



Constitution

of

Little Athletics Association of Victoria Incorporated

Registration Number: A0003260D

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Lander & Rogers

Level 12 Bourke Place
600 Bourke Street Melbourne 3000
GPO Box 1842 Melbourne 3001
Australia

T +61 3 9672 9111

F +61 3 9670 2723

www.landerson.com.au

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CONSTITUTION
of
LITTLE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC
Registration Number: A0003260D

PART I – PURPOSES, POWERS AND INTERPRETATION

1. NAME

The name of the incorporated association is Little Athletics Association of Victoria or otherwise known as Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic).

2. PURPOSES OF ASSOCIATION

The Association is the peak body for the administration of Little Athletics in Victoria. The purposes for which the Association is established and maintained are to:

- (a) Promote and control within the State of Victoria, athletic competition for children whose ages fall within the limits defined in this Constitution;
- (b) Create a uniform entity through and by which Little Athletics in Victoria can be encouraged, conducted, promoted and administered and to be the governing body of Little Athletics in Victoria;
- (c) Promote recreational, social and community activities with emphasis on family involvement;
- (d) Encourage and assist Victorian communities to organise and conduct athletic competition and/or skill related activities for children;
- (e) Promote and encourage Little Athletics within Victoria and the conduct of competition as an affiliated member of ALA;
- (f) Adopt and accept the rules of the IAAF and abide by the interpretation of such rules, with such variations as are approved from time to time by the Association;
- (g) Assist the development of athletics in Victoria;
- (h) Affiliate and otherwise liaise with ALA, youth organisations and such other bodies as may be desirable, in the pursuit of these purposes;
- (i) Establish and affiliate Little Athletic Centres and Clubs and create, maintain and control Regions in the State of Victoria;
- (j) Act for, and represent the interests of, its Members in all matters pertaining to Little Athletics;
- (k) Control, manage and conduct Little Athletics competitions at a state level;
- (l) Select and manage Little Athletics teams to represent Victoria in national competitions inside and outside Victoria;
- (m) Encourage, conduct, promote, and administer Little Athletics throughout Victoria, through and by the Members for the mutual and collective benefit of the Members and Little Athletics;
- (n) Act in good faith and loyalty to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the Association and Little Athletics, its standards, quality and reputation for the collective and mutual benefit of the Members and Little Athletics;
- (o) Operate with, and promote mutual trust and confidence between the Association and the Members in pursuit of these purposes;
- (p) At all times to act on behalf of, and in the interests of, the Members and Little Athletics;
- (q) Promote the economic and sporting success, strength and stability of the Association and the Members and to act interdependently with each Member in pursuit of these purposes;
- (r) Encourage, conduct, promote, advance and govern Little Athletics;
- (s) Apply the property and capacity of the Association towards the fulfilment and achievement of these purposes;

- (f) Use and protect the Association's Intellectual Property;
- (u) purchase, take on lease or in exchange or otherwise acquire any lands, building or property, real or personal, which may be requisite for the purpose of the Association or conveniently used in connection with any of its purposes and to sell, demise mortgage, give in exchange or dispose of the same;
- (v) Pursue through itself or others, such commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities, as are appropriate to further the purposes of the Association;
- (w) Conduct research and training projects in the interests of the Members present and future;
- (x) Promote market and turn to account sports equipment for Little Athletics;
- (y) Not espouse the cause of any political party or religious beliefs and not in any way place limitations (other than age) upon children entitled to benefit from membership of the Association;
- (z) Strive for and maintain government, commercial and public recognition of the Association as the authority for Little Athletics in Victoria;
- (aa) promulgate and secure uniformity in such rules and standards as may be necessary for the management of Little Athletics, Little Athletics competitions and related activities, including but not limited to the rules and coaching standards;
- (bb) further develop the Association and Little Athletics into an organised institution and having regard to these purposes and in conjunction with the Members, foster, regulate, organise, conduct and manage Little Athletics tournaments, competitions, events, displays and other activities;
- (cc) Promote the health and safety of athletes, officials and other individuals participating in Little Athletics in any capacity;
- (dd) Act as final arbiter on all matters pertaining to the conduct of Little Athletics in Victoria, including disciplinary matters;
- (ee) establish and conduct education and training programs for participants, coaches, umpires and officials in the implementation and interpretation of Little Athletics rules and standards;
- (ff) formulate and implement appropriate policies, including policies in relation to member protection, equal opportunity, equity, drugs in sport, health, safety, infectious diseases and such other matters as arise from time to time as issues to be addressed in Little Athletics;
- (gg) Have regard to the public interest in its operation;
- (hh) Encourage and promote performance-enhancing drug free competition;
- (ii) give, and where appropriate, seek recognition for athletes, officials and other individuals participating in Little Athletics in any capacity to obtain awards or public recognition; and
- (jj) Undertake and or do all things or activities which are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of these purposes or any of them.

3. POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

Solely for furthering the purposes set out above the Association has all the rights, powers and privileges conferred on it under the Act, in particular section 16.

4. INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

4.1 Definitions

In this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Act" means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic)*.

"Affiliated Centre" means a Little Athletics centre recognised by the Association as a Member under **rule 6** and which is responsible for administering Little Athletics competitions and Affiliated Clubs within a geographic area.

