



The Constitution of

Hepatitis NSW Inc

12 NOVEMBER 2009
(originally adopted 5 September 1996)

HEPATITIS NSW INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION (1995)

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Name

1.1 The name of the association shall be Hepatitis NSW Inc.

Objects

- 2.1 The purposes for which the association is established are:
- (a) to coordinate the NSW community sector response to the viral hepatitis epidemics;
 - (b) to provide support and referral for people affected by viral hepatitis;
 - (c) to provide information and advice about viral hepatitis in order to help improve health outcomes and empower people affected by viral hepatitis;
 - (d) to identify and monitor the needs of people affected by viral hepatitis, and in liaison with appropriate agencies, to develop prevention and support strategies that aim to reduce the spread and impact of viral hepatitis;
 - (e) to act as advocates in the interest of people affected by viral hepatitis, and represent their interest on relevant bodies;
 - (f) to help reduce stigmatisation, discrimination, and isolation of people affected by viral hepatitis by promoting responsible community awareness, and by advocating for supportive policies, procedures and practice;
 - (g) to encourage, assist and promote health and scientific research into the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of viral hepatitis and related conditions;
 - (h) to receive donations, grants and bequests from persons and institutions including governments, and to raise money to achieve the objects of the association;
 - (i) to buy and sell real property, hold leases, acquire assets, employ staff, carry on trading activities and do all lawful things necessary for, or conducive or incidental to the achievement of these objects, and
 - (j) to do any other such activities or enter into any such arrangements as are appropriate to the achievement of the objects of the association in relation to viral hepatitis and related conditions.

Interpretation

- 3.1 In these rules, except in so far as the context or subject matter indicates or requires:
- (a) "association" means Hepatitis NSW Inc;
 - (b) "the board" means Hepatitis NSW Inc board of governance;
 - (c) "financial year" means the year ending June 30;
 - (d) "general meeting" means the annual general meeting or a special general meeting;
 - (e) "the act" means the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984;
 - (f) "the Regulation" means the Associations Incorporation Regulation, 1985.
 - (g) "secretary" means -
 - (i) the person holding office under these rules as secretary of the association; or
 - (ii) where no such person holds that office - the public officer of the association;
- 3.2 In these rules:
- (i) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty; and
 - (ii) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.
- 3.3 The provisions of the Interpretation Act, 1987, apply to and in respect of these rules in the same manner as those provisions would so apply if these rules were an instrument made under the Act.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

Membership qualifications

- 4.1 Membership of the association shall be open to:
- (a) Natural persons who accept and subscribe to the objects and rules of the association on membership application and renewal, and

- (b) A body corporate or politic which subscribes to the objects of the association and whose activities, whether in whole or in part, are not inconsistent with those objects, shall be eligible to be a member of the association on membership application or renewal under these rules.
- 4.2 Members under *rule 4. 1 (b)* shall have the voting rights of a natural person being a member of the association, such body corporate or politic nominating, in writing to the secretary, the person who shall exercise a vote on their behalf.
- 4.3 The procedure for renewal of membership shall be determined by the board of governance at their ordinary meetings.

Nomination for membership

- 5.1 An application for membership to the association -
 - (a) shall be made in writing using the designated form; and
 - (b) shall be lodged with the secretary of the association.
- 5.2 As soon as practicable after receiving a nomination for membership, the secretary shall refer the nomination to the board which shall determine whether to approve or to reject the nomination.
- 5.3 The secretary shall on approval of the application for membership, enter the nominee's name in the register of member's names and upon the name being so entered the nominee becomes a member of the association.

Rejection of nomination, etc

- 6.1 The board shall determine whether to accept an application for membership. The board is not required to supply reasons for accepting or rejecting an application for membership.

Life Membership

- 7.1 A member of the association may be nominated for and become an association life member, entitling that person to ongoing honorary membership and full voting rights until notice of resignation or expulsion from the organisation.
- 7.2 Nominations for life membership:
 - (a) must be tabled at a board meeting no less than 30 days prior to the annual general meeting;
 - (b) must be endorsed by a majority of those board members present;
 - (c) and if endorsed by the board, nominations must be approved by the passing of a motion at the annual general meeting.

