

FIPT Operational Rules Workgroup Report to Conference Participants August 2019

Background

The *FIPT* Operational Rules and Bulletins workgroup was on a list of virtual workgroups verbally agreed to at the 2018 World Service Conference. The last WSC had several sessions devoted to the *FIPT*. Prior to the WSC, there was a request to inspect the property of the *FIPT*, which has subsequently taken place. The request highlighted the need to review and update sections of the *FIPT's* operational rules and use bulletins. This is work the Board has known needed to be done, but hasn't been prioritized until now.

The workgroup has been a productive and collaborative. They have met virtually many times to advance this work. Many of the workgroup members have never met each other in-person, but all have found a way to work together, stay informed, and provide thoughtful feedback. We are pleased to report that the World Board (WB) accepted all of the recommendations from the workgroup, after discussions at several Board meetings. The WB had some edits to the documents but nothing substantial. We want to thank all of the workgroup members for their time and attention to this work since WSC 2018.

The workgroup is led by Junior as the point person. The remaining members of the group, as reported earlier this cycle, are:

Art A	RD Southern Ca
Troy B	RD CT
Sharon S	RD Lone Star
Kelly S	RD Alabama
Mitchell S	RDA Greater NY
Jim B	RDA Volunteer
Mario T	Australia

This report outlines all of the proposed changes to the *FIPT* Operational Rules and to Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 – commonly called the Use Policy, as well as our ideas for future changes to the *FIPT* itself. Along with this report we are sending copies of both the Operational Rules and the bulletin showing all of the changes that we are proposing. Our hope is to gather your ideas on the August CP webinar and before our October WB meeting before we frame motions and finalize materials for the 2020 *Conference Agenda Report* which will be published at the end of November 2019.

The *FIPT* and all of the bulletins and related documents are posted at www.na.org/fipt

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Information Given to Workgroup

The World Board provided the workgroup with the following information to begin their work:

The polling and decisions from WSC 2018 were:

Do you agree that a change is needed in the future to Article III of the Operational Rules? (this has no effect on the current inspection request)

Straw poll: 93-15-4-2 consensus support

Acting as the trustor, the delegates present at WSC 2018 are suspending Article 5, Section 3 of the FIPT Operational Rules, while we make a decision about the future. This suspension would expire at the close of WSC 2020.

Initial straw poll: 85-23-0-3 strong support

Final vote/decision: 89-22-0-2 consensus support

The WB presented the following proposed change to the operational rules at WSC 2018, but no request was made to the WSC to make a decision on this.

SECTION 3: INSPECTION OF TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES

Conditions of inspection

~~Any regional service committee or equivalent service body~~ The World Service Conference may inspect the records and operations of the Trust on behalf of the Beneficiary, ~~providing the following conditions are met~~ if it so chooses. The details of such an inspection would be decided by the WSC.

Explanation of the scope of the workgroup's role and task:

The Board explained to participants at WSC 2018 that a virtual workgroup would be created to review the *FIPT* Operational Rules and Bulletins, using the WSC 2018 actions and discussions as a guide. The workgroup will make recommendations to the World Board about potential changes to any of these documents. The WB will need to decide what to present in the 2020 *CAR*, based on the workgroup's recommendations but not bound by them. The Board has the responsibility to make their own recommendation and will need to keep ongoing communication with participants.

The workgroup will need to meet and draft recommendations early enough in the cycle to allow the WB to adequately discuss the workgroup recommendations and engage Conference participants in a discussion well ahead of the 2020 *CAR* deadline.

Operational Rules

As a reminder, the Operational Rules describe the way the *FIPT* is to be administered. Section 2 of the Operational Rules explains their purpose. This is a summary of the changes we are recommending that are all noted in the document that we are sending along with this report.

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The workgroup began its work focused on the inspection clause in Article V Section 3 of the *FIPT* Operational Rules. They had relatively long, involved, and very spirited conversations. Early discussions were framed around the change the board proposed at WSC 2018 and built on that. The workgroup tried to consider the audience and to provide enough information in this section that a member would understand how to work within the system. Much of the language in the first two paragraphs of the proposed revisions is taken directly from other sections of the trust and rules.

The easiest way to show the recommendations that we are making to you is in a revised track change version of the FIPT that accompanies this report. The title of this document is Proposed Changes to the FIPT Op Rules 0819. The changes for the inspection clause are shown on pages 16 and 17 of that document.

The new language that we are recommending to you for the inspection clause is:

SECTION 3: INSPECTION OF TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference, is the Settlor and the Trustor of the Trust. The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole is the Beneficiary of the Trust. Only the Trustor can request and conduct an inspection of Trustee activities on behalf of the Trust Beneficiary. With the exception of any items excluded by law, there are no limitations on what the Trustor can inspect.

