

CONSUMER AFFAIRS VICTORIA
Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

RULES
For
SPORTS ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE INCORPORATED

Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012
Part 3

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Model Rules for an Incorporated Association

Note

The persons who from time to time are members of the Association are an incorporated association by the name given in rule 1 of these Rules.

Under section 46 of the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**, these Rules are taken to constitute the terms of a contract between the Association and its members.

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1 Name

The name of the incorporated association is "Sports Environment Alliance Incorporated".

Note

Under section 23 of the Act, the name of the association and its registration number must appear on all its business documents.

2 Purposes

The purposes of the association is as follows:

The Sports Environment Alliance is established with a purpose of protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Australasia by promoting sustainability, sustainable development, regeneration and use of resources by:

- Educating the general public through mass engaging cultural levers, namely, the sport community and industry,
- Encouraging climate action through mitigation and adaptation; sharing resources and undertaking related projects & programs,
- Engaging all communities in the ideals, values, and vision of our organisation to protect our clean future through present action.

3 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 30th of June.

4 Definitions

In these Rules—

absolute majority, of the Board, means a majority of the Board members currently holding office and entitled to vote at the time (as distinct from a majority of Board members present at a Board meeting);

Associate Member means a member under rule 8B;

Association means Sports Environment Alliance Incorporated;

Board means the Board having management of the business of the Association;

Board meeting means a meeting of the Board held in accordance with these Rules;

Board member means a member of the Board elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5;

Chairperson, of a general meeting or Board meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under rule 46;

disciplinary appeal meeting means a meeting of the members of the Association convened under rule 23(3);

disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Board convened for the purposes of rule 22;

disciplinary subcommittee means the subcommittee appointed under rule 20;

financial year means the 12 month period specified in rule 3;

Founder means Sheila Ngoc Nguyen;

Founder Member means the member under rule 8D;

Full Member means a member under rule 8A;

general meeting means a general meeting of the members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4 and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting and a disciplinary appeal meeting;

Gift means all gifts of money or property of any description made to the Association for the purposes of the Association as set out in rule 2;

Individual Member means a member under rule 8C;

Life Member means a member under rule 8E(2);

member means a member of the Association;

member entitled to vote means a member who under rule 13(2) is entitled to vote at a general meeting;

person includes natural persons, corporations, associations, companies, trusts, and any other organisation;

special resolution means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a general meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution;

the Act means the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012** and includes any regulations made under that Act;

the Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

PART 2—POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5 Powers of Association

- (1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.

- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), the Association may—
 - (a) acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
 - (b) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - (c) invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - (d) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
 - (e) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - (f) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 - (g) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes or as a means of achieving its purpose.

6 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
 - (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
 - (b) for goods or services provided by the member—if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

Note

Section 33 of the Act provides that an incorporated association must not secure pecuniary profit for its members. Section 4 of the Act sets out in more detail the circumstances under which an incorporated association is not taken to secure pecuniary profit for its members.

PART 3—MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES

Division 1—Membership

7 Minimum number of members

The Association must have at least 5 members.

8 Classes of Member

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

- (1) Full Members;
- (2) Associate Members;

- (3) Individual Members;
- (4) Founder Member; and
- (5) Life Members.

8A Full Members

- (1) A person may apply for membership as a Full Member in accordance with rule 9.
- (2) To be eligible for membership as a Full Member, the person must:
 - (a) support the objects of the Association;
 - (b) if the person is a natural person, be at least 18 years of age;
 - (c) pay the annual fees or subscription charges for the applicable membership year; and
 - (d) meet any other criteria as set out by the Board from time to time.

8B Associate Members

- (1) A person may apply for membership as an Associate Member in accordance with rule 9.
- (2) To be eligible for membership as an Associate Member, the person must:
 - (a) support the objects of the Association;
 - (b) if the person is a natural person, be at least 18 years of age;
 - (c) pay any annual fees or subscription charges for the applicable membership year; and
 - (d) meet any other criteria as set out by the Board from time to time.