"Affiliated Club" means a Little Athletics club recognized by the Association as a Member under **rule 6**.

"Affiliation Year" means the period which commences on 1 October of any year and concludes on 30 September the following year.

"ALA" means Australian Little Athletics Incorporated, the governing body for Little Athletics in Australia, or its successor.

"Annual General Meeting" means a meeting of Members convened in accordance with **rule 11**.

"Annual Subscriptions" means the annual fees payable by each category of Member as determined by the Board under **rule 6.10**.

"Association" means The Little Athletics Victoria Incorporated.

"Associate Director" means a person elected or appointed to a standing committee under **rule 20.2**.

"Board" means the body consisting of the Directors under **rule 16.2**.

"Committee" means any committee of the Board created under **rule 20.2** from time to time and it includes any Standing Committees.

"Competitive Member" means shall consist of those children who are five (5) years of age or older and who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger (including those children who turn sixteen (16) during the Affiliation Year) at the commencement of any Affiliation Year and who are registered with the Association (through an Affiliated Centre or Affiliated Club) and participate in Little Athletics and/or skill related activities organised and conducted by the Association or any of its Members. For the avoidance of doubt, a child may be registered as a Competitive Member during the Affiliation Year upon attaining five (5) years of age.

"Constitution" means this constitution of the Association as amended from time to time.

"Delegate" means a representative of an Affiliated Centre appointed by that Affiliated Centre to represent the Affiliated Centre at General Meetings. The Delegate must be an Ordinary Member or an Honorary Member but cannot be a Director.

"Director" means a member of the Board and includes the Elected Directors but does not include Associate Directors unless specified.

"Director Portfolio" means any of the portfolios assigned to Elected Directors, namely President, Business Assurance Director, Competition Director, Education Director, Finance Director or Membership Development Director.

"Elected Director" means a Director elected under **rule 17**.

"Financial Year" means the period which commences on 1 June of any year and concludes on 31 May the following year.

"General Manager" means the general manager or chief executive officer of the Association appointed by the Board in accordance with **rule 20.1**.

"General Meeting" means an Annual General Meeting together with any meeting of Members convened in accordance with **rule 12**.

"Honorary Member" means an individual appointed as such under **rule 6.7**.

"IAAF" means the International Amateur Athletic Association, the international governing body for athletics, including Little Athletics, or its successors.

"Intellectual Property" means all rights subsisting in copyright, trade names, trademarks, logos, designs, equipment, images (including photographs, videos or films) or service marks (whether registered or not) relating to the Association or activity conducted, promoted or administered by the Association.

"Little Athletics" means the sport of athletics for children between the ages of 5 and 16 years which is governed by the Association, ALA and the IAAF.

"Member" means any Affiliated Centre, Affiliated Club, Ordinary Member, Honorary Member or such other person recognized as a Member by the Board under **rule 6** from time to time.

"Ordinary Members" means any person, not being a Competitive Member, who meets the criteria for membership as an "Ordinary Member" which are set out in the Regulations from time to time. Such persons will generally be parents of Competitive Members, officials of Little Athletic events, directors/officers.

"President" means the president of the Association appointed in accordance with **rule 17** from time to time.

"Region" means an area of Victoria having boundaries as determined by the Board from time to time and which includes such Affiliated Centres as have been assigned to that geographic area by the Board. A reference to "Region" also includes the committee or other body appointed to administer an approved area.

"Register" means the register of Members kept in accordance with **rule 8.1**.

"Regulations" means any regulations made by the Board under **rule 31**.

"Special Resolution" has the same meaning as the Act.

"Regional Advisory Committee" means the group established under **rule 20.3** for the purposes set out in that rule and in the Regulations.

4.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution:

- (a)** A reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;
- (b)** A reference to a rule, regulation, schedule or annexure is to a rule, regulation, schedule or annexure of, or made under, this Constitution;
- (c)** A reference to the exercise of a function includes where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority or the performance of the duty;
- (d)** Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (e)** Words importing any gender include the other genders;
- (f)** Headings are for convenience only and shall not be used for interpretation;
- (g)** Words or expressions shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Act as they vary from time to time;
- (h)** References to persons include natural persons, corporations and bodies politic;
- (i)** References to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;
- (j)** a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or

replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction); and

- (k) Expressions referring to "writing" shall unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

4.3 Enforceability

If any provision of this Constitution or any phrase contained in it is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, the phrase or provision shall be read down for the purpose of that jurisdiction, if possible, so it is valid and enforceable. If it cannot be so read down the provision shall be severed to the extent of the invalidity or unenforceability. The remaining provisions of this Constitution and its validity or enforceability shall not be affected by the severance in any other jurisdiction.

5. REGISTERED ADDRESS

The registered address of the Association shall be at such place as determined by the Board from time to time.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

6. MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

6.1 Categories of Member

The Members shall be, and shall be divided into, the following categories:

- (a) Affiliated Centres, which shall be represented at General Meetings by up to two Delegates. Each Delegate shall (subject to this Constitution and rule 15.1 in particular) have the right to be present, to debate and to vote at General Meetings;
- (b) Affiliated Clubs, which shall not have any rights to be present, debate or vote at General Meetings;
- (c) Competitive Members, who shall have the right to be present at General Meetings, but do not have a right to debate or vote at General Meetings;
- (d) Ordinary Members, who shall have the right to be present at General Meetings, but do not have a right to debate or vote at General Meetings;
- (e) Honorary Members, who shall have the right to be present and to debate at General Meetings, but do not have voting rights at General Meetings; and
- (f) Such other category or categories of members as determined by the Board from time to time.

