

The Stochastic Programming Society

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Names

This organization shall be named “The Stochastic Programming Society (SPS).

ARTICLE 2 – Purpose and Existence

SPS exists as a Technical Section of the Mathematical Optimization Society (MOS) and as such is subject to the MOS bylaws for Technical Sections. SPS promotes the development and application of stochastic programming theory, models, methods, analysis, software tools and standards, and encourages the exchange of information among practitioners and scholars in the area of stochastic programming. SPS also serves as a liaison to related professional societies to promote stochastic programming.

ARTICLE 3 – Terms and Definitions

In addition to SPS, these bylaws reference the Committee on Stochastic Programming (COSP), the “SPS email list,” the “SP Society Home Page” (<https://www.stoprog.org>), and the “International Conference on Stochastic Programming” (ICSP). The SPS email list (previously named the COSP email list) list is open to all members of the SPS. The SPS Home Page is a web page maintained by SPS. The ICSP is discussed in Article 12. These bylaws refer to the countries (and continents) of residence of certain individuals; these are to be determined by the individual’s country (continent) of permanent residence. COSP is the governing board of COSP and is detailed in Article 5.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership

A person does not have to be a member of MOS to be a member of SPS. Members join SPS by completing and submitting a membership form prescribed by the Committee on Stochastic Programming (COSP) or by registering for and attending the International Conference on Stochastic Programming (ICSP). The Secretary and Webmaster shall design and post an online membership form that populates the membership database. The Secretary and ICSP organizers shall work together to enter attendees of ICSP into the membership database. All members are automatically placed on the SPS mailing list.

Membership in SPS renews automatically when registering for and attending the ICSP; membership can also be renewed by submitting a membership form. Membership lapses if a member fails to attend two consecutive ICSPs. A member can also request removal from the mailing list by email to the COSP Secretary.

ARTICLE 5 – The Committee on Stochastic Programming (COSP) and Officers

The governing board of SPS is called The Committee on Stochastic Programming (COSP).

- a) COSP shall consist of eight elected members, including its officers. New members of COSP are nominated and elected as detailed in Article 6.
- b) If the General Chair of the forthcoming ICSP is not among the elected members, he or she shall be admitted as a member of COSP *ex officio*.
- c) Membership on COSP is restricted to at most four members from any one continent (or country).
- d) The officers of COSP shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- e) The Chair shall be nominated and elected as detailed in Article 7.
- f) The Chair shall appoint the Secretary.
- g) The Chair and Secretary shall reside on different continents.
- h) COSP shall elect the Treasurer from among the members of COSP, excluding the Chair and Secretary.
- i) The officers of COSP shall also act as the officers of SPS.
- j) The Chair shall be the chief administrative officer of SPS. He/she shall (i) call and organize COSP meetings, (ii) appoint ad hoc committees as needed, (iii) manage the affairs of SPS between meetings, (iv) preside at SPS Business Meetings, (v) attend and represent SPS at Council Meetings at the triennial International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP), (vi) oversee the SPS account with the Treasurer, and (vii) appoint the Webmaster, who need not be a member of COSP but shall work with COSP to maintain the SPS Web Page.
- k) The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of COSP meetings and SPS Business Meetings, work with the Chair to conduct the affairs of SPS, manage memberships, and manage elections and voting procedures at SPS Business Meetings.
- l) The Treasurer shall oversee the SPS account with the Chair.

