

Charter of the young high-energy physicists association

Satzung der Vertretung junger Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler in der Hochenergiephysik

PREAMBLE

Young scientists (YS) are essential for the sustainable and sustained development in high-energy physics (HEP). Not only are they contributing extensively to the current experimental and theoretical advances, they will also be tomorrow's teachers, experimentalists, theorists and decision-takers at the forefront of science. At all stages of all relevant management and decision processes a strong involvement of YS is therefore desirable and necessary. In order to organise a meaningful and significant impact of YS on today's and tomorrow's decision processes in particle, astroparticle, hadron, nuclear and accelerator physics, a coordination of interests among YS on a national level is essential.

At the DPG Frühjahrstagung 2016 in Hamburg, a first meeting was called gathering the opinions of YS towards the establishment of an association representing their own interests. Unanimous agreement was found to start the constitutional process by advertising the endeavour using the mailing lists of the relevant section committees, namely KET, KAT, KHuK and KfB.

The following document takes up this mandate defining the function, membership and regulations of the young high-energy physicists association.

1. Membership and function

We define young scientists to be post-doctoral fellows and PhD students with a fixed-term contract. The young high-energy physicists (yHEP) association is formed by these YS, which are employed at German research institutions and universities as well as German YS at research institutions and universities abroad. All activities of research are covered, among others theory, data analysis, and detector and accelerator R&D. Considered physics disciplines include: a) particle physics, b) astroparticle physics, c) accelerator physics and d) hadron and nuclear physics; each item representing a *section*. Further sections may be requested at the annual meeting and require an amendment of the charter.

The association finds and expresses interests and goals of YS in all areas of KET (Komitee für Elementarteilchenphysik), KAT (Komitee für Astroteilchenphysik), KfB (Komitee für Beschleunigerphysik) and KHuK (Komitee für Hadron- und Kernphysik) activities seeking the largest consensus possible. A management board represents the association to other committees/bodies as well as to the public.

Emphasis is placed on the following topics:

- Provide contact amongst members in relevant scientific affairs enabling a broad agreement of interests.
- Enable a direct communication channel between the individual section committees (KET, KAT, KfB, or KHuK) and the yHEP association.
- Participate actively in the discussions and in the decision processes of the section committees.

- Discuss the role of YS in science, science outreach and teaching.
- Provide a platform for exchange of experiences with teaching and related obligations of YS in different positions in order to pool and represent their interests.
- Find strategies of general support for YS in agreement with the section committees.
- Propose measures to promote long-term academic career opportunities for YS in agreement with the section committees.
- Improve the situation of post-doctoral fellows and PhD students concerning precarious working conditions and the reconciliation of work and family life.

Additional tasks are:

- Organise an annual meeting as main opportunity for exchange and formation of opinion.
- Offer a separate, moderated job-seeking mailing list for interested members with active subscription renewal.

2. yHEP membership and bodies

2.1 yHEP membership

Membership in the yHEP association is acquired by subscription to the member mailing list using an institutional email address. Subscription is done via email. Members leaving the field of high-energy physics or failing to meet other criteria, like non-permanent employment, lose their membership within six months. Members are allowed to unsubscribe at any time. Members failing to meet membership criteria shall be removed within six months. Invalid email addresses will be removed from the list. Additionally, active biannual (twice a year) subscription renewal is enforced.

2.2 Composition of the yHEP management board (MB)

The yHEP MB is elected (see section 2.3) by the members of the yHEP association. It consists of two MB members for every *complete section*. To be considered complete, a section is required to have at least 20 yHEP members and to provide at least two candidates during election. Only then is the section represented in the MB. The two MB members per complete section are the representative for a section and her/his deputy. The term of office for the elected MB members is one year. Re-election is possible without restriction as long as criteria for membership are met.

The MB defines a chair and a deputy chair amongst the members of the MB by secret ballot. If none of the candidates acquires at least 50 % of the votes in the first ballot, a consecutive round of runoff ballot is performed among the two candidates collecting the most votes. If necessary, this procedure is repeated until a chair is found.