6.2 Creation of New Categories of Membership

The Board has the right and power from time to time to create new categories of membership with such rights (other than voting rights), privileges and obligations as are determined applicable, even if the effect of creating a new category is to alter rights, privileges or obligations of an existing category of Members. No new category of membership may be granted voting rights. The Board shall advise the Members of the new categories and the associated rights.

6.3 Affiliated Centres

- (a) The Association shall consist of such Affiliated Centres as are recognised by the Board from time to time in accordance with this clause.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution, each Affiliated Centre shall administer the sport of Little Athletics in its geographic area.
- (c) The boundaries of each Affiliated Centre shall be as decided by the Board from time to time.
- (d) An Affiliated Centre must accept the membership of an Affiliated Club which has been assigned to the Area in accordance with clause 6.4.

6.4 Affiliated Clubs

- (a) The Association shall consist of such Affiliated Clubs as are recognised by the Board from time to time in accordance with this clause.
- (b) Upon affiliation the Board shall assign an Affiliated Club membership of an Affiliated Centre.

6.5 Application for Membership – Affiliated Centres and Affiliated Clubs

- (a) To be eligible for membership as either an Affiliated Centre or an Affiliated Club, the applicant Little Athletics centre or club must meet any criteria set by the Board or set out in the Regulations from time to time;
- (b) Subject to this Constitution, the Regulations or any procedures set by the Board from time to time, an application for membership by a Little Athletics centre or club must be:
 - (i) In writing in the form prescribed in the Regulations or otherwise by the Board from time to time;
 - (ii) Accompanied by the appropriate fee or fees, if any; and
 - (iii) Lodged with the General Manager.

- (c) As soon as is practicable after the receipt of an application under rule 6.2(a), the General Manager shall refer the application to the Board who shall determine whether to approve or decline the application.
- (d) If the Board approves the application for membership, the Board shall determine the appropriate:
 - (i) Region for an Affiliated Centre; or
 - (ii) Region and Affiliated Centre for an Affiliated Club.
- (e) If the Board does not approve an application for membership, the General Manager shall notify the applicant in writing that their application for membership is not approved. The Board is not required to give reasons for its decision.
- (f) An applicant centre or club may only apply for membership of the Association once in any Affiliation Year.

6.6 Application for Membership – Competitive Member and Ordinary Member

- (a) To be eligible for membership as a Competitive Member or an Ordinary Member, the applicant must be a natural person and meet any other criteria set by the Board or set out in the Regulations from time to time.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution, the Regulations or any procedures set by the Board from time to time, an application for membership by a natural person must be:
 - (i) In writing in the form prescribed by the Board from time to time;
 - (ii) Accompanied by the appropriate fee or fees, if any; and
 - (iii) Lodged with the General Manager (either directly or through an Affiliated Club or Affiliated Centre).
- (c) If a person satisfies the criteria set by this rule 6.6, they shall be deemed a Competitive Member or an Ordinary Member (as applicable), subject always to this Constitution and in particular sub-rules (c) and (d) below.
- (d) The General Manager may, in their discretion, refer any application for membership as a Competitive Member or an Ordinary Member to the Board for review. The Board may, in its discretion, determine whether to approve or decline the application.
- (e) If the Board does not approve an application for membership, the General Manager shall, as soon as practicable, notify the applicant in writing that their application for membership is not approved. The Board is not required to give reasons for its decision.
- (f) An applicant natural person may only apply for membership of the Association once in any Affiliation Year.

6.7 Honorary Members

Individuals may be appointed as Honorary Members of the Association in recognition of services rendered to the Association. Nominations for Honorary Membership should be lodged with the General Manager and they will be determined by the procedure set out in the Regulations from time to time.

6.8 Delegates of Affiliated Centres

- (a) Each Affiliated Centre shall advise the General Manager at least fourteen days prior to any General Meeting who its Delegates will be.
- (b) Each Affiliated Centre may appoint up to two Delegates.
- (c) Subject to this Constitution and the Regulations, the Delegate(s) of an Affiliated Centre:
 - (i) Will each be eligible to vote on behalf of that Affiliated Centre at General Meetings; and
 - (ii) One of them only (if there are two Delegates) will be eligible to vote on behalf of that Affiliated Centre on any postal ballot (including, but not limited to, election of Elected Directors).
- (d) If an Affiliated Centre fails to provide the required notification to the General Manager, the president and secretary of the Affiliated Centre shall be deemed to be the Delegates.

- (e) If an Affiliated Centre's Delegate(s) is unable to attend a General Meeting, the Club may notify the General Manager in writing not less than 48 hours before that General Meeting of its appointment of a proxy. Such appointment is valid for that General Meeting only and, in any case, it is only valid if it is completed on the form prescribed for that purpose and meets any other criteria set out in the form and/or Regulations. Proxy forms cannot be accepted by the General Manager within 48 hours of the General Meeting.
- (f) An Affiliated Centre must notify the General Manager in writing whenever a Delegate is replaced on the form (if any) prescribed for that purpose. The General Manager shall record any change in Delegate in the Register. Subject to the Constitution and the Regulations, the replacement Delegate shall be entitled to exercise the rights of a Delegate under this Constitution immediately upon notification to the General Manager.
- (g) Each Delegate shall comply with the directions given by a resolution of the Affiliated Centre appointing that Delegate, including in respect of voting and if required by the Board shall provide to the Board evidence of such compliance.