ARTICLE 6 – Tenure, Nomination, and Election of COSP Members

- a) Tenure: COSP members are elected for one term between consecutive ICSPs. An individual may be a COSP member for at most two consecutive terms. Terms served according to Article 5b) shall not be counted in the application of this rule.
- b) Nomination: The Chair shall solicit nominations for COSP members at least one month prior to the ICSP through the SPS email list, as well as at the ICSP. With the exception of retiring COSP members who have just served two consecutive terms, any SPS member may be nominated.
- c) Election: All registered conference participants who have not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the SPS Business Meeting may vote in the election of COSP members. Each voter may vote for up to n new COSP members from the slate of nominees who have accepted nomination, where n is the number being elected. Positions will be filled by the nominees receiving the most votes, subject to the restrictions outlined in Article 4, until all positions are filled. Ties shall be broken by an appropriate game of chance. All votes are by secret ballot.
- d) Initiation of terms: The terms for the new COSP members shall begin at the close of the ICSP at which they were elected.
- e) Vacancies: COSP member vacancies that occur between elections may be filled by majority vote of COSP. For such COSP members, their partial terms shall not count against the term limits of Article 6.a.

- f) Dismissals: A COSP member may be dismissed from COSP between elections by a unanimous vote of the remaining COSP members. Such removal is only to be undertaken due to either: (i) an inability of that person to perform the duties of the position, e.g., due to death, prolonged sickness, or lack of communication with COSP for a prolonged period of his/her term, or (ii) demonstrated and chronic failure of that person to perform the duties of his/her position.

ARTICLE 7 – Tenure, Nomination, and Election of the Chair

- a) Tenure: The Chair shall hold one term between consecutive ICSPs.
- b) Nomination: The outgoing Chair shall solicit nominations for the next Chair at least one month prior to the ICSP through the SPS email list, as well as at the ICSP. With the exception of an outgoing Chair who has completed a full term, any SPS member may be nominated. To qualify as a nominee for the Chair, nominees who are not members of COSP must first be elected according to the process described in Article 6. In the event no qualified nominees remain after the election of COSP members, further nominations from the newly formed COSP shall be sought at the SPS Business Meeting.
- c) Election: Election of the Chair shall follow election of the COSP members as detailed in Article 6. All registered conference participants who have not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the SPS Business Meeting may vote in the election of the Chair. The nominee receiving the majority of cast votes shall be the elected Chair. If a majority is not achieved, the nominee receiving the least votes is eliminated from consideration and the process repeated until a majority is obtained. Further ties shall be broken by a game of chance. All votes are by secret ballot.
- d) Initiation of term: The term for the new Chair shall begin at the close of the ICSP at which he/she was elected.
- e) Vacancies: A Chair that is vacated between elections may be filled by majority vote of COSP. Such a Chair, not having served a full term, is eligible for nomination as Chair at the following ICSP.
- f) Dismissals: The Chair may be dismissed between elections by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of COSP. Such removal is only to be undertaken due to either: (i) an inability of that person to perform the duties of the position, e.g., due to death, prolonged sickness, or lack of communication with COSP for a prolonged period of his/her term or (ii) demonstrated and chronic failure of that person to perform the duties of his/her position.

ARTICLE 8 – Finances

SPS will maintain an account that will be administered for SPS by MOS. The Chair and the Treasurer are jointly responsible for the management of SPS finances. At each SPS Business meeting, the Chair will report the income and expenditures since the previous SPS Business meeting, as well as the current balance of the account. All expenditures must be approved by a majority of COSP members.

ARTICLE 9 – Committees

The Chair, with the approval of COSP, shall establish committees as needed to carry out the business of COSP. Committee members and chairs have to be approved by majority vote of COSP. Such committees may consist of both COSP and non-COSP members. One such committee is the Conference Site Advisory Committee, discussed further in Article 11.

ARTICLE 10 – SPS Business Meetings and COSP Meetings

- a) An SPS Business Meeting shall take place at each ICSP. The meeting shall be open to all SPS members.
- b) COSP Meetings shall be organized on an as-needed basis. In all such meetings, at least 50% of COSP members shall constitute a quorum. COSP members who are unable to attend a meeting may vote by proxy, where the proxy is named by the absent COSP member and validated by the Chair. The meeting agenda, including items to be voted upon, shall be distributed to COSP members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Proxy votes may be applied toward the quorum.