8C Individual Members

- (1) A person may apply for membership as an Individual Member in accordance with rule 9.
- (2) To be eligible for membership as an Individual Member, the person must:
 - (a) be an individual;
 - (b) be at least 18 years of age;
 - (c) pay any annual fees or subscription charges for the applicable membership year
 - (d) support the objects of the Association; and
 - (e) meet any other criteria as set out by the Board from time to time.

8D Founder Member

The Founder will be a member of the Association in accordance with these Rules.

8E Life Membership

- (1) An individual may be admitted as a Life Member of the Association in accordance with these Rules.
- (2) A Life Member is a unique position that will only ever be held by a small number of people. It is an acknowledgement of extra ordinary commitment to the Association over a number of years. A Life Member is elected as follows:
 - (a) potential appointees will be determined by a Board appointed sub committee that will review, evaluate and recommend any candidates;
 - (b) criteria to be considered for this appointment include length of service, contribution to the Association in time, advocacy and financial consideration; and
 - (c) any candidate will be tabled for Board consideration at the next meeting of Board members after the receipt of the application for Life Membership. The Board members must consider the application and decide whether to admit or reject the application. The Board members need not give any reason for rejecting the application.

9 Application for membership

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must submit a written application to a Board member stating that the person—
 - (a) wishes to become a member of the Association; and
 - (b) supports the purposes of the Association; and
 - (c) agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (2) The application—
 - (a) must be signed by the applicant (including by electronic signature); and
 - (b) may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Note

The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the Association under rule 12(3).

10 Consideration of application

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Board (or delegates) must decide whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) The Board (or delegates) must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (3) If the Board (or delegates) rejects the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (4) No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

11 New membership

- (1) If an application for membership is approved by the Board or its delegates—
 - (a) the decision to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting or the CEO Report to the Board meeting; and
 - (b) the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.
- (2) A person becomes a member of the Association and, subject to rule 13(2), is entitled to exercise their rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which—
 - (a) the Board approves the person's membership; or
 - (b) the person pays the joining fee.

12 Annual subscription and fee on joining

- (1) In its absolute discretion, the Board may determine that:
 - (a) A joining fee may be payable upon a new member joining the Association.
 - (b) An annual subscription fee may be payable from time to time (including that there may be different fees payable for various categories, class or groups of membership).
 - (c) There may be other fees, charges and levies payable.
- (2) The Board may determine the nature and amount of the fees payable to the Association.
- (3) The Board may amend or waive fees, charges or levies from time to time at its absolute discretion.
- (4) The Board may determine the time for and manner of payment and penalties (if any) for late payment of the above fees. These penalties may include that the rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not made the required payment are suspended until the subscription is paid.

13 General rights of members

- (1) A member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right—
 - (a) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
 - (b) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
 - (c) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
 - (d) to vote at a general meeting; and
 - (e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under rule 75; and

- (f) to inspect the register of members.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
 - (a) the member is a Full Member or the Founder Member; and
 - (b) more than 10 business days have passed since he or she became a member of the Association; and
 - (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

14 Not used

15 Rights not transferable

The rights of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

16 Ceasing membership

A person immediately ceases to be a member or Life Member if the person:

- (1) dies;
- (2) resigns as a member by giving written notice to the Association;
- (3) becomes of unsound mind or a person who is, or whose estate is, liable to be dealt with in any way under a law relating to mental health;
- (4) excluding a Life Member, becomes bankrupt or insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with his or her creditors;
- (5) excluding the Founder, is expelled under these Rules; or
- (6) excluding the Founder, becomes, if the Board members so decide in their absolute discretion, an untraceable member because the person has ceased to reside at, attend or otherwise communicate with his or her registered address.

17 Resigning as a member

A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.

Note

Rule 74(3) sets out how notice may be given to the association. It includes by post or by handing the notice to a member of the Board.