6.9 Effect of Membership

- (a) Members acknowledge and agree that:
 - (i) This Constitution constitutes a contract between each of them and the Association and that they are bound by this Constitution and the Regulations;
 - (ii) They shall comply with and observe this Constitution and the Regulations;
 - (iii) By submitting to this Constitution and the Regulations they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Association;
 - (iv) This Constitution and Regulations are necessary and reasonable for promoting the purposes of the Association; and
 - (v) They are entitled to all benefits, advantages, privileges and services of their membership as determined by the Board.
- (b) Members may by virtue of membership of the Association and subject to this Constitution:
 - (i) express in writing or otherwise their views and opinions in any meeting in respect of which they are entitled to participate in accordance with this Constitution;
 - (ii) Make proposals or submissions to the Board;
 - (iii) Engage and participate in any activity approved, sponsored or recognised by the Association; and
 - (iv) Conduct any activity approved by the Association.
- (c) A right, privilege or obligation of a person by reason of their membership of the Association:
 - (i) Is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person; and
 - (ii) Terminates upon the cessation of membership whether by death, resignation or otherwise.

6.10 Renewal of membership

All Members, including Affiliated Centres and Affiliated Clubs, must reapply for membership each Affiliation Year through the procedure set out in this Constitution or by the Board from time to time.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES

- (a) The Annual Subscriptions payable by Members or categories of Members to the Association, the benefits which apply, the time for, and manner of payment, shall be determined by the Board of Management. Where the increase in Annual Subscription exceeds 10% it must be ratified by the members at a General Meeting.
- (b) Any other fees payable by Members or categories of Members to the Association shall be set out in the Regulations.

8. REGISTERS

8.1 General Manager to Keep Register of Members

The General Manager shall keep and maintain a Register of Members in which shall be entered the full name, address, category of membership, date of entry of the name of each Member and whether the Member has been granted voting rights.

8.2 Inspection of Register

Having regard to confidentiality considerations and subject to the Act, an extract of the Register, excluding the contact details of a Member who is an individual, shall be available for inspection (but not copying) by Members, upon reasonable request.

8.3 Register to be kept by Affiliated Centres and Clubs

Affiliated Centres and Clubs shall maintain, in a form acceptable to the Association and with such details as are required by the Board, a register of all members of the Affiliated Club (including, but not limited to, those who are Competitive Members and Ordinary Members). Such register shall be available for inspection (including copying) by the General Manager (or their nominee), upon reasonable request.

9. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

9.1 Notice of Resignation

- (a) But for Affiliated Centres, any Member who has paid all monies due and payable to the Association may resign from the Association by giving thirty days notice in writing to the Association of such intention to resign. Upon the expiration of that period of notice, the Member shall cease to be a member.
- (b) No Affiliated Centre may resign or wind up its activities:
 - (i) Without providing the Board with at least seven days written notice of its intention to do so; or
 - (ii) Unless the Region or the Finance Director on the Board recommends it after due investigation.
- (c) Upon receiving such notice from an Affiliated Centre or receiving the recommendation from the Region or the Finance Director, the Board may take any steps it deems necessary or appropriate to:
 - (i) Endeavour to retain the Affiliated Centre as a Member (including, but not limited to, holding a meeting to attempt to reform the Affiliated Centre); and/or
 - (ii) Ensure its continued operation; and/or
 - (iii) Obtain the property and records of the Affiliated Centre for the benefit of Little Athletics.

9.2 Expiration of Notice Period

Upon the expiration of a notice given under rule 9.1, an entry, recording the date on which the Member who gave notice ceased to be a Member, shall be recorded in the Register.

9.3 Forfeiture of Rights

A Member who ceases to be a Member, for whatever reason, shall forfeit all right in and claim upon the Association and its property including Intellectual Property.

10. EXPULSION, SUSPENSION OR FINING OF MEMBERS

10.1 Board Resolution

- (a) Subject to this Constitution, the Board may by resolution:
- (b) Expel a Member from the Association; or
- (c) Suspend a Member from membership of the Association for a specified period; or
- (d) Fine a Member (such amount not exceeding \$250);
- (e) Impose such other penalty, action or educative process as it sees fit,

- (f) If the Board considers that the Member has:
- (g) Breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution or the Regulations;
- (h) Acted in a manner unbecoming of a Member or prejudicial to the purposes and interests of the Association, or another Member; or
- (i) Brought the Association, Little Athletics or another Member into disrepute.
- (j) Such grounds do not constitute a grievance, and rule 21 does not apply.

10.2 Notice of Alleged Breach

- (a) Where the Board considers that a Member may have satisfied one or more of the grounds in rule 10.1 (g), (h) or (i), the General Manager shall, as soon as practicable, serve on the Member a notice in writing:
- (b) Setting out the alleged breach of the Member and the grounds on which it is based;
- (c) Stating that the Member may address the Board at a meeting to be held not earlier than fourteen and not later than twenty eight days after service of the notice;
- (d) Stating the date, place and time of that meeting;
- (e) Informing the Member that he, she or it may do one or more of the following:
- (f) Attend that meeting;
- (g) Give the Association, before the date of that meeting a written statement regarding the alleged breach.