ARTICLE 11 – The International Conference on Stochastic Programming (ICSP)

- a) The ICSP shall be held every three years, being in the year after the triennial ISMP and is to be a scientific conference.
- b) At least one year prior to the n -th ICSP, the Chair shall appoint a three-person Conference Site Advisory Committee (CSAC). The Chair shall not be a member of CSAC.
- c) The CSAC shall solicit proposals to organize the $n+1$ -st ICSP. To the fullest extent possible and practicable, proposals should be solicited in such a manner as to ensure:
 - i. consecutive ICSPs are not held on the same continent;
 - ii. members of the CSAC do not propose hosting the ICSP under consideration; and,
 - iii. the solicitation is public, including an announcement via the SPS email list.
- d) Proposals should identify the Organizing Committee responsible for the conference.
- e) All qualifying proposals shall be presented to COSP and to the SPS Business Meeting. CSAC shall lead a discussion at the SPS Business Meeting on the proposals. The site for the $n+1$ -st ICSP shall be decided by a majority vote of the union of the COSP and CSAC members, excluding any site proposers. The vote shall take place in a COSP Meeting after the SPS Business Meeting but prior to the end of the ICSP. If none of the proposals receives a majority of the cast votes in the first round of voting, run-offs shall be held as follows:
 - i. If there are two proposals remaining and the vote is tied, the tie shall be broken by a vote of the three-person CSAC. If that vote results in a tie, the Chair shall make the selection.
 - ii. If there are three or more proposals, the proposal receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated from further consideration, and another vote will be taken. If none of the remaining proposals receives a majority of the cast votes, repeat from 11.e.i.
- f) All votes are by secret ballot.
- g) The Organizing Committee is responsible for the logistics as well as the ICSP program. The Organizing Committee should solicit invited and contributed papers, and formulate the technical program.
- h) The Organizing Committee should solicit funds from appropriate organizations to enhance the value of the conference. Examples of such enhancements include (1) travel assistance funds for important contributors who would not otherwise be able to attend the conference; (2) travel assistance funds for student contributors to the conference; (3) funds to partially defray the costs of a banquet or other social events
- i) The Organizing Committee should plan social events, such as a reception or a banquet.

- j) The Organizing Committee should publicize the meeting by means of advertisements, mailings, and postings on appropriate web sites. The Organizing Committee arranges for development and maintenance of a web site for ICSP. The Organizing Committee should keep the site available indefinitely after ICSP, or else should arrange with the Society's webmaster to transfer its contents to the Society web site.
- k) The Organizing Committee should set registration fees that are significantly lower for students and retired members than for other participants. The conference fees must be approved in advance by COSP.
- l) The Organizing Committee should schedule and publicize the SPS Business Meeting, as called for by the Constitution, in an auditorium or a room of appropriate size.
- m) The Organizing Committee should submit a report on the conference that includes a summary of the number of attendees, their distribution according to country of residence, a final financial report, and lessons to be passed to prospective future conference organizers. The chair of the Organizing Committee shall submit this report to the COSP Chair within four months of the end of ICSP. This report will become part of the permanent records of SPS.
- n) The Organizing Committee should forward to the Secretary on or before the date of submission of the conference report a list of the names, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses of ICSP registrants who are eligible for SPS as a result of their participation in ICSP.
- o) The Organizing Committee is solely responsible for financing ICSP. It is expected that the Organizing Committee will cover all expenses through registration fees, grants and institutional support.
- p) At least 6 months prior to ICSP, the Organizing Committee should present to COSP a budget for ICSP that covers all anticipated income and expenses. A financial report on ICSP will be included in the conference report.
- q) If the conference produced a financial surplus, at least half of such surplus must be transferred to the SPS account within four months of the end of the conference.
- r) A member of the Organizing Committee may not participate in a discussion pertaining to a financial arrangement for the conference when such arrangement would benefit a person who is the member's spouse, ancestor, brother, sister (whether whole or half blood), child (whether natural or adopted), grandchild, great-grandchild, or the spouse of the member's brother, sister, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild, or a business closely associated with the member. Any such committee member shall reveal such conflict of interest to the Organizing Committee and to COSP before the Organizing Committee considers the task pertaining to such family member or such a business.