18 Register of members

- (1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes—
 - (a) for each current member—
 - (i) the member's name;
 - (ii) the address for notice last given by the member;
 - (iii) the date of becoming a member;
 - (iv) details of class of membership;

- (v) any other information determined by the Board; and
 - (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.
- (2) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members.

Note

Under section 59 of the Act, access to the personal information of a person recorded in the register of members may be restricted in certain circumstances. Section 58 of the Act provides that it is an offence to make improper use of information about a person obtained from the Register of Members.

Division 2—Disciplinary action

19 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division if it is determined that the member—

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

20 Disciplinary subcommittee

- (1) If the Board is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Board must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.
- (2) The members of the disciplinary subcommittee—
 - (a) may be Board members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - (b) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

21 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member—
 - (a) stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
 - (b) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
 - (c) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the ***disciplinary meeting***); and
 - (d) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following—
 - (i) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;

- (ii) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 23.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.

22 Decision of subcommittee

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must—
- (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the disciplinary subcommittee may—
- (a) take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to subrule (3)—
 - (i) reprimand the member; or
 - (ii) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iii) expel the member from the Association.
- (3) The disciplinary subcommittee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

23 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under rule 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given—
- (a) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
 - (b) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under subrule (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Board as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- (4) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must—
- (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) state—

- (i) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and
- (ii) the grounds for taking that action; and
- (iii) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

24 Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting

- (1) At a disciplinary appeal meeting—
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (b) the Board must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
 - (c) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
- (3) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.
- (4) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

Division 3—Grievance procedure

25 Application

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between—
 - (a) a member and another member;
 - (b) a member and the Board;
 - (c) a member and the Association.
- (2) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.

26 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

27 Appointment of mediator

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 26, the parties must within 10 days—

- (a) notify the Board of the dispute; and
 - (b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be—
- (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) in the absence of agreement—
 - (i) if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Board; or
 - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Board or the Association—a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Board may be a member or former member of the Association but in any case must not be a person who—
- (a) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
 - (b) is biased in favour of or against any party.

28 Mediation process

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must—
- (a) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

30 Annual general meetings

- (1) The Board must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) The Board may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (3) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;

- (b) to receive and consider—
 - (i) the annual report of the Board on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Board in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) to elect the members of the Board;
 - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (4) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

31 Special general meetings

- (1) Any general meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (2) The Board may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (3) No business other than that set out in the notice under rule 33 may be conducted at the meeting.

Note

General business may be considered at the meeting if it is included as an item for consideration in the notice under rule 33 and the majority of members at the meeting agree.

32 Special general meeting held at request of members

- (1) The Board must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (2) by at least 10% of the total number of members.
- (2) A request for a special general meeting must—
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and
 - (c) include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
 - (d) be given to the Secretary.
- (3) If the Board does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (4) A special general meeting convened by members under subrule (3)—
 - (a) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and

- (b) may only consider the business stated in that request.
- (5) The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under subrule (3).

33 Notice of general meetings

- (1) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 32(3), the members convening the meeting) must give to each member of the Association—
 - (a) at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
 - (b) at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
- (2) The notice must—
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (c) if a special resolution is to be proposed—
 - (i) state in full the proposed resolution; and
 - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
 - (d) comply with rule 34(5).
- (3) This rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.

Note

Rule 23(4) sets out the requirements for notice of a disciplinary appeal meeting.

34 Proxies

- (1) A member may appoint another member as their proxy to vote and speak on their behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on their behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as they see fit..
- (4) If the Board has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (5) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under rule 33 must—
 - (a) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and

- (b) include a copy of any form that the Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

35 Use of technology

- (1) A member not physically present at a general meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a member participating in a general meeting as permitted under subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

36 Quorum at general meetings

- (1) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (2) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 35) of 10% of the members entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under rule 32—the meeting must be dissolved;

Note

If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this subrule, the business that was to have been considered at the meeting is taken to have been dealt with. If members wish to have the business reconsidered at another special meeting, the members must make a new request under rule 32.