Cessation of membership

- 8.1 A natural person ceases to be a member of the association if the person:
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns that membership;
 - (c) is expelled from the association; or
 - (d) fails to renew their membership by 1 September annually.
- 8.2 A member under *rule 4. 1 (b)* ceases to be a member of the association if the member:
 - (a) being a body corporate or politic, ceases to exist or is dissolved;
 - (b) resigns that membership;
 - (c) is expelled from the association; or
 - (d) fails to renew their fees by 1 September annually.

Membership entitlements not transferable

- 9.1 A right, privilege or obligation which applies by reason of being a member:
 - (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person or member; and
 - (b) terminates upon cessation of the person's or member's membership.

Resignation of membership

- 10.1 Where a member of the association ceases to hold membership, the secretary shall make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

Register of members

- 11.1 The public officer of the association shall establish and maintain a register of members of the association specifying the name and address of each person who is a member of the association,

or is the nominee of that member where the member is not a natural person, together with the date on which they became a member.

11.2 The register of members shall be kept at the principal place of administration of the association.

Fees, subscriptions, etc

12.1 A member of the association shall pay to the association their annual membership fee on or before 1 March each calendar year.

12.2 Membership fees shall be set at the annual general meeting.

12.3 Where a person makes application for membership within the three months prior to 1st March, their membership fee shall cover the period up to 1 March and the 12 months thereafter.

Members' liabilities

13.1 The liability of a member of the association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the association as required by *rule 13*.

Disciplining of members

14.1 Where the board is of the opinion that a member of the association:

- (a) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of these rules; or
- (b) has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association, the board may, by resolution:
 - (i) expel the member from the association; or
 - (ii) suspend the member from membership for a specified period.

14.2 A resolution of the board under *rule 14. 1* is of no effect unless the board, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service on the member of a notice under *rule 14 3*, confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.

14.3 Where the board passes a resolution under *rule 14. 1*, the secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause a notice in writing to be served on the member;

- (a) setting out the resolution of the board and the grounds on which it is based;
- (b) stating that the member may address the board at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
- (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting;
- (c) informing the member he/she may do either or both of the following -
 - (i) attend and speak at that meeting;
 - (ii) submit to the board at or prior to the date of that meeting written representations relating to the resolution.

14.4 At a meeting of the board held as referred to in *rule 14. 3*, the board shall -

- (a) give to the member an opportunity to make oral representations;
- (b) give due consideration to any written representations submitted to the board by the member at or prior to the meeting; and
- (c) by resolution determine whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.

14.5 Where the board confirms a resolution under *rule 14. 4*, the secretary shall, within 7 days after that confirmation, by notice in writing inform the member of the fact and of the member's right of appeal under *rule 15*.

14.6 A resolution confirmed by the board under *rule 14. 4* does not take effect

- (a) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution where the member does not exercise the right of appeal within that period; or
- (b) where within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association confirms the resolution pursuant to *rule 15. 4*.

Right of appeal of disciplined member

15.1 A member subjected to discipline under *rule 14*. may appeal to the association in a general meeting against a resolution of the board which is confirmed under *rule 14. 4*, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.

- 15.2 Upon receipt of a notice from a member under *rule 15. 1*, the secretary shall notify the board which shall convene a general meeting of the association to be held within 21 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- 15.3 At a general meeting of the association convened under *rule 15. 2*:
- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
 - (b) the board and the member shall be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both; and
 - (c) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- 15.4 If at the general meeting the association passes a special resolution in favour of the confirmation of the resolution the resolution is confirmed.

