

# Constitution of the Basic Research Community for Physics e.V.

Ratified at the foundational assembly on 27.12.2015 in Leipzig.  
Most recently changed at the general assembly on 04.01.2018.  
Inserted in the “Vereinsregister” of the district court Leipzig  
with registration number VR5846 on 08.02.2016.

## **Preamble**

The Basic Research Community for Physics (BRCP) is an independent international association of scientists who share the following beliefs:

1. The current orientation of research is largely directed towards producing specialized results. However, we consider it equally crucial to debate questions at the core of each branch of science. Stimulating such debate and questioning fundamental assumptions is inseparable from scientific endeavour and essential for keeping sight of the bigger picture.
2. We believe that the questions and problems in scientific research should be approached in an open-minded and non-dogmatic way. Questioning current paradigms should be allowed and encouraged instead of being dismissed.
3. We believe in science as a community-based pursuit of knowledge, which should not be evaluated by commercial interest. We therefore seek to promote a cooperative and respectful, rather than competitive, atmosphere for scientific research.

## **§1 Name, Registered Location and Goals of the BRCP**

The BRCP has the legal status of a “Verein” according to the German law. Its seat is in Leipzig. The BRCP strives exclusively towards charitable goals as explicated in the paragraph “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” in the “Abgabenordnung” of the German law.

1. The general goal of the BRCP is to promote research in physics in the sense laid out in the preamble. Its more concrete goals are:
  - a. To connect and give voice to researchers who share the beliefs set out in the preamble.
  - b. To encourage and support open-minded, unprejudiced, and non-dogmatic research on foundational problems in physics.

- c. To facilitate joint work, exchange of ideas and debate among members.
  - d. To promote scientific exchange beyond the traditional institutions.
  - e. To promote free access to knowledge and research results as a governing principle for all scientific publications.
2. The BRCP aims to achieve those goals in particular by:
    - a. Building an infrastructure to connect members and exchange ideas.
    - b. Taking an active role in public debates related to science and academia.
    - c. Publishing scientific results under free access, which should not include journals that require payment of a fee from the authors.
    - d. Organising workshops, conferences, schools, and other meetings.

## **§2 Non-profit Organisation**

It is a non-profit organisation with purely charitable ends.

## **§3 Usage of Resources**

The resources of the BRCP may only be used for the goals and purposes described in this constitution. Members of the BRCP do not, in their function as members solely, receive allowances from the resources of the BRCP.

## **§4 Remuneration**

No person may benefit either through disproportionately high remuneration or through expenses that are not compatible with the goals of the BRCP .

## **§5 Dissolution**

Upon dissolution, revocation of the Verein status or the non-profit status, all assets of the BRCP are transferred to a legal entity of the public law or another tax-advantaged corporate body and used for charitable purposes in accordance with the statutes of the BRCP.

## **§6 Membership**

1. All natural and legal persons who support the goals of the BRCP as explicated in the constitution can in principle be members of the BRCP.
2. To become a member, an applicant's candidacy must be endorsed by three current members. Any member of the BRCP can be endorser, however, at least one of them should not be personally affiliated with the applicant.
3. Members can withdraw from the BRCP by giving written notice of a period of two months to the board.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Within this constitution, the term "written" shall include both post and email communication.

4. In the event that the actions of a member are in conflict with the goals and principles of the Verein, or if he or she does not fulfil the responsibilities as laid out by the BRCP, the member can be expelled from the Verein. The decision to expel a member can only be made by a majority vote of a general assembly at which he or she must be given the opportunity to speak.
5. In order to use the BRCP as an affiliation in publications, members must do so in accordance with §1.2.c.

## §7 Organs of the BRCP

The BRCP is equipped with the following organs:

- a) The general assembly,
- b) The board,
- c) The revisor.

## §8 General Assembly

1. The highest organ of the BRCP is the general assembly. By default, it is chaired by the head of the board.
2. The general assembly establishes the guidelines for the work of the Verein. It decides upon questions of fundamental importance. In particular, it has the following duties:
  - a. Election and dissolution of the board.
  - b. Election and release of the revisor.
  - c. Evaluating the status and strategy of the BRCP.
  - d. Ratification of the financial plan and investments of the BRCP as presented by the board.
  - e. Decision about the annual statement of accounts.
  - f. Discussion of the report of the board.
  - g. Hearing of the revisor.
  - h. Decision about the formal discharge of the board.
  - i. Formulation of the rules of procedure for the board.
  - j. Decision about new duties and the removal of duties of the BRCP.
  - k. Decision about changes of the constitution and the dissolution of the BRCP, see §11.
3. The ordinary general assembly meets annually. The head of the board sends a written invitation to the members at least four weeks before the assembly takes place, including a preliminary agenda.
4. An exceptional general assembly takes place if at least  $e^\pi\%$  ( $\approx 23\%$ ) of the members demand it (stating the reasons for calling an exceptional general assembly). The assembly must meet within five weeks of the request being

submitted. Again, all members have to be invited by a written invitation as for the ordinary assembly.

5. The general assembly is quorate if more than  $\pi\pi\%$  ( $\approx 36\%$ ) of the members are present; the decisions are carried out by majority vote. In the event that the general assembly is not quorate, the board immediately sends out a second invitation to another general assembly with the same agenda. This latter is quorate, independent of the number of members present. This fact has to be pointed out clearly in the invitation. An exception to this rule are the points mentioned in §11.
6. Members may participate in the general assembly via remote connection, provided that their identity can be verified. In addition, members joining meetings by remote connection only have the right to vote by casting a non-secret vote. However, it may not be possible to provide for remote participation in every case. Furthermore, it may not be possible to provide more information than the precise formulations of motions.
7. Minutes should be kept which record the proceedings, any decisions taken and, where necessary for comprehension of these, reasons for decisions. Minutes should be signed by the head of the assembly and by the scribe who takes the minutes. These minutes must be made available to every member of the BRCP.

## **§9 Board**

1. The board consists of the chairman of the board, the vice chairman and the treasurer. They form the board (“Vorstand”) according to § 26 BGB of German law. The members of the board carry out their functions voluntarily (“ehrenamtlich”).
2. The BRCP can act in a legally binding way if two of the members of the board sign a document. The BRCP can act in a legally binding way if two of the members of the board sign a document. Changes in the registration of the Verein (“Vereinsregister”) can be carried out by a single member of the board.
3. The board is elected for one year. It remains in office until the election of a new board.
4. All decisions of the board need to be documented and made available to every member. The chairman is in duty to survey the list of all decisions.

## **§10 Revisor**

1. The revisor monitors the action of the board during the periods between general assemblies.
2. The revisor can at any time demand that the board submits to scrutiny.
3. If the board deviates from the rights and obligations granted by the general assembly, or refuses to give an account to the revisor, the latter can inform the

general assembly. In such cases, the revisor may call an exceptional general assembly if s/he has the support of at least  $e^e\%$  ( $\approx 15\%$ ) of the members. The general assembly must be organised by the revisor and announced in writing, including a statement of the reasons for the meeting.

## **§11 Changes of the Constitution and Dissolution**

1. Decisions about changes of the constitution, changes of the goals of the BRCP, and the dissolution of the BRCP are made by the general assembly. Proposals for such decisions have to be forwarded to all members one month before the general assembly. A two thirds majority of those present at the general assembly is required to carry votes on such decisions.
2. Changes or amendments of the constitution, which are dictated by the responsible government office of Germany, can be carried out by the board and do not have to be decided upon by the general assembly. All members must be informed about such changes.