



HRVATSKI PLEMIČKI ZBOR

Collegium Nobilium Croaticum

CROATIAN NOBILITY ASSOCIATION RULE BOOK ON MEMBERSHIP

PREAMBLE

Croatian noblemen are only those belonging to clan nobility, nobility granted by Croatian kings or their legitimate heirs that is Hungarian Kings, Austrian Emperors and Doges of Venice as well as those who were granted nobility by other kings and confirmed by the Croatian Parliament.

Since Austro-Hungarian Empire ruled over all Croatian regions from 1814 until 1918 it is not necessary that it had provided letters of patent for previously granted nobility which was abolished during the period of French administration (1807 – 1814). Republic of Venice which ruled over Dalmatia from 1420 to 1797 recognized clan nobility to Dalmatian noblemen.

Noble rank is granted personally – to a specific name and surname.

Article 1

Membership in the Croatian Nobility Association (hereinafter: “the Association”) is defined by Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Statute of the Association relating to:

- a) Regular i.e. full members who are confirmed noblemen and noblewomen with proved nobility, i.e. legitimate descendants of Croatian noble families in an unbroken male line of descent, older than 18 years, and noblemen’s wives if they carry their husband’s family name, or have retained it after a divorce or after their husband’s death. Regular members may also be noblemen’s daughters but only in the first line of succession if they carry their father’s family name. This applies to all citizens of the Republic of Croatia and to all members of the Croatian diaspora whose ancestors belonged to the Croatian nobility.
- b) Associate members. Along with regular members, persons who are not nobles, and individuals and associations from Articles 8 and 9 of the Statute who actively support the programme and goals of the Association, can also join the Association as its associate members. They do not enjoy the membership rights of regular members and they don’t have the voting right, but if they show interest they can assume some tasks from the working programme of the Association and in so be included in a work of the operational bodies of the Association. On the published list of noble members of the Association they are listed as associate members.

- c) Honorary members. Honorary members of the Association could become deserving historians, heraldists, genealogists and other collaborators of the Association, and noble citizens of foreign countries. Honorary members do not enjoy the membership rights of regular members. They do not have the voting right, but if they show interest they could be included in a work of the operational bodies of the Association.

Associate and honorary members for their work and merits may receive charters, certificates of gratitude and other awards wherein it is stated that they are associate resp. honorary members of the Association.

Associate and honorary members are entitled to attend broadened meetings of the Nobiliary Board where they can submit their suggestions and remarks in order to improve the activity of the Association.

The Nobiliary Board proposes and the Great Nobility Council confirms the reception of associate and honorary members of the Association.

The Secretary of the Nobiliary Board keeps separate lists of all the three kinds of members.

Article 2

Membership in the Association for regular members starts with a written application (in attachment) declaring the will to become a member and the obligation to accept the Statute and other documents of the Association. All necessary documents should be attached to the application proving that the applicant's family, whose surname the applicant carries, is noble (legitimate), and that the applicant belongs to that family (continuity).

Nobility of the family is proved by a copy of the charter and of adequate texts from different nobiliary books, biography lexicons and other historical sources. That the applicant belongs to that family is proved by birth certificates for at least three consecutive generations of his/her ancestors in whose certificates of baptism must be stated the nobiliary title, or alternatively by birth certificates of his/her immediate ancestors in a line, up to that ancestor who is mentioned for the first time in a historical source as a nobleman, with the description of circumstances stating who, when and for what merits nobility was granted to him/her or to any of his/her ancestors. The family tree must be attached.

Article 3

It is necessary to attach to the application evidence of belonging to the Croatian nobility, birth certificate or extract from the register of births, if necessary certificate of baptism, as evidence that the candidate is older than 18 years, a curriculum vitae with basic data on himself/herself and on the close family, and a photo.

Article 4

The application is submitted in applicant's home town if there is the Association's Branch there or to the Croatian Nobility Association in Zagreb.

Article 5

The Herald of the Branch verifies the submitted application (if necessary asks for completion), fulfils the questionnaire for new members (example attached) and writes his/her opinion, later the application is presented to the Board of the Branch and if they determine that the membership qualifications are met the subject is forwarded to the Herald of the Association. The Herald of the Association verifies the documentation and if it is complete he/she presents it to the Membership Committee and proposes that the Nobiliary Board gives its final approval. When the application is sent directly to the Association the Heraldic Committee verifies the documentation and asks for completion if necessary. It also asks the approval of the Branch if there is any. The Nobiliary Board reserves the right, subject to its discretion, to veto any applicant without explanation. The Nobiliary Board issues a patent of nobility (preliminary charter). Officially the applicant is voted at the session of the Great Nobiliary Council. Official Charter of the Croatian Nobility Association is granted at the first session of the Great Nobiliary Council.