Resolving disputes between members

- 16.1 In the event of a dispute arising between members in their capacity as members, or between a member and the association, or between a member and the board or sub-committee, the following procedure shall apply:
- (a) the volunteer or member can first raise the matter with her or his immediate supervisor or the Executive Officer in order to resolve the grievance informally;
 - (b) if step 1 does not resolve the issue, a formal complaint can be made. Any formal complaint must be in writing and should be addressed to the President of Hepatitis NSW Inc;
 - (c) the Executive Officer shall, on receipt by the President of a written complaint, write to the person making the complaint (the complainant) acknowledging receipt and setting out the course of action that will be followed, enclosing a copy of this procedure;
 - (d) the Executive Officer will then liaise with the relevant parties named in the complaint within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint. The aim of this initial contact would be to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the complainant;
 - (e) if the complaint is not resolved by this stage the matter shall be considered at a joint meeting of the parties involved and senior representatives of the association, including at least one member of the board.
 - (f) if the matter is not resolved by this stage, it will be considered at the following meeting of the board or dealt with by a specially convened sub-committee within a further 10 working days. The decision taken by the board or sub-committee of the board at this stage will be the final decision of Hepatitis NSW Inc.
 - (g) if the complaint is still not resolved, the complainant is entitled to approach a community justice centre for mediation in accordance with the Community Justice Centres Act, 1983.

PART III - THE BOARD

Powers, etc, of the board

- 17.1 The board shall be called the board of governance of the association and, subject to the Act, the Regulation and these rules and to any resolution passed by the association in a general meeting:
- (a) shall control and manage the affairs of the association;
 - (b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the association other than those functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the association; and
 - (c) has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the board to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association.

Constitution and members

- 18.1 Subject in the case of the first members of the board to section 21 of the Act, the board shall consist of NSW residents and shall comprise:
- (a) the office-bearers of the association each of whom shall be elected pursuant to *rule 19*; and
 - (b) up to 5 ordinary members each of whom shall be elected pursuant to *rule 19*; and
 - (c) up to 2 members clearly identifiable as able to further the objects of the association, selected by executive cooption;
 - (d) the Executive Officer of Hepatitis NSW Inc, or his/her nominee;
 - (e) up to 1 member nominated by a community organisation representing injecting drug users;

- (f) up to 1 member knowledgeable of the interests of rural people affected by viral hepatitis, that person being selected by the board of the association; and,
- (g) the board shall where possible co-opt two persons diagnosed as having viral hepatitis or having had viral hepatitis.
- (h) up to 1 member representing volunteers of Hepatitis NSW Inc, that person being selected by the volunteers of Hepatitis NSW Inc.

18.2 The office-bearers of the association shall be -

- (a) the president;
- (b) the vice-president;
- (c) the treasurer; and
- (d) the secretary.

18.3 Each member of the board shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's appointment, but is eligible for re-election, or in the case of members under *rules 18. 1 (c, d, e, f, g & h)*, for re-appointment.

18.4 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the board, the board may appoint a person to fill the vacancy and the person so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting following the date of the appointment.

18.5 All members of the board of governance shall have full voting rights except where a conflict of interest clearly exists in regard to any issue under consideration.

Election of members

19.1 A notice shall be sent to all members of the association no later than 42 days prior to the date appointed for the annual general meeting calling for nominations for election as the nine members of the board pursuant to *rule 18. 1 (a & b)*.

19.2 Nominations shall be in writing addressed to the secretary and shall be signed by the nominee, the proposer and the seconder, all of whom must be financial members of the association.

19.3 Nominations must be lodged with the secretary no later than 28 days prior to the date appointed for the annual general meeting.

19.4 In any case where there shall not be a sufficient number of candidates nominated, those nominated by post shall be declared elected effective from the conclusion of the annual general meeting. If insufficient nominations are received, the remaining positions shall be deemed casual vacancies.