- (b) in any other case—
 - (i) the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
 - (ii) notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under subrule (3)(b), the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 3) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

37 Adjournment of general meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), a meeting may be adjourned—
 - (a) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
 - (b) to give the members more time to consider an item of business.

Example

The members may wish to have more time to examine the financial statements submitted by the Board at an annual general meeting.

- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 33.

38 Voting at general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting—
 - (a) subject to subrule (3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
 - (b) members may vote personally or by proxy; and
 - (c) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (4) This rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under rule 24.

39 Special resolutions

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

Note

In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a special resolution is required—

- (a) to remove a Board member from office ;
- (b) to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

40 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been—
 - (a) carried; or
 - (b) carried unanimously; or
 - (c) carried by a particular majority; or
 - (d) lost—and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- (2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question—
 - (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

41 Minutes of general meeting

- (1) The Secretary must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include—
 - (a) the names of the members attending the meeting; and
 - (b) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under rule 34(6); and
 - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with rule 30(4)(b)(ii); and
 - (d) the certificate signed by two Board members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association; and
 - (e) any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

PART 5—Board

Division 1—Powers of Board

42 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Board.
- (2) The Board may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- (3) The Board may—
 - (a) Appoint a Chief Executive Office, for any period and on any terms (including as to remuneration). Subject to an agreement between the Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the Board may vary or terminate the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer at any time, with or without cause.
 - (a) In consultation with the Chief Executive Office, appoint and remove staff.
 - (b) Establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

43 Delegation

- (1) The Board may delegate to a member of the Board, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than—
 - (a) this power of delegation; or
 - (b) a duty imposed on the Board by the Act or any other law.
- (2) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Board considers appropriate.
- (3) The Board may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Board and duties of members

44 Composition of Board

- (1) Subject to subrules (2) and (4), the Board shall consist of:
 - (a) a Chair; and
 - (b) a Vice-Chair; and
 - (c) a Secretary; and
 - (d) a Treasurer; and
 - (e) at least one but no more than six additional Board members.
- (2) At least 50% of the Board members must be members of the Association.
- (3) The Founder will remain a Board member and can only be removed as a Board member under subrule 56.
- (4) The Association may by resolution:

- (a) increase or reduce the minimum or maximum number of Board members; and
- (b) appoint or remove a Board member (excluding the Founder).

44A Board member need not be a member

- (1) Subject to subrule 44(2), a Board member need not be a member to qualify for appointment.
- (2) A Board member may attend and speak at general meetings even though that Board member is not a member.

45 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Board, each Board member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Board comply with these Rules.
- (3) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties—
 - (a) in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - (b) for a proper purpose.
- (5) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of—
 - (a) their position; or
 - (b) information acquired by virtue of holding their position—so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.

Note

See also Division 3 of Part 6 of the Act which sets out the general duties of the office holders of an incorporated association.

- (6) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a Board member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

46 Chair and Vice-Chair

- (1) Subject to subrule (2), the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any Board meetings.
- (2) If the Chair and the Vice-Chair are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be—

- (a) in the case of a general meeting—a member elected by the other members present; or
- (b) in the case of a Board meeting—a Board member elected by the other Board members present.

47 Secretary

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.

Example

Under the Act, the secretary of an incorporated association is responsible for lodging documents of the association with the Registrar.

- (2) The Secretary must—
 - (a) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 18; and
 - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 70(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with rules 72 and 75; and
 - (c) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (d) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
- (3) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

48 Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and ensure receipts are issued for those moneys in the name of the Association;
 - (b) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within 5 working days after receipt; and
 - (c) make any payments authorised by the Board or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds.
- (2) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and
 - (b) coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association and their certification by the Board prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other Board member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Division 3—Election of Board members and tenure of office

49 Who is eligible to be a Board member

Any person is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Board member if the person is 18 years or over.

50 Positions to be declared vacant

- (1) This rule applies to—
 - (a) the first annual general meeting of the Association after its incorporation; or
 - (b) any subsequent annual general meeting of the Association, after the annual report and financial statements of the Association have been received.
- (2) The Chairperson of the meeting must declare how many positions on the Board are vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with rules 51 to 54.