Article 6

Rights and obligations of permanent members are:

- to promote the goals of the Association,
- to participate in the work of the Association,
- to have the right to elect and to be elected to all the bodies of the Association,
- to be granted the Membership Charter, membership card and badge of the Association,
- to be informed of the Association's activities,
- to suggest and encourage the work of the Association,
- to evaluate and appraise the work of the Association,
- to preserve the honour, dignity, reputation and interests of the Association,
- to perform tasks set up by the Statute and Decisions of the Executive Bodies of the Association,
- to help one another in private life,
- when applying for membership to sign a declaration guaranteeing to return the Charter, membership card and badge in case of withdrawal from membership,
- to be allowed to use the coat of arms of the Association on their private-business cards,
- to pay the initiation fee, membership fee and other dues according to the decisions of the relevant bodies of the Association,
- to inform the Nobiliary Board on every change of address or any other change of personal data.

Article 7

Associate and Honorary members can be admitted into the Association after the proposal of the Branch Board or the Nobiliary Board as prescribed in Article 1 and having confirmed that the proposed members can contribute or have already contributed to the promotion of the goals of the Association. If these persons possess the necessary expertise and social reputation, and if they accept the membership,

The Nobiliary Board completes the procedure by granting them the status of an Associate or Honorary Member. They are awarded a Charter at the session of the Great Nobiliary Council.

Rights and obligations of Associate and Honorary members are:

- to promote the goals of the Association,
- to participate in the work of the Association,
- to have the right to elect or to be elected to the bodies of the Association,
- to be granted the membership charter, membership card and badge of the Association.
- to be informed about the Association's activities
- to put forward proposals and to encourage the work of the Association,
- to evaluate and appraise the work of the Association,
- to preserve the honour, dignity, reputation and interests of the Association,
- to perform tasks established by the Statute and decisions of the executive bodies of the Association,
- to help one another in private life,
- to Inform the Nobiliary Board of every change of address, residence , domicile, or family name, and any other change of personal data

The Secretary of the Association must provide a biography for every associate and honorary member.

Article 8

Regular members shall pay the annual membership fee in the amount determined by the Nobiliary Board.

Associate members participate with their annual contribution in the settlement of obligations according to their possibilities, the lowest amount being that paid by the regular members.

Honorary members are exempt from membership fee and contribution. Donors who participate with a one-off contribution for the financial needs of the Association receive a Certificate of gratitude in writing, or in the form of a charter, depending on the amount of their contribution.

Article 9

A member of the Association who violates his/her membership obligations and duties is committing a disciplinary infringement and shall be responsible before the Court of Honour on the basis of the testimonies of the members and evaluation of evidence

Article 10

Disciplinary measures for minor offences are warning and reprimand, issued by the Nobiliary Board, and disciplinary measure for serious offences is expulsion – proposed by the Nobiliary Board and decided by the Great Nobiliary Council.

Minor offences are unjustified absence from the meetings of the working bodies of the Association, not completing the planned obligations, unpaid membership fee for one year. Serious offences are repetition of minor offences, overdue membership obligations for two years and acting against the interests, goals and programme of the Association.

Here are understood also the activities which are contrary to the goals and programme of the Association and damaging the Association's reputation in public. Lack of respect for decisions of the Association's executive bodies and of the provisions of the Statute is also considered a serious offence. Any member expelled by the Association can be readmitted.

Article 11

Disciplinary measures are brought by the Court of Honour and confirmed by the Nobiliary Board. An appeal against a decision of the Nobiliary Board is submitted to the Great Nobiliary Council.

Article 12

The membership in the Association ceases by:

- death,
- voluntary resignation submitted in writing to the Nobiliary Board,
- overdue membership obligations for two years,
- a final judgment for the criminal offence which is contrary to the moral principles of the Association (honesty, patriotism),
- presenting themselves under a false name and forged identification documents to prove nobility, and forgery of personal data,
- if sectarianism is introduced in the Association,
- if a member's speech, work, behaviour in public life is against the goals of the Association
- change of a regular member's surname.

Article 13

Members of the Association who excel in their activities may get an honourable mention by the Nobiliary Board, which could be noted in the minutes, or they could be honoured in writing.

Article 14

Exceptionally meritorious members of the Association, at the proposal of the Nobiliary Board, are granted by the Great Nobiliary Council, a special award – a plaque. The plaque could be granted posthumously. The plaque is a silver coat of arms of the Association with a special charter.

Article 15

This Rulebook enters into force immediately after its adoption at the session of the Nobiliary Board on 2th December 2013.

In Zagreb, 2th December 2013.