19.5 If there are more postal nominations than vacancies, the positions shall be filled by a postal ballot as follows:

- (a) a Returning Officer shall be appointed by the board to oversee the postal ballot and conduct the count of votes in the ballot.
- (b) ballot papers and any information about candidates shall be posted to all financial members of the association no later than 14 days prior to the close of the ballot.
- (c) ballot papers shall list the candidates names in an order determined by lot by the Returning Officer and shall:
 - (ii) clearly state the time and date on which the poll closes;
 - (ii) state the different candidates;
 - (iii) and contain requisite information and directions as to the method of recording votes.
- (d) with the ballot paper, each member shall be sent two envelopes:
 - (i) the larger envelope will be addressed to the Returning Officer.
 - (ii) the member shall both write and sign their name where indicated on the larger envelope.
 - (iii) the member who is voting shall place a tick or cross in the box alongside their chosen candidate/s and seal the same in the smaller envelope marked "Vote".
 - (iii) the member shall then seal the smaller envelope inside the larger envelope and return it via post.
- (e) no vote shall be valid unless the outer envelope is endorsed in the manner prescribed by *rule 19. 5 (d ii)*.
- (f) the vote of a body corporate or politic shall be exercised by a person authorised to do so by that organisation, association or other body pursuant to *rule 4. 2)*.
- (g) ballot forms must be returned to the organisation by close of ballot which shall be 6:00pm, two business days preceding the day of the annual general meeting.

- (h) when envelopes containing votes are received, the Returning Officer (or such person or persons appointed by the Returning Officer) shall open the outer envelope and identify the member voting by the name and by such other means as the Returning Officer may consider advisable and if the votes are allowable shall then place the smaller unopened envelope (marked "Vote") in a locked ballot box.
 - (i) the envelope marked "Vote" shall be opened after the close of the poll and the number of votes cast for each candidate shall be counted and the results recorded by the Returning Officer.
 - (j) the Returning Officer shall oversee counting of the votes prior to the annual general meeting and the following voting system shall be used to elect board members:
 - (i) the candidate/s with the highest totals shall be declared elected.
 - (ii) if it is necessary to decide between two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes, the matter shall be determined by lot supervised by the Returning Officer.
 - (k) the Returning Officer shall certify the results of the ballot and this shall be conveyed to the president or other officer acting in place of the president.
 - (l) the results of the ballot shall be announced at the annual general meeting.
- 19.6 The board members elected at the annual general meeting shall determine amongst themselves which of their number shall fill the office-bearer positions of the board. A meeting of the elected board members shall be held immediately after annual general meeting to elect the office-bearers. The process at this meeting shall be as follows:
- (a) a board member shall be appointed to chair the meeting;
 - (b) nominations for specific office-bearer positions can be lodged with the Chair in person or by proxy;
 - (c) a board member may nominate for any number of positions, but may only fill one such position.
 - (d) if there are more nominations than vacancies for an executive position, the position/s shall be filled in the following manner:
 - (i) positions shall be filled in the following order:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - (ii) the decision on which nominee shall fill an executive position shall be made by show of hand according to usual board of governance standing orders;
 - (ii) in the event of two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes, the matter shall be determined by lot supervised by the Chair.

Secretary

- 20.1 The secretary of the association shall, as soon as practicable after being appointed secretary, lodge notice with the association of his or her address.
- 20.2 It is the duty of the secretary to ensure that minutes are kept of:
- (a) all appointments of office-bearers and members of the board;
 - (b) the names of members of the board present at a board meeting; and
 - (c) all proceedings at board meetings and general meetings.
- 20.3 Minutes of proceedings at a meeting shall be signed by the chair of the meeting or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting.

Treasurer

- 21.1 It is the duty of the treasurer of the association to ensure that:
- (a) all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the association are made;
 - (b) correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.

President

- 22.1 The duties of the president involve:
- (a) assisting members of the executive in their duties where appropriate;
 - (b) chairing and facilitating board meetings;
 - (c) monitoring decisions and actions made by the board, helping ensure such decisions and actions are accomplished;

- (d) assisting board members in the development of the skills, knowledge and attitudes that lead to more effective management of the organisation.

Vice-President

23.1 The duties of the vice-president shall be:

- (a) to act as president during the absence or incapacity of the president; and
- (b) to carry out such functions as the president shall delegate her/him pursuant to *rule 22. 1*.