ARTICLE 12 – Endorsements

SPS may be requested to endorse events such as scholarly conferences and workshops. The decision to extend SPS endorsement shall be made by a majority vote of the COSP members. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall make the decision. As a guideline, if such an event is to receive SPS endorsement, the event should include at least one major lecture (e.g., keynote, plenary, or semi-plenary) in some area of stochastic programming, and at least one session should be devoted to stochastic programming.

ARTICLE 13 – Dupačová-Prékopa Best Student Paper Prize in Stochastic Programming

- a) The Dupačová-Prékopa Best Student Paper Prize will be given at each ICSP, starting 2010, in recognition of the most outstanding student-authored paper(s) on Stochastic Programming, as judged by a panel of experts (the Best Student Paper Prize Committee) appointed by COSP.

The prize will go to all student co-authors of the winning paper(s). We refer to a student author/co-author on any submission to the prize as an “entrant”.

- b) The ICSP Organizing Committee for the ICSP where the prize is awarded will be responsible for obtaining financial support for the prize, which will consist of a plaque for each winning entrant and an honorarium.
- c) The Chair of the Best Student Paper Prize Committee will announce the opening of the competition at the beginning of the calendar year in which the ICSP conference will be held.
- d) The Best Student Paper Prize Committee will consist of at least 3 members selected by COSP, and will be responsible for setting deadlines, soliciting entries for the prize, judging of the submitted papers. For continuity, normally one committee member will serve on two consecutive prize committees. The membership of the committee should attempt to reflect the international character of SPS. Committee members may not participate in the judging or discussion for any entry for which they have a conflict of interest (e.g., are a co-author or collaborate with any of the co-authors).
- e) Each entry must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
 - i. The paper must present original research results.
 - ii. All entrants must have been students within the previous 3 years of the year of the prize.
 - iii. The research must have been conducted while the entrants were students.
 - iv. The paper must be written in English and published in (or submitted to) a journal, conference, or other peer reviewed venue.
 - v. The paper must be written by the entrants with only minor outside assistance. Advisors or other collaborators may appear as co-authors of a paper, but the student entrants must be the main contributors.
 - vi. The entrants can be authors/co-authors in at most one paper submitted to the competition.
 - vii. The paper must not have won a previous SPS Best Student Paper Award nor a previous SPS Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize.
- f) Entrants must submit to the Best Student Paper Prize Committee Chair before the deadline the following:
 - i. An electronic copy (a pdf file) of the paper.
 - ii. The publication information for the work. If the paper is still under review, state the name of the venue (journal, conference, etc.) and point in the review process.
 - iii. The names of all entrants and an email address and phone number where they can be contacted in the event they are selected as finalists.
 - iv. A letter signed by all authors attesting that the eligibility conditions are met. In case the paper is co-authored with advisors or other collaborators, the letter should include a statement about the share of contribution of the student(s) both in the theoretical and in the practical part.
- g) Judgment criteria: The papers will be judged on the following criteria:
 - i. Magnitude of the contribution to the advancement of the field of stochastic programming;
 - ii. Originality of ideas and methods;
 - iii. Clarity and excellence of exposition.
- h) The Best Student Paper Prize Committee may decide not to award the prize to any of the entrants of the competition. The prize committee may also decide to award several prizes in addition to the "first prize", such as a "second prize" and/or a "runner-up prize."
- i) The Best Student Paper Prize Committee selects the awardees before the ICSP meeting. The prize committee shares the list of shortlisted entrants (awardees and finalists) with the COSP at

least two months prior to the ICSP where the prize is being awarded. The shortlisted entrants will also be informed; they are expected to attend the ICSP meeting and present their papers. The ICSP Organizing Committee will be responsible for scheduling a special "award" session before the SPS Business Meeting. During the business meeting, the prize committee will announce the winner(s).