10.3 Determination of Board

- (a) At a meeting of the Board held in accordance with rule 10.2, the Board shall:
- (b) Give the Member (either personally or through a representative who shall not be legally trained) every opportunity to be heard;
- (c) Give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the Member; and
- (d) By resolution determine whether the alleged breach occurred.
- (e) The Board is not required to give reasons for its decision.

10.4 Appeal

- (a) If the Member wishes to appeal the decision of the Board under this rule 10, the Member must provide the General Manager with a notice setting out that within 48 hours of the Board's decision.
- (b) Where the General Manager receives such a notice, they shall notify the Board who shall convene a special General Meeting.
- (c) At that General Meeting:
 - (i) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (ii) the Board may place before the meeting such details regarding the grounds for the resolution as it deems necessary; and
 - (iii) the Member (either personally or through a representative who shall not be legally trained) will be given an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (iv) the Members present and entitled to vote shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the Board's resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (d) The Board's resolution shall be confirmed if two-thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote, vote in favour of the resolution.

PART III- GENERAL MEETINGS

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

11.1 Annual General Meeting to be Held

The Association shall convene and hold an Annual General Meeting of its Members in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Regulations and on a date and at a venue to be determined by the Board.

11.2 Business

The Annual General Meeting will transact any business required by the Act, determined by the Board and General Manager, and any other business of which notice is given in accordance with this Constitution (see **rule 13.2** in particular).

11.3 Additional Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be in addition to any other General Meetings that may be held in the same year.

11.4 Conduct of Annual General Meetings

For the avoidance of doubt an Annual General Meeting is a General meeting as defined in this Constitution and, as such, business and voting procedures for Annual General Meetings are to be transacted in the same manner as for General Meetings set out in this Constitution and the Regulations.

12. GENERAL MEETINGS

12.1 General Meetings May be Held

The Board may, whenever it thinks fit convene a General Meeting of the Association and, where, but for this rule more than fifteen months would elapse between Annual General Meetings, shall convene a General Meeting before the expiration of that period.

12.2 Request for General Meetings

- (a) The Board shall on a request in writing from not less than one quarter of the Affiliated Centres (where Delegates from such Affiliated Centres have signed the request), convene a General Meeting. The Board may also request a General Meeting.
- (b) The request for a General Meeting shall state the object(s) of the meeting and shall be signed by the Delegates making the request and be sent to the General Manager and may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one or more of the Delegates making the requisition.
- (c) If the Board does not cause a General Meeting to be held within 35 days after the date on which the request is sent to the Association, the Members making the request, or any of them, may convene a General Meeting to be held not later than 60 days after that date.
- (d) A General Meeting convened by Members under this Constitution shall be convened in the same manner, or as nearly as possible as that, in which meetings are convened by the Board. All reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be refunded by the Association to the persons incurring the expenses.

13. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

13.1 Notice to be Given for General Meetings

The General Manager shall, at least 28 days before the date fixed for holding a General Meeting, send to each Honorary Member, Affiliated Centre, Region and each Director a notice in writing stating the place, date and time and the nature of the proposed business to be transacted at the meeting.

13.2 Business of General Meeting

- (a) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the General Meeting.
- (b) A Member desiring to bring any business before a General Meeting shall provide notice in writing of that business in the manner set out in the Regulations.

14. PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

14.1 Quorum

- (a) No item of business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of Members entitled under this Constitution to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- (b) Directors are entitled to attend and debate at General Meetings, but they shall not vote or be included in the calculation of a quorum.
- (c) At least half of the Affiliated Centres must be represented by at least one Delegate personally present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at a General Meeting.
- (d) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a General Meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting:
 - (e) if convened upon the requisition of Members, shall be dissolved; and
 - (f) in any other case, shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless Members are notified of an alternate venue) at the same place and 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 thirty (30)) shall be a quorum.

14.2 President to Chair

The President shall chair each General Meeting of the Association. If the President is absent from a General Meeting or is unwilling to act then the Directors present shall elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

14.3 Chairperson May Adjourn Meeting

- (a) The chairperson of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of 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.
- (b) Where a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the General Meeting. Except as provided in this rule, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

15. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

15.1 Voting Rights

- (a) Subject to any other provision of this Constitution, at all General Meetings:
 - (i) the only persons entitled to vote are the Delegates (or their validly appointed proxy); and
 - (ii) an Affiliated Centre is entitled to appoint two Delegates to vote on any motion however, notwithstanding anything in rule 6, only one vote may be cast on behalf of an Affiliated Centre on any motion to amend this Constitution.

15.2 Voting Procedure

- (a) Subject to rule 15.2(b), votes at a General Meeting shall be given in person by those present and entitled to vote (either personally or by valid proxy).
- (b) Subject to rule 15.4 and anything set out in the Regulations, all questions arising at a General Meeting shall be determined on a show of hands.

- (c) The chairperson of the meeting is not entitled to exercise a deliberative vote. However, in the case of an equality of votes on a question, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a casting vote.
- (d) A Delegate is not entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all monies due and payable to the Association have, to the satisfaction of the General Manager, been paid by the Delegate's Affiliated Centre.

