all bids based on criteria including feasibility, accessibility, alignment with APCA values, and regional rotation. The selected host shall be approved by a majority vote of the Full Board (each country or region as represented by the Board Members shall have only one vote) and announced at least twelve (12) months prior to the Conference.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities

1. The selected host organization shall work in close collaboration with the APCA Secretariat and relevant committees to ensure the successful planning and execution of the Conference.
2. APCA shall provide technical assistance, promote the event across its networks, and ensure alignment with its strategic goals.
3. A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) shall be established by the host organization, with representation from APCA, to manage on-the-ground planning, programming, logistics, sponsorship, and volunteer engagement.
4. A Conference Report shall be submitted to the APCA Secretariat within three (3) months after the conclusion of the event, summarizing key outcomes, financials, and recommendations.

Section 5: Continuity and Legacy

The Conference shall be documented and archived by the APCA Secretariat to ensure institutional memory, continuity, and the preservation of knowledge generated during each cycle. Each Conference shall contribute to the long-term legacy of APCA by inspiring policy development, strategic initiatives, and enhanced professional practice in the Asia Pacific camp community.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCE

The financial structure of the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) shall be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, sustainability, and equitable contribution by members. All financial activities shall be conducted in accordance with international nonprofit best practices and subject to oversight by the Executive Committee.

Section 1: Sources of Funding

The financial resources of APCA may include, but are not limited to:

1. **Membership fees** as determined and approved by the Board of Directors;
2. **Grants and donations** from governments, foundations, development agencies, corporations, and individuals;
3. **Revenue from activities**, such as conferences, workshops, training programs, publications, and consulting services;
4. **Partnership contributions** and in-kind support from member institutions or external collaborators;
5. **Interest or investment income** from reserve funds, where legally and ethically permissible.

Section 2: Membership Fees

1. Membership fees shall be levied based on the category of membership and shall be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
2. A sliding scale may be applied based on the size and capacity of the member organization or country of origin to promote equitable participation across the region.
3. Members must remain in good financial standing to retain voting rights and access to full member benefits.

Section 3: Budget and Financial Management

1. The Treasurer, in collaboration with the Secretariat, shall prepare an annual budget and financial report for review by the Executive Committee and approval by the Board of Directors.
2. All expenditures shall be aligned with the approved budget and the Association's mission and priorities.
3. The Secretariat shall maintain accurate records of income, expenditures, and assets, and shall ensure timely reporting to all relevant parties.

Section 4: Financial Oversight and Auditing

1. The financial accounts of APCA shall be audited annually by an independent auditor appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Audit reports shall be presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval and made available to all members.
3. The Executive Committee may establish a **Finance and Audit Subcommittee**

to monitor financial practices, risk management, and compliance.

Section 5: Use of Funds and Conflict of Interest

1. All funds shall be used solely for the purposes of the Association and may not be distributed to any member or officer, except as reimbursement for approved expenses or compensation for services rendered under contractual agreement.
2. APCA shall maintain a conflict-of-interest policy for its Executive Committee, staff, and any parties involved in financial decision-making.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER

To ensure that the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) remains responsive to changing needs, challenges, and opportunities, this Charter may be amended in accordance with the following procedures.

Section 1: Authority to Propose Amendments

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by:

1. The Executive Committee, acting by a majority vote; or
2. At least simple majority of the Board of Directors in good standing, acting jointly through a written submission to the Secretariat.

Section 2: Notice and Circulation

1. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretariat at least three (3) months prior to the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting.
2. The Secretariat shall circulate the proposed amendments, together with any explanatory notes, to all members no later than six (6) weeks before the Board of Directors meeting.

Section 3: Deliberation and Adoption

1. Proposed amendments shall be deliberated at the Board of Directors meeting and may be subject to debate, revision, or referral to a Charter Review Committee as needed.
2. To be adopted, an amendment must receive at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes, one vote for each member country or region, cast by one designated representative of the respective member countries or regions, of the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Entry into Force

1. Amendments shall enter into force immediately upon adoption unless otherwise specified in the text of the amendment.
2. The Secretariat shall update the official version of the Charter and ensure its distribution to all members.