ARTICLE 14 – Roger J-B Wets Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize in Stochastic Programming

- a) The Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize in Stochastic Programming will be given at each ICSP, starting in 2025, in recognition of an outstanding paper(s) on Stochastic Programming, authored by a junior researcher or by a team of junior researchers (the entrants) as judged by a panel of experts (the Junior Researcher Paper Prize Committee) appointed by COSP.
- b) The prize will consist of a plaque and an honorarium. The prize will be supported in perpetuity by an endowment provided by Roger Wets' family.
- c) The Chair of the Junior Researcher Paper Prize Committee will announce the opening of the competition at the beginning of the calendar year in which the ICSP conference will be held.
- d) The Junior Researcher Paper Prize Committee will consist of at least 3 members selected by COSP, and will be responsible for setting deadlines, soliciting entries for the prize, and judging the submitted papers. For continuity, normally, one committee member will serve on two consecutive prize committees. The membership of the committee should attempt to reflect the international character of SPS. Committee members may not participate in the judging or discussion for any entry for which a conflict of interest arises.
- e) Each entry must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
 - i. The paper must present original research results and must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed English language journal in the 3 calendar years preceding the year of the submission.
 - ii. All co-authors must have obtained their highest degree (e.g., their PhD) in one of the seven calendar years preceding the year of the submission. This period of seven years may be extended for personal reasons, such as parental leave or health issues. Requests for extensions need to be sent to the Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize Committee Chair accompanied by appropriate documentation. The Committee will decide if an extension is granted.
 - iii. The paper may not have won the SPS Best Student Paper Prize in previous years and may not be simultaneously considered for the Dupačová-Prékopa Best Student Paper Prize.
 - iv. The paper must not have won a previous SPS Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize.
 - v. Any entrant can be (co-)author in at most one paper submitted to the competition.
- f) Entrants must submit to the Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize Committee Chair before the deadline the following:
 - i. An electronic copy (a pdf file) of the paper.
 - ii. The publication information for the work.
 - iii. Email addresses and phone numbers where the entrants can be contacted in the event the entrants are selected as finalists.

- iv. A letter signed by all co-authors attesting that the eligibility conditions are met. In case an extension is requested, the letter should be accompanied by appropriate documentation, as discussed in e) ii.
- g) Judgment criteria: The winning paper will be judged on the following criteria:
 - i. Magnitude of the contribution to the advancement of the field of stochastic programming;
 - ii. Originality of ideas and methods;
 - iii. Clarity and excellence of exposition.
- h) The Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize Committee may decide not to award the prize to any of the entrants of the competition. The prize committee may also decide to award several prizes in addition to the "first prize", such as a "second prize" and/or a "runner-up prize."
- i) The Junior Researcher Best Paper Prize Committee selects the awardees before the ICSP meeting. The prize committee shares the list of shortlisted entrants (awardees and finalists) with the COSP at least two months prior to the ICSP where the prize is being awarded. The shortlisted entrants will also be informed; they are expected to attend the ICSP meeting and present their papers. The ICSP Organizing Committee will be responsible for scheduling a special "junior award" session before the SPS Business Meeting. During the business meeting, the prize committee will announce the winner(s).