Under Article IV, Section 12 of the Operational Rules, and in accordance with California law, Narcotics Anonymous World Services, as Trustee, is required to, among other things: (1) give a year-end financial report of the previous fiscal year; (2) cause an audit to be performed by an independent certified public accountant of the Trust for the previous fiscal year; and (3) deliver a copy of both the financial reports and independent audit to all participants of the World Service Conference.

If, after a review of the financial reports and independent audit, a member or service body has questions or concerns, they can contact the World Board. If questions or concerns still remain, after contacting the World Board, they would then be discussed through the established Narcotics Anonymous service structure. This discussion would be initiated by any region, through its regional delegate, submitting a request by motion to the Trustor, at the World Service Conference, through the Conference Agenda Report.

We have proposed other changes to the Operational Rules in the draft document provided to you.

The changes we are recommending now, in addition to the inspection clause, include:

- A change to the description of WSC Boards and Committees on page 11 of the Operational Rules

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- Two edits to Section 12: Trustee Reporting Obligation on page 31 to change calendar year to fiscal year and to add independent to the description of the annual audit.
- Some “housekeeping” edits:
 - Changing representatives to delegates on page 24 of the readers notes
 - A straight copyedit by adding the word “the” on the same page and other edits on pages 15 and 31
 - A change to the way the inspection clause is described on page 37 of the readers’ notes

We would have gone further in our recommendations, but we believe that it is important that the Rules and the *FIPT* be consistent, and any changes to the *FIPT* require a much different process. We cover proposed changes to the *FIPT* later in this report.

Use Policy – FIPT Bulletin #1

FIPT Bulletin #1, the Use Policy, explains “the NA Fellowship’s policy on the reproduction and use of copyrighted NA fellowship-approved recovery literature and the use of registered NA trademarks and service marks by NA groups, service boards, and committees.” The Use Policy is so drastically rewritten and shuffled that a track change version is very difficult to follow. We are providing a clean version and a track change version along with this report, and we will try to summarize the changes here.

The major proposed changes are:

1. Changing the reproduction of recovery literature allowed by groups by adding *current*, removing book length pieces, and clarifying that this does not include any permission for electronic or on line formats.
2. Rewriting the introduction and moving the section on copyright ahead of trademarks.
3. Using the term *policy* throughout the document, rather than a mix of *policy* and *guidelines*.

The World Board is only authorized to publish currently approved recovery literature. That would then mean that these are the only versions we can give someone else permission to reproduce. The Use Policy has never made that clear. Also, with discussions at previous WSC’s, we have not given permission for anyone to post NA fellowship approved recovery literature online. We do post IPs and booklets, in a variety of languages, on www.na.org so that fellowship websites can directly link to this material. We do not post book length pieces of recovery literature online. Those clarifications, and removing the group’s right to reproduce book length pieces are the largest proposed changes. Much of the explanatory text has been updated to reflect more current language, for example *service bodies* instead of *committees*.

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We are committed to ensuring that the NA message is readily available at NA meetings. If a group is financially challenged, and wants to reproduce a book length piece of fellowship approved recovery literature, we encourage them to contact NAWS to work out a solution. We do not believe that the current broad approval for groups to reproduce book-length pieces protects the Fellowship's material or provides the outcomes for NA as a whole that the original intent was based on.

Proposed future changes to the FIPT:

Changes to the trust itself require a very specific process that must begin at the WSC. All of the previous changes we have discussed in this report are to the Operational Rules or the Use Policy, which only require notice in the *Conference Agenda Report* and a decision by regional delegates present at the WSC.

The *FIPT* outlines the process to make changes to the trust itself:

SECTION 2: REVISION OF TRUST INSTRUMENT

Provisions of the Trust Instrument may be changed only under the following conditions:

1. Any motion to review proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument must receive the approval of a majority of regional delegates at the World Service Conference.
2. After such review is approved, proposed revisions will be open for a six-month review and input period, after which the proposed revisions will be presented in the *Conference Agenda Report* for adoption.
3. A motion to adopt any proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument will require a vote of "yes" from two-thirds of those regional delegates recorded as present in the World Service Conference roll call immediately prior to the vote.

The trust will need to be changed to accommodate the recent Conference decision to make zonal delegates voting participants of the WSC. The current *FIPT* calls out only regional delegates for decision making. Since this change is already needed, we will continue to discuss other possible changes to the *FIPT* itself before presenting a motion in the 2020 *CAR*.

The process of changing the *FIPT* could not be completed until following WSC 2022 at the earliest. In the meantime, approval of literature and/or changes to the Operational Rules will require a record of only regional delegates for decisions of this type.

We look forward to discussing all of these issues with you at the upcoming Conference participant web meeting scheduled for 10 August.