If a representative resigns within a legislative period, the deputy becomes representative. One of the MB members is assigned as provisional deputy. The MB can also nominate a provisional deputy among the section members, if the MB agrees on a nominee.

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2.3 Election procedure of the MB

The ballot is secret. The vote is cast online (e-vote). Two election supervisors are found among the yHEP, which cannot stand for election simultaneously.

Every member of the yHEP association can stand for election as representative for only her/his section. In case the member's institute is represented in more than one section, the member must choose one section to run for prior to the election. The choice has to be communicated with the election supervisors and is binding for one election. A member can propose herself/himself for candidature. A candidate can also be proposed by any other member. Candidature must be accepted prior to the ballot.

Each section must provide at least two candidates that accept their candidature (complete section). A short warrant of apprehension should be sent to the election supervisor upon invitation prior to the ballot.

During the election of the MB, every yHEP member has a maximum of two votes per complete section, i.e. a member is allowed to vote in every complete section. Within a section these two votes can be accumulated to a single candidate. Not all votes need to be cast.

Per section, the candidate with the most votes is elected as section representative. The candidate with the second most votes is assigned as deputy. In case of a tie vote, a runoff ballot is performed. If the second ballot also results in a tie vote, a decision is found by drawing lots.

3. MB procedures

For the MB to be quorate, at least one person (representative or deputy) per complete section needs to cast a vote. Both the representative and the deputy have one vote. Votes are not bound to attendance to a meeting; a vote can be cast by email and temporarily delegated to another member of the MB. If a section fails to vote within two weeks, the section is removed from that decision. In case of a tie vote, the *chair-majority* applies.

The MB can decide to take any question to the general assembly. It should do so for questions that are considered to have a major impact or to be of high relevance in order to guarantee the largest possible consensus among the yHEP members by means of ballot. In particular the following decisions need to be approved by the general assembly:

- the admittance of new sections,
- amendments to the charter and
- structural or organisational changes.

The management board has the right to invite individuals to the MB meetings if agreed on by the MB. Agreement is found in the following cases:

- a) There is no objection.
- b) If there is at least one objection, majority vote by the MB can overrule the objection. Chair-majority applies.

The MB meets three times per year, more often if necessary. Meetings are called by the MB chair. Minutes are to be accepted by all board members. In case of unsolvable disagreement, all conflicting positions are to be included in the minutes, thereby enabling the publication of the minutes. The minutes of the MB meetings are to be distributed to all members using the appropriate mailing list.

Reimbursement of possible travel costs are to be requested by the individual board member towards her/his home institute. No reimbursement by the association itself is granted.

4. General assembly

The general assembly is called in and organised by the MB once a year. The assembly is quorate if at least 20% of the members attend the meeting. If the assembly is not quorate, concrete proposals for questions will be worked out in the discussions during the assembly and decisions will be put to e-votes after the general assembly. For these e-votes the same rules apply as for decisions during the general assembly and the decisions found are equivalent to decisions taken by the quorate general assembly.

Every yHEP member is allowed to add topics to the agenda of the general assembly either by consent of one MB member or by collecting in total five members supporting the discussion of the matter. These might include important statements on policies of the field, on changes to the political landscape or changes to funding schemes. Decisions taken by the MB can be overridden by the general assembly in this way.

Amendments of the charter are to be passed at the general assembly with two-thirds majority of the attendees. The admittance of a new section necessitates an amendment of the charter. Decisions on other matters are taken by simple majority vote.

Keywords and abbreviations:

YS:	Young scientists as defined in section 1.
HEP:	High-energy physics.
KET:	Komitee für Elementarteilchenphysik.
KAT:	Komitee für Astroteilchenphysik.
KHuK:	Komitee für Hadron- und Kernphysik.
KfB:	Komitee für Beschleunigerphysik.
yHEP:	Young high-energy physicists.
Complete section:	At least 20 members from a given section and at least two candidates for MB election accepting their candidature.
E-vote:	Online voting mechanism using e.g. non-attributable hashes for identification.
Chair-majority:	In a tie-vote of the MB, the vote of the chair turns the balance.