51 Nominations

- (1) Prior to the election of each position, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill that position.
- (2) An eligible person may —
 - (a) nominate himself or herself; or
 - (b) with the consent of the nominee, be nominated by a member.
- (3) A person who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.
- (4) A written nomination of a candidate for election must be received at the registered office of the Board at least 45 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (5) Excluding the Founder, a person who has served on the Board for three consecutive terms is not eligible to be re-nominated for a position on the Board until the expiry of twelve months from the date that he or she ceased holding office.

52 Election of Chair etc.

- (1) The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by the Board following each annual general meeting.
 - (a) Chair;
 - (b) Vice- Chair;
 - (c) Secretary;
 - (d) Treasurer.
- (2) If only one person is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the person elected to the position.

- (3) If more than one person is nominated, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 54.
- (4) On his or her election, the new Chair may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.

53 Election of ordinary members

- (1) Subject to rules 44 and rule 55, the Board must by resolution at least 60 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting determine the number of Board members of the Board (if any) to be appointed to hold office for the next year.
- (2) A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
- (3) If the number of people nominated for the position of ordinary Board member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those people to be elected to the position.
- (4) If the number of people nominated exceeds the number to be elected to an ordinary Board member position, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 54.

54 Ballot

If a ballot is required:

- (1) The Secretary must send to all members, at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, a ballot in the form the Board determines, which contains the following particulars:
 - (a) the number of vacancies for which the ballot is required; and
 - (b) the name of each candidate for election as a Board member, together with a square opposite the candidate's name.
- (2) The Secretary may send the ballot to a member by:
 - (a) post to the member's principal business address as recorded in the register of members; or
 - (b) electronic transmission to the member's electronic mail address as recorded in the register of members.
- (3) The order in which the names of candidates for election appear on the ballot is determined by lot.
- (4) Each candidate may submit a short statement in support of his or her election which may be included on the ballot.
- (5) If the ballot is for more than one position—
 - (a) the voter must designate on the ballot form the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) the voter must not designate the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.

- (6) Ballot forms that do not comply with subrule 54(5)(a) are not to be counted.
- (7) In order to be counted in the ballot, completed ballots must be returned and received at the Association's registered office no later than 5pm on the day which is 3 clear business days before the day on which the Annual General Meeting is to be held.
- (8) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.

The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position

- (9) The returning officer is responsible for overall supervision of the opening of ballot and for calculating votes. The returning officer must report the result of the ballot to the Chair before the Annual General Meeting and the chairperson must, at the meeting, declare the names of the candidates who have been elected.

55 Term of office

- (1) At every annual general meeting if the number of Board members (after excluding the Founder and any Board members appointed by the Board members under rule 57 and standing for election or re-election),
 - (a) is 5 or less, then 2 of the remaining Board members must retire from office; or
 - (b) if the number is more than 5, one third of those Board members (rounded down to the nearest whole number) must retire from office.
- (2) Excluding the Founder, no Board member may hold office without re-election beyond the third AGM following the meeting at which the Board member was last elected or re-elected.
- (3) Excluding the Founder, a Board member may be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms
- (4) The Board members to retire under subrule (1) are those Board members who wish to retire and not offer themselves for re-election, those Board members required to retire under subrule (2) are, so far as is necessary to obtain the number required, those who have been longest in office since their last election or appointment, excluding the Founder. As between Board members who were last elected or appointed on the same day, those to retire must, unless they can agree among themselves, be decided by lot.
- (5) The Board members to retire under subrule (1) (both as to number and identity) is decided having regard to the composition of the board of Board members at the date of the notice calling the annual general meeting. A Board member is not required to retire and is not relieved from retiring because of a change in the number or identity of the

Board members after the date of the notice but before the meeting closes.

- (6) A general meeting of the Association may by special resolution remove a Board member (other than the Founder) from office.
- (7) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (6) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or Chair of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (8) The Secretary or the Chair may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.