ARTICLE 15 – Impact Prize in Stochastic Programming

- a) The Impact Prize in Stochastic Programming will be given at each ICSP, starting 2026, in recognition of demonstrable excellence in using Stochastic Programming (broadly understood) to make a positive (ideally quantifiable) impact (on society, an organization, etc.), as judged by a panel of experts (the Impact Prize Committee) appointed by COSP.
- b) The ICSP Organizing Committee for the ICSP where the prize is awarded will be responsible for obtaining financial support for the prize, which will consist of a plaque.
- c) The Chair of the Impact Prize Committee will announce the opening of the competition at the beginning of the calendar year in which the ICSP conference will be held.
- d) The Impact Prize Committee will consist of at least 3 members selected by COSP, and will be responsible for setting deadlines, soliciting entries for the prize, and judging the submitted entries. For continuity, normally one committee member will serve on two consecutive prize committees. The membership of the committee should attempt to reflect the international character of SPS. Committee members may not participate in the judging or discussion for any entry for which a conflict of interest arises.
- e) Each entry must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
 - i. The entry must present a real-world application of Stochastic Programming (broadly understood) resulting in positive (ideally quantifiable) impact (on society, an organization, or other entity). The relevance will be judged by the Impact Prize Committee.
 - ii. The entry must be piloted or implemented in a real-world setting.
 - iii. The entry must not have won a previous Impact Award.
- f) Entrants must submit to the Impact Prize Committee Chair before the deadline the following:
 - i. A cover page with the title, authors' names, affiliations and contact information.
 - ii. A maximum 600-character abstract of the achievement

- iii. A summary (maximum of 1,500 words) that describes what has been accomplished in enough detail to let the Impact Prize Committee judge the appropriateness of the work for the competition.
- iv. Written verification of impact in practice signed by the representative of the organization, community, or other entity that has benefited from the work.
- v. An email address and phone number where each entrant can be contacted in the event they are selected as a finalist.
- vi. A letter signed by the entrants attesting that the eligibility conditions are met.
- g) Judgment criteria: The entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - i. The level of implementation of the work of entry (e.g., pilot study or current use).
 - ii. The quantitative impact of the entry to the organization, community, or other entity that used it (e.g., dollars saved, lives saved).
 - iii. The qualitative impact of the entry to the organization, community, or other entity that used it (e.g., process improvement, community, or user satisfaction).
 - iv. The level of innovation of the solution (e.g., advances in stochastic programming or related field, appropriateness of the solution for the problem considered).
 - v. The level of difficulty of implementing the solution (e.g., technical or political challenges that needed to be overcome).
- h) The Impact Prize Committee may decide not to award the prize to any of the entrants of the competition. The prize committee may also decide to award several prizes in addition to the "first prize", such as a "second prize" and/or a "runner-up prize."
- i) The Impact Prize Committee selects the awardees before the ICSP meeting. The prize committee shares the list of shortlisted entrants (awardees and finalists) with the COSP at least two months prior to the ICSP where the prize is being awarded. The shortlisted entrants will also be informed; they are expected to attend the ICSP meeting and present their entries. The ICSP Organizing Committee will be responsible for scheduling a special "impact award" session before the SPS Business Meeting. During the business meeting, the prize committee will announce the winner(s).
- j) An award plaque will be given to all entrants and to their client organization.

ARTICLE 16 – Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be initiated by the action of COSP or SPS members. A proposed amendment must be endorsed by at least three SPS members. The Secretary shall distribute proposed amendments at least two weeks prior to the SPS Business Meeting via the SPS email list. Adoption of the amendment at the SPS Business meeting shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all registered conference participants who are not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the SPS Business Meeting.

ADOPTION

The Constitution and Bylaws were adopted 12 October 2004 by a unanimous vote of those attending the COSP Business Meeting at the 10th International Conference on Stochastic Programming in Tucson, Arizona. Amendments to the bylaws were approved after adoption by a unanimous vote at the COSP Business Meeting at the 12th International Conference on Stochastic Programming in Halifax, Canada. Further amendments to the bylaws were approved on by a vote at the COSP Business Meeting at the 13th International Conference on Stochastic Programming in Bergamo, Italy, by a vote at the SPS business

meeting at the 15th ICSP in Trondheim, Norway in 2019 (Article 13), and by a vote at the 17th ICSP in Paris, France in 2025 (Articles 13-15).