Casual vacancies

24.1 For the purposes of these rules, a casual vacancy in the office of a member of the board occurs if the member:

- (a) dies;
- (b) ceases to be a member of the association;
- (c) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the (New South Wales) Companies Code;
- (d) resigns office by notice in writing given to the secretary;
- (e) is removed from office under *rule 25*;
- (f) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health; or
- (g) is absent without the consent of the board and from 3 consecutive meetings of the board.
- (h) being a member pursuant to *rule 18. 1 (d)*, ceases to be eligible to be a member under those sub-clauses.

Removal of member

25.1 The board of governance may by resolution remove any member of the board from office before the expiration of the member's term of office and may by resolution appoint another person to hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.

25.2 A member of the board, elected under rule 18.1 (a) or 18.1 (b) and subjected to expulsion from the board under rule 25.1 may appeal to the association in a general meeting against the resolution of the board within seven days after notice of the resolution is served on the board member by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.

25.3 Upon receipt of a notice from a board member under rule 25.2, the secretary shall notify the board which shall convene a general meeting of the association to be held within twenty-one days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.

25.4 At a general meeting of the association convened under rule 25.3:

- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
- (b) the board and the board member shall be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both; and
- (c) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.

25.5 If at the general meeting the association passes a special resolution in favour of the confirmation of the resolution the resolution is confirmed.

Pecuniary interest

26.1 No person who is in receipt of any fee or honorarium from the association, or who has any other direct pecuniary interest for services rendered to the association, shall be eligible to be a member of the board whether as an office bearer or elected ordinary member, except as provided by *rule 18. 1 (d)*.

26.2 Where any member, after becoming a member of the board seeks any fee, honorarium or any other direct pecuniary interest for services rendered to the association, they shall immediately have their membership of the board withdrawn. If such a member does not receive such a pecuniary interest they will be eligible to be re-appointed to the board.

Meetings and quorum

27.1 The board shall meet at least 6 times in each financial year at such place and time as the board may determine.

27.2 Additional meetings of the board may be convened by the president or by the secretary.

- 27.3 Written notice of ordinary meetings of the board shall be given by the secretary to each member of the board at least 7 days before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting and shall include the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 27.4 (a) Notice of special meetings of the board shall be given orally or in writing to each member of the board at least 48 hours (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed upon by the members of the board) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- (b) Notice of a special board meeting given under *rule 27. 4 (a)* shall, specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business shall be transacted at the meeting, except business which three-quarters of those board members present at the meeting agree to treat as urgent business.
- 27.5 Any 5 members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the board.
- 27.6 No business shall be transacted by the board unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting stands adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
- 27.7 If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.
- 27.8 The president shall preside at meetings of the board, or, if the president is absent or unwilling to preside, the vice-president shall preside.
- 27.9 If neither the president nor the vice-president is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the board, the board shall elect from amongst its members who are elected members of the board a person to chair the meeting of the board.

Delegation by board to sub-committee

- 28.1 The board may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of such members of the association and other people as the board deems fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the board as are specified in the instrument, other than -
- (a) this power of delegation; and
- (b) a function which is a duty imposed on the board by the Act or by any other law.
- 28.2 A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this rule may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- 28.3 A delegation under this section may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function the subject thereof, or as to time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
- 28.4 Notwithstanding any delegation under this rule, the board may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- 28.5 Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this rule has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the board.
- 28.6 The board may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this rule.
- 28.7 A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

Voting and decisions

- 29.1 Questions arising at a meeting of the board or of any sub-committee appointed by the board shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the board or sub-committee present at the meeting; except as provided in *rule 27. 4 (b)*.
- 29.2 Except as provided in *rules 29. 5 & 6*, each member present at a meeting of the board or of any sub-committee appointed by the board (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of any equality of votes on any question, the question shall be resolved in the negative.
- 29.3 Subject to *rule 27. 5*, the board may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the board.
- 29.4 Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the board or by a sub-committee appointed by that board, is valid and effectual notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the board or sub-committee.
- 29.5 A person co-opted to the board pursuant to *rules 18.1 (f & g)* may vote in person or by proxy given to another member of the association.
- 29.6 In regard to proxies:

