

Association Statutes

amended at the General Meeting of the Association of Poles in Northern Finland – Amendment of the Statutes

on 4 September 2025

Updated on 31 May 2026

1. Name and location of the Association

The name of the association is the Association of Poles in Northern Finland (Pohjois-Suomen Puolalaisten Yhdistys ry). The registered location of the association is Oulu.

2. Objectives of the Association

The aim of the association is to preserve and promote Polish culture and the Polish language, as well as to develop cultural cooperation between Finland and Poland. The association also seeks to support Poles living in Finland and their families. Its objectives include:

- promoting physical and mental health, social well-being, and safety,
- counteracting discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic origin, or religion,
- counteracting racism and xenophobia,
- supporting diversity and equality in all aspects of professional and social life,
- inspiring and supporting local communities to take active initiatives for development and to foster civic responsibility and volunteering,
- supporting the values promoted by the European Union,
- supporting the integration of immigrants,
- counteracting loneliness,
- organizing support groups,
- conducting intergenerational activities involving children, young people, and seniors,
- promoting a healthy lifestyle and physical activity,
- ensuring equal access to culture and the arts, as well as improving well-being through culture, hobbies, and contact with nature
- Polish language teaching

Means to Achieve the Objectives

To achieve its aims, the association may:

- organize courses, training, and workshops;
- organize competitions, exhibitions, trips, and camps;
- hold events, concerts, and exhibitions;
- maintain electronic communication channels;

- publish bulletins and other communication materials;
- provide advisory services;
- organize public debates and research activities;
- bring members together for joint activities;
- develop cooperation with other entities; arrange working group meetings;
- organize trips related to the association's purpose;
- participate in tenders;
- acquire materials, tools, and premises necessary for its activities;
- promote active leisure;
- prepare and deliver presentations, initiatives, reports, and opinions for other entities and authorities;
- cooperate with public authorities, organizations, companies, and private individuals;
- distribute literature and materials promoting Polish culture or other activities in line with its goals.
- to teach Polish to children and adults through the Community School operated by the Association of Poles in Northern Finland.

To support its activities, the association may, where necessary, obtain permits to:

- organize collections and lotteries, sales, and flea markets;
- organize paid events;
- receive grants, donations, and bequests;
- own movable and immovable property necessary for its activities;
- run a café;
- provide alcoholic beverages during its events;
- organize volunteer work;
- sell advertising space;
- conclude sponsorship agreements;
- organize conferences, festivals, and other activities aligned with its objectives.

3. Membership

Anyone who accepts the aims and statutes of the association may become a member. The board decides on the admission of new members.

4. Membership Fee

The annual membership fee and its amount are determined at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Board of the Association

The association is managed by a board elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The board consists of the chairperson and 3–8 other members. The term of office lasts until the next Annual General Meeting.

The board includes a vice-chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and other members. Board meetings are convened by the chairperson or, in their absence, by the vice-chair, as

required by the association's needs or at the request of at least half of the board members. A quorum is present if the chair or vice-chair and at least half of the members are present. Decisions are made by simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the chair's vote is decisive; for elections, the outcome is determined by drawing lots.

6. Right of Signature

The right to sign on behalf of the association is held by the chair, vice-chair, secretary, or treasurer, with two signatures required jointly.

7. Financial Year

The association's financial year is the calendar year.

8. Meetings of the Association

Board meetings may also be held via mail or other telecommunication channels.

The Annual General Meeting is held between January and May, as determined by the board.

Each member has one vote.

Decisions are made by a majority of votes, unless otherwise stipulated. In the event of a tie, the chair casts the deciding vote; for elections, lots are drawn

9. Convening the Annual Meeting

Notice of the Annual General Meeting must be sent at least 7 days in advance. Invitations may be sent by letter or e-mail, or announced on the association's website or social media profile.

10. Agenda of the Annual Meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the meeting chair, secretary, and two auditors of the minutes
3. Confirmation of legality and quorum
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Presentation of the financial statement and annual report
6. Adoption of the financial statement
7. Approval of the activity plan and budget for the current year
8. Election of the chair and other board members
9. Election of the auditor and deputy auditor

10. Other issues

Any member wishing to raise a matter at the Annual General Meeting must notify the board in writing in advance.

11. Amendments to the Statutes and Dissolution

Amendments to the statutes or dissolution of the association require a three-fourths (3/4) majority of votes cast at a meeting attended by the members. The notice of the meeting must specify that the agenda includes an amendment or dissolution.

Upon dissolution, the association's funds and assets will be used in accordance with its objectives, as decided by the liquidation meeting.