15.3 Recording of Determinations

When a declaration is made by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried, carried unanimously, carried by a particular majority or lost, then 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.

15.4 Poll at General Meetings

- (a) If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by three (3) Delegates, it shall be taken at the meeting in such manner as the chairperson may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question.
- (b) A poll that is demanded on a question of an adjournment shall be taken immediately and a poll that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the chairperson may direct.

15.5 Postal Voting

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Board, postal voting shall only be conducted for the election of Directors.
- (b) Postal voting shall not be conducted to determine amendments to the Constitution under rule 26 or disciplinary matters under rule 10.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other rule in this Constitution, where a postal vote is conducted, each Affiliated Centre shall only be entitled to cast one vote on any motion or, for the avoidance of doubt, complete one ballot paper for the election of Directors.
- (d) The Board may determine the procedures it deems appropriate regarding the conduct of any postal vote which may include, but not be limited to, through ordinary post or any form of technology (for example a website).

PART IV – BOARD

16. BOARD

16.1 Powers of Board

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board constituted under rule 16.2.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution and the Act, the Board:
 - (i) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association;
 - (ii) may exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those powers and functions that are required by this Constitution to be exercised by the Members in General Meeting; and
 - (iii) has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Board to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.
- (c) Further to rule 20.1, The Board has a broad power to delegate its powers under this Constitution to the General Manager.

16.2 Composition of Board

- (a) The Board shall consist of six Elected Directors who must all be Ordinary Members or Honorary Members and who shall be elected in accordance with rule 17.
- (b) Elected Directors may be required to meet any qualifications set out in the Regulations from time to time.

16.3 Term of Elected Directors

- (a) Subject to rule 16.3(c) below, each Elected Director, shall hold office until the second Annual General Meeting following the declaration of their election at an AGM, but is eligible for re-election.
- (b) To ensure rotational terms and Board continuity, the President, Competition Director and Membership Development Director will be elected in odd-numbered years, and the Finance Director, Education Director and Business Assurance Director will be elected in even-numbered years.
- (c) No Director may serve for more than three consecutive terms of two years. However, that Director shall be eligible to return to the Board following an absence of not less than 12 months.

16.4 Transitional Arrangements

Upon this Constitution taking effect at a General Meeting, the Directors who would have held office immediately following such General Meeting shall commence or continue to hold office under the terms of this Constitution, however there shall be no change to the Term or position/portfolio of any such Director.

17. ELECTION OF ELECTED DIRECTORS

- (a) The General Manager shall call for nominations at an appropriate time determined by the Board. All Members shall be notified of the call for nominations as determined by the Board.
- (b) Nominations of candidates for election as Elected Directors, shall be:
 - (i) made in writing on the form provided by the Association from time to time (if any), but in any case it must be accompanied by:
 1. the written consent of the nominee;
 2. proof that their nomination is consented to by an Affiliated Centre or Region; with such proof being as required from time to time and set out in the Regulations;
 - (ii) an Ordinary Member or Honorary Member and must provide details confirming that they meet any qualifications set out in the Regulations from time to time under rule (b); and

- (iii) delivered to the General Manager by the date specified on the call for nominations; and
- (iv) made for one (or more) of the specified positions on the Board, namely:
 - a) President
 - b) Business Assurance Director
 - c) Competition Director
 - d) Education Director
 - e) Finance Director
 - f) Membership Development Director
 - g) If there are no nominations for any Director Portfolio, then any vacancies shall be treated as casual vacancies under rule 18.2.
- (c) If the number of nominations for any Director Portfolio exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a postal ballot shall be conducted to determine the Elected Directors. Subject to rule 15.5, such ballot will be conducted in the manner determined by the Board, or as set out in the Regulations, from time to time.
- (d) An independent person shall be appointed by the Board to act as returning officer for the secret ballot. No person, other than the returning officer, shall be entitled to see any voting paper and the returning officer shall not disclose to any person the way in which any person has voted. The decision of the returning officer on any matter relating to the elections is final and no appeal shall be made from that decision.

18. VACANCY ON THE BOARD

18.1 Grounds for Termination of Director

- (a) For the purposes of this Constitution, the office of a Director becomes vacant if the Director:
 - (b) In the case of an Elected Director, ceases to be an Ordinary Member or Honorary Member
 - (c) Becomes bankrupt
 - (d) Resigns their office by notice in writing given to the Association
 - (e) Is subject to any sanction by the Board under rule 10
 - (f) Is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Association and, in the opinion of the Board, has deliberately, recklessly or negligently failed to declare the nature of his interest
 - (g) Dies or becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in anyway under the law relating to mental health
 - (h) Commits any offence under the Act; or
 - (i) Fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Board without having previously obtained leave of absence or provided reasonable excuse for such absence.

18.2 Casual Vacancy

In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of any Elected Director, the Board may appoint an appropriate Ordinary Member or Honorary Member to the vacant office and the person so appointed may continue in office up to the end of the term of the Elected Director they are replacing.

19. PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS

19.1 Convening a Board Meeting

- (a) The Board shall meet as required, but shall meet at least monthly.
- (b) Unless all Directors agree to hold a meeting at shorter notice (which agreement shall be sufficiently evidenced in writing or by their presence) not less than seven days written notice of the meeting of the Board shall be given to each Director.
- (c) Written notice of each Board meeting, specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted, shall be served on each Director by:
 - (i) Delivering it to that Director personally;

- (ii) Sending it in writing, by facsimile or other means of electronic communication (subject to receiving appropriate confirmation that the notice has been effectively dispatched);
- (d) In accordance with the Director's last notified contact details.
- (e) No action or proceeding of the Board shall be invalidated or rendered illegal by reason only that there was some defect in the election or appointment of any Director or that any Director was ineligible to hold such office.

19.2 Quorum

- (a) Four Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Board.
- (b) No business shall be transacted 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 shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
- (c) The Board may act notwithstanding any casual vacancy. However, if there are casual vacancies in the office of a Director such that the number of remaining Directors is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board, those Directors may act only for the purpose of increasing the number of Directors to a number sufficient to constitute such a quorum.

19.3 Procedures at Board meetings

- (a) At meetings of the Board:
 - (i) The President shall chair the meeting;
 - (ii) If the President is absent or unwilling to act, the Board shall appoint one of its members to chair the meeting.
- (b) Questions arising at a meeting of the Board shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a Director, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- (c) Each Director present at a meeting of the Board (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote. In the event of an equality of votes on any question, only the President may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (d) A resolution in writing signed or assented to by facsimile or other form of electronic communication by all the voting Directors shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more of the Directors.
- (e) The Board may otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.
- (f) Without limiting the power of the Board to regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, a meeting of the Directors may be held where one or more of the Directors is not physically present at the meeting, provided that:
 - (i) All persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with each other effectively, simultaneously and instantaneously whether by means of telephone or other form of communication;
 - (ii) Notice of the meeting is given to all the Directors entitled to notice in accordance with the usual procedures agreed upon or laid down from time to time by the Board;
 - (iii) in the event that a failure in communications prevents condition (i) from being satisfied by that number of Directors which constitutes a quorum, and none of such Directors are present at the place where the meeting is deemed by virtue of the further provisions of this rule to be held then the meeting shall be suspended until condition (i) is satisfied again. If such condition is not satisfied within fifteen minutes from the interruption the meeting shall be deemed to have terminated; and
 - (iv) any meeting held where one or more of the Directors is not physically present shall be deemed to be held at the place specified in the notice of meeting provided a Director is there present and if no Director is there present the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place where the chairperson of the meeting is located.

19.4 Directors' Interests

A Director is disqualified from holding any place of profit or position of employment in the Association, or in any company or incorporated association in which the Association is a shareholder or otherwise interested, or from contracting with the Association either as vendor, purchaser or otherwise except with express resolution of approval of the Board. Any contract or arrangement in which any Director is in any way interested which is entered into by or on behalf of the Association without the approval of the Board, will be voided for such reason.

19.5 Disclosure of Interests

The nature of the interest of such Director must be declared by the Director at the meeting of the Board at which the contract or arrangement is first taken into consideration if the interest then exists or in any other case at the first meeting of the Board after the acquisition of the interest. If a Director becomes interested in a contract or arrangement after it is made or entered into the declaration of the interest must be made at the first meeting of the Board held after the Director becomes so interested.

19.6 General Disclosure

A general notice that a Director is a member of any specified firm or company and is to be regarded as interested in all transactions with that firm or company is sufficient declaration under rule 19.5 as regards such Director and the said transactions. After such general notice it is not necessary for such Director to give a special notice relating to any particular transaction with that firm or company.

19.7 Recording Disclosures

It is the duty of the General Manager to record in the minutes any declaration made or any general notice as aforesaid given by a Director in accordance with rules 19.5 and 19.6.

19.8 Conflicts

A Director, notwithstanding the interest, may be counted in the quorum present at any meeting but cannot vote in respect of any contract or arrangement in which the Director is interested. If the Director votes, the vote shall not be counted.

20. DELEGATED POWERS AND DUTIES**20.1 General Manager**

- (a) The General Manager shall act as Secretary of the Association and shall be appointed by the Board, for such term and upon such conditions as the Board thinks fit.
- (b) The General Manager shall be responsible to the Board for the management of the affairs of the Association.
- (c) The General Manager shall have the right to be present and to debate at all Board and General Meetings of the Association but shall have no vote.

20.2 Committees

- (a) The Board may establish and delegate any of its functions, powers or duties (except this power to delegate) to such committee or committees as it thinks fit and may recall or revoke any such delegation or appointment and may amend or repeal any decision made by such committee.
- (b) The Board shall determine in writing the duties and powers afforded to any committee and the committee shall, in the exercise of such delegated powers, conform to any directions or Regulations that may be prescribed by the Board.
- (c) In addition to the Board's right to establish any committees from time to time as it thinks fit, it will establish five standing committees to be known as the:
 - (i) Business Assurance Standing Committee
 - (ii) Competition Standing Committee

- (iii)** Finance Standing Committee
- (iv)** Education Standing Committee, and
- (v)** Membership Development Standing Committee
- (d)** Each standing committee will be chaired by the relevant Director elected under rule 17. The procedures of each of these standing committees shall be set out in the Regulations or otherwise prescribed by the Board.
- (e)** A Director or the General Manager shall be ex-officio members of any committee so appointed.
- (f)** Associate Directors may be appointed in accordance with the Regulations for each standing committee established under rule 20.2(c).
- (g)** Within seven days of any meeting of any Committee, the Committee shall send a copy of the minutes and any supporting documents to the General Manager.