- (a) prior to any meeting at which any member of the association proposes to exercise a proxy, that member of the association shall inform and provide a copy of the proxy to the person presiding at the meeting;
 - (b) a proxy shall be in writing and shall bear the signatures both of the person giving the proxy and the person authorised to execute it;
 - (c) a proxy may specify the circumstances under which it shall be exercised and the vote which shall be cast;
 - (d) a person issuing a proxy may cancel or from time to time by notice in writing vary the proxy.
 - (e) notwithstanding that a proxy has been issued, a member of the board may attend a meeting and exercise a personal vote in which case the proxy shall not be exercised.
 - (f) no member of the association shall hold a proxy for more than one person.
- 29.7 Members of the board appointed pursuant to *rule 18. 1 (d)* shall not be entitled to vote on any question concerning salaries or other remuneration paid to staff of ~~Council~~the association.

PART IV - GENERAL MEETINGS

Annual general meetings - holding of

- 30.1 The association shall, at least once in each calendar year and within the period of six months after the expiration of each financial year of the association, convene an annual general meeting of its members.
- 30.2 The association shall hold its first annual general meeting -
- (a) within the period of 18 months after its incorporation under the Act; and
 - (b) within the period of 3 months after the expiration of the first financial year of the association.
- 30.3 *Rules 30. 1 & 2* have effect subject to any extension or permission granted by the Commission under section 26 (3) of the Act.

Annual general meetings - calling of and business at

- 31.1 The annual general meeting of the association shall, subject to the Act and to rule 28, be convened on such date and at such place and time as the board thinks fit.
- 31.2 In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting shall be -
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive from the board reports upon the activities of the association during the last preceding financial year;
 - (c) to receive the declaration of the election of the members of the board; and
 - (d) to receive and consider the statement which is required to be submitted to members pursuant to section 26(6) of the Act.
- 31.3 An annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.

Special general meetings - calling of

- 32.1 The board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- 32.2 The board shall, on the requisition in writing of not less than 50 members or 10% of the total number of members whichever be the lesser, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- 32.3 A requisition of members for a special general meeting -
- (a) shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting;
 - (b) shall be signed by the members making the requisition;
 - (c) shall be lodged with the secretary; and
 - (d) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
- 32.4 If the board fails to convene a special general meeting to be held within 1 month after that date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.
- 32.5 A special general meeting convened by a member or members as referred to in *rule 32. 4* shall be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by

the board and any member who thereby incurs expense is entitled to be reimbursed by the association for any expense so incurred.

Notice

- 33.1 Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent by pre-paid post to each member at the member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- 33.2 Where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary shall, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be sent to each member in the manner provided in *rule 33. 1* specifying, in addition to the matter required under *rule 33. 1*, the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.
- 33.3 No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting shall be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business which may be transacted pursuant to *rule 31. 2*.
- 33.4 A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary who shall include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

Procedure

- 34.1 No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
- 34.2 A minimum 20 members of the association or 5% of the total number of members (whichever is the lesser) such members being entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- 34.3 If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the date to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- 34.4 If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 3) shall constitute a quorum.

Presiding member

- 35.1 The president shall preside as chairperson at each general meeting of the association.
- 35.2 If the president is absent from a general meeting or unwilling to act, the vice-president shall preside, or, if the vice-president is absent, or unwilling to act, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

Adjournment

- 36.1 The chair of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 36.2 Where a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the secretary shall give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 36.3 Except as provided in *rules 36. 1 & 2*, notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

Making of decisions

- 37.1 A question arising at a general meeting of the association shall be determined on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration by the chair that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the association, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.

- 37.2 At a general meeting of the association, a poll may be demanded by the chair or by not less than 3 members present in person at the meeting.
- 37.3 Where the poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll shall be taken -
- (a) immediately in the case of a poll which relates to the election of the chairperson of the meeting or to the question of an adjournment; or
 - (b) in any other case, in such manner and at such time before the close of the meeting as the chair directs, and the resolution of the poll on the matter shall, be determined to be the resolution of the meeting on that matter.