ARTICLE IX: ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) affirms its commitment to the highest ethical standards in all of its operations, relationships, and programs. As a network dedicated to youth development, intercultural exchange, and educational equity, APCA upholds principles of integrity, safety, respect, inclusion, and accountability.

Section 1: Core Ethical Principles

All members, officers, staff, volunteers, and affiliates of APCA are expected to uphold the following values:

1. **Integrity and Honesty**
   Act truthfully, transparently, and in good faith in all professional conduct and decision-making.
2. **Respect for Cultural Diversity**
   Honor the traditions, languages, beliefs, and practices of all cultures represented in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.
3. **Youth Safety and Protection**
   Ensure that all programs and environments involving young people adhere to the highest standards of safety, wellbeing, and child protection.
4. **Equity and Inclusion**
   Promote equal participation and opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.
5. **Environmental Responsibility**
   Integrate sustainable and environmentally conscious practices into all aspects of camp education and operations.
6. **Accountability**
   Be accountable to stakeholders, including youth, members, partners, and the general public, and commit to responsible stewardship of resources and responsibilities.

Section 2: Code of Conduct

1. APCA shall develop and maintain a written **Code of Conduct** applicable to all governing bodies, member organizations, staff, and program participants.
2. The Code shall define expected behaviors, reporting mechanisms for misconduct, and consequences for violations.
3. All members and affiliated individuals shall be required to acknowledge and adhere to the Code as a condition of membership or participation in APCA activities.

Section 3: Ethical Oversight

1. The Executive Committee may establish an **Ethics and Safeguarding Committee** to review cases of alleged misconduct, advise on ethics policies, and promote a culture of respect and safety.
2. Alleged violations of the Code of Conduct may result in corrective measures,

including suspension or termination of membership, in accordance with due process and organizational policies.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In recognition of its regional mandate and long-term vision, the Asia Pacific Camp Association (APCA) may only be dissolved under exceptional circumstances and by due process.

Section 1: Conditions for Dissolution

1. The Association may be dissolved only if:
    - It is no longer able to fulfill its mission and objectives; or
    - its continuation becomes legally, financially, or practically impossible.
2. A formal proposal for dissolution must be submitted:
    - By at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee; and
    - By a joint written request from at least two-thirds (2/3) of Board of Directors in good standing.

Section 2: Decision-Making Process

1. A proposal for dissolution shall be deliberated and voted upon at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors convened for this purpose.
2. The Secretariat must provide members with at least three (3) months' notice, including the rationale for dissolution and the proposed procedures.
3. A minimum of three-fourths (3/4) of all members of the Board of Directors must be present or represented, and a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes, one vote for each member country or region, cast by one designated representative of the respective member countries or regions, of the Board of Directors, shall be required to approve dissolution.

Section 3: Liquidation of Assets

1. In the event of dissolution, the Executive Committee shall appoint a **Liquidation Committee** to oversee the proper disposition of assets.
2. After settling all debts and liabilities, any remaining assets shall not be distributed among the members but shall be transferred to:
    - A nonprofit organization or foundation with similar aims in youth development or camp education, preferably within the Asia Pacific region; or
    - a recognized international organization working in youth empowerment, outdoor education, or intercultural learning.
3. The final destination of assets shall be approved by the Board of the Directors or determined by the Liquidation Committee in accordance with applicable laws and this Charter.

Section 4: Documentation and Archiving

All official documents, records, and historical archives of APCA shall be deposited with an appropriate institution or digital repository designated by the Executive Committee to preserve the Association's legacy and intellectual contributions.

ARTICLE XI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

APCA shall be legally registered in a host country or region approved by the Executive Committee. APCA is currently legally registered in Hongkong, China. English shall be its official working language. The Executive Committee shall interpret the Charter in case of ambiguity and may adopt internal regulations to guide governance and operations.

The 14 Founding Board Members shall serve as an Interim Executive Committee until the first elected leadership is installed.

This Charter shall enter into force upon adoption by a two-thirds vote of the 14 Founding Members and shall be signed or endorsed accordingly.

Names and Signatures of the 14 Founding Board Members

Dates November 6, 2025
Location: Anji County, Zhejiang Province, China