20.3 Regions

For the purposes of administering Members and conducting competition, the Association shall be formed into Regions that are created by an instrument of the Board.

20.4 Regional Advisory Committee

- (a)** The Regional Advisory Committee shall be established as a Committee of the Board.
- (b)** The Regional Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with the Regulations.

PART V - MISCELLANEOUS

21. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- (a) The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under this Constitution between:
- (i) A Member and another Member; or
 - (ii) A Member and the Association.
- (b) The parties to the dispute shall not be represented by a member of the legal profession except in the case where the Member is so qualified and employed and shall meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within fourteen (14) days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- (c) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- (d) The mediator must be:
- (i) A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (ii) In the absence of agreement:
 - h) In the case of a dispute between a Member and another Member, a person appointed by the Board; or
 - i) In the case of a dispute between a Member and the Association, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).
- (e) A Member can be a mediator.
- (f) The mediator cannot be a Member who is a party to the dispute.
- (g) The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (h) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must:
- (i) Give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (ii) Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (iii) Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
 - (iv) The mediator must not determine the dispute.
 - (v) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

22. SOURCES OF FUNDS

The funds of the Association shall be derived from Annual Subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the Board determines from time to time.

23. APPLICATION OF INCOME

- (a) The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of the Association as set out in this Constitution.
- (b) No portion of the income or property of the Association shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to any Member, but this shall not preclude payment to a Member in good faith for expenses incurred or services rendered.

24. NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS

All cheques and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two Directors or in such other manner approved by the Board from time to time.

25. COMMON SEAL

- (c) The common seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the General Manager.
- (d) 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 of two Directors or one Director and the General Manager, or in such other manner approved by the Board from time to time.
- (e) A Director may not sign a document to which the seal of the Association is fixed where the Director is interested in the contract or arrangement to which the document relates.

26. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall not be altered except by Special Resolution in accordance with the Act. Additional procedures (if any) for amending the Constitution will be determined by the Board and set out in the Regulations.

27. DISSOLUTION

- (a) In the event of the Association being wound up, the liability of the Member shall be limited to any outstanding monies due and payable to the Association, including the amount of the Annual Subscription payable in respect of the current Financial Year. No other amount shall be payable by the Member.
- (b) If upon winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members, but shall be given or transferred to some other organisation having purposes similar to the purposes of the Association and which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members and which is also not carried on for the profit or gain to its members. Such body or bodies to be determined by the Members at or before the time of dissolution, and in default thereof by such judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.

28. INDEMNITY

- (a) Every Director or officer (including employees or members of Committees) of the Association shall be indemnified out of the property and assets of the Association against any liability incurred by him/her in his/her capacity as Director or officer in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his or her favour or in which he or she is acquitted or in connection with any application in relation to any such proceedings in which relief is granted to him or her by the Court.
- (b) The Association shall indemnify its Directors and officers (including employees or members of Committees) against all damages and costs (including legal costs) for which any such Directors or officers may be or become liable to any third party in consequence of any act or omission except wilful misconduct:
 - (i) in the case of a Director or officer, performed or made whilst acting on behalf of and with the authority, express or implied of the Association; and
 - (ii) In the case of an employee, performed or made in the course of, and within the scope of his or her employment by the Association.

29. SERVICE OF NOTICES

- (a) Notices may be given to Members by sending the notice by post or facsimile transmission or where available, by electronic mail, to the Member's address or facsimile number or electronic mail address shown in the Register.
- (b) Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected at the time the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- (c) Where a notice is sent by facsimile transmission, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected upon receipt of a confirmation report confirming the facsimile was sent to the correct facsimile number.
- (d) Where a notice is sent by electronic mail, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing and upon receipt of a confirmation report confirming the electronic mail message was received at the electronic mail address to which it was sent.

30. CUSTODY OF BOOKS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- (a)** Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the General Manager shall keep in his or her custody or control all books, documents and securities of the Association.
- (b)** The General Manager shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each General Meeting and Board meeting in books provided for that purpose, together with a record of the names of persons present at all meetings.
- (c)** A Member is only entitled to inspect (but not copy) the accounts, books, securities and other relevant documents of the Association in accordance with the Act, and upon reasonable notice following a request in writing which is authorised by the Board.

31. REGULATIONS

- (a)** Subject to rule 31(c), the Board may make, alter, amend or rescind Regulations as occasions may require, and the Board may enforce penalties for their breach. Such Regulations shall have the same force and effect as this Constitution, but shall not be in any way oppose or be in conflict with this Constitution. Such Regulations shall be available for inspection at the Association's premises upon reasonable notice and following a request in writing.
- (b)** Amendments, alterations, interpretation or other changes to Regulations shall be advised to Members by means of notice approved by the Board. Notices shall be binding upon all Members. Notice does not need to be provided to every Member.
- (c)** Any Regulations made by the Board are subject to ratification by the Members at a General Meeting. The Board may set procedures for review of the Regulations at General Meetings (including, but not limited to, notice requirements); such procedures will be set out in the Regulations.