Special resolution

- 38.1 A resolution of the association is a special resolution if:
- a) it is passed by a majority which comprises not less than three-quarters of such members of the association as, being entitled under these rules to do so, vote in person at a general meeting of which not less than 21 days written notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution was given in accordance with these rules; or
 - b) where it is made to appear to the commission that it is not possible or practicable for the resolution to be passed in the manner specified in *rule 38. 1 (a)*, the resolution is passed in a manner specified by the commission.

Voting

- 39.1 Upon any question scheduled for or arising at a general meeting of the association, a member has one vote only.
- 39.2 A member may vote in person or by proxy, or in the case of election of board members, by postal vote:
- (a) a proxy shall be in writing and shall bear the signature of the person giving the proxy.
 - (b) a member wishing to vote by proxy shall appoint the secretary or any member entitled to vote as their proxy.
 - (c) proxies shall be lodged with the secretary prior to any meeting at which it is proposed to exercise such proxies and the secretary shall keep a register of such proxies.
 - (d) a proxy should specify the circumstances under which it shall be exercised and the vote which shall be cast.
 - (e) a person issuing a proxy may cancel it or from time to time vary the proxy by notice in writing lodged with the secretary.
 - (f) notwithstanding that a proxy has been issued, a person may attend a meeting and exercise a personal vote provided that the person presiding at the meeting is notified prior to the casting of any such vote in which case the proxy shall not be exercised.
- 39.3 Except as provided in this section, no natural person being a member of the association shall exercise more than one vote at any general or other meeting of the association or its board or sub-committees.
- 39.4 In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the question shall be resolved in the negative.
- 39.5 A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association unless all money due and payable by the member to the association has been paid.

PART V - MISCELLANEOUS

Insurance

- 40.1 The association shall effect and maintain insurance pursuant to section 44 of the Act.
- 40.2 In addition to the insurance required under *rule 40. 1*, the association may effect and maintain other insurance.

Funds - source

- 41.1 The funds of the association shall be derived from annual subscriptions of members, grants and donations, bequests, and proceeds of sales of resources and services, and subject to any resolution passed by the association in a general meeting, such other sources as the board determines.
- 41.2 All money received by the association shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the association's bank account.

- 41.3 The association shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

Funds management

- 42.1 Subject to any resolution passed by the association in a general meeting, the funds of the association shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the association in such manner as the board determines.
- 42.2 All cheques, electronic funds transfers, credit card payments, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any two persons being authorised to do so by the board.

Alteration of objects and rules

- 43.1 The statement of objects and these rules may be altered, rescinded or added to only by a special resolution of the association.

Common seal

- 44.1 The common seal of the association shall be kept in a secure place as determined by the board.
- 44.2 The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the board and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures either of 2 members of the board, or of 1 member of the board and that of the public officer.

Custody of books, etc

- 45.1 Except as otherwise provided by these rules, books and other documents relating to the organisation shall be kept under the care and control of the executive in a place determined by the executive.

Inspection of book, etc

- 46.1 The records, books and other documents of the association shall be open to inspection by members of the association except where it can be shown such inspection breaches confidentiality and legitimate needs for privacy as determined by the board.

Service of notices

- 47.1 For the purpose of these rules, a notice may be served by or on behalf of the association upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at the member's address shown in the register of members.
- 47.2 Where a document is sent to a person by properly addressing, preparing and posting to the person a letter containing the document, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of these rules to have been served on the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

Patrons

- 48.1 The board shall have the power to appoint a person or persons to be patrons of the association. Patrons, unless they are financial members of the association, shall have no voting or other rights in the association.

Surplus property

- 49.1 In the event of the winding up of the association, the association shall pass a special resolution nominating another association which fulfils the requirements specified in section 53(2) (a)-(c) of the Act, in which to vest its surplus property.

Last updated Nov 2009

End of document