56 Vacation of office

- (1) A Board member may resign from the Board by written notice addressed to the Board.
- (2) A person ceases to be a Board member if he or she—
 - (a) other than the Founder, fails to attend 2 consecutive Board meetings (other than special or urgent Board meetings) without leave of absence under rule 67; or
 - (b) is removed from office under these Rules;
 - (c) dies; or
 - (d) otherwise ceases to be a Board member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

Note

A Board member may not hold the office of secretary if they do not reside in Australia.

57 Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Board may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Board that—
 - (a) has become vacant under rule 56; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Board must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Rule 55 applies to any Board member appointed by the Board under subrule (1) or (2).
- (4) The Board may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Board

58 Meetings of Board

- (1) The Board must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Board.
- (2) The date, time and place of the first Board meeting must be determined by the members of the Board as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the Association at which the members of the Board were elected.
- (3) Special Board meetings may be convened by the Chair or by any 4 members of the Board.

59 Notice of meetings

- (1) Notice of each Board meeting must be given to each Board member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one Board meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special Board meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (5) The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

60 Urgent meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 59 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each Board member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

61 Procedure and order of business

- (1) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Board must be determined from time to time by the Board.
- (2) The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

62 Use of technology

- (1) A Board member who is not physically present at a Board meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that Board member and the Board members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a Board member participating in a Board meeting as permitted under subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

63 Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Board meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The quorum for a Board meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 62) of a majority of the Board members holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a Board meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a special meeting—the meeting lapses;
 - (b) in any other case—the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment and notice of the time, date and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with rule 59.

64 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a Board meeting, each Board member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of Board members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Subrule (2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

65 Conflict of interest

- (1) A Board member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a Board meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Board.
- (2) The member—
 - (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
 - (b) must not vote on the matter.

Note

Under section 81(3) of the Act, if there are insufficient Board members to form a quorum because a member who has a material personal interest is disqualified from voting on a matter, a general meeting may be called to deal with the matter.

- (3) This rule does not apply to a material personal interest—
 - (a) that exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or
 - (b) that the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the Association.

66 Minutes of meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each Board meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following—
 - (a) the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
 - (b) the business considered at the meeting;
 - (c) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
 - (d) any material personal interest disclosed under rule 65.

67 Leave of absence

- (1) The Board may grant a Board member leave of absence from Board meetings.
- (2) The Board must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the Board member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS

68 Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Board.

69 Management of funds

- (1) The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Board may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (3) The Board may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Board for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by Board Members and the CEO as authorised by the financial instrument execution policy endorsed by the Board from time to time.
- (5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.

- (6) With the approval of the Board, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

70 Financial records

- (1) The Association must keep financial records that—
 - (a) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - (b) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (2) The Association must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control—
 - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Board.

71 Financial statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Board must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), those requirements include—
 - (a) the preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - (c) the certification of the financial statements by the Board;
 - (d) the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association;
 - (e) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.

PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS

72 Common seal

- (1) The Association may have a common seal.
- (2) If the Association has a common seal—
 - (a) the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
 - (b) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Board and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two Board members;
 - (c) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

73 Registered address

The registered address of the Association is—

- (a) the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Board; or
- (b) if the Board has not determined an address to be the registered address—the postal address of the Secretary.

74 Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a Board member under these Rules may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
 - (c) by email or facsimile transmission.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under rule 60.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Board may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Board; or
 - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
 - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
 - (d) if the Board determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances—
 - (i) by email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or
 - (ii) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

75 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may on request inspect free of charge—
 - (a) the register of members;
 - (b) the minutes of general meetings;
 - (c) subject to subrule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Board meetings.

Note

See note following rule 18 for details of access to the register of members.

- (2) The Board may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the Association that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

- (3) The Board must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to subrule (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this rule and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (5) For purposes of this rule—

relevant documents means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and includes the following—

- (a) its membership records;
- (b) its financial statements;
- (c) its financial records;
- (d) records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the Association.

76 Winding up

On a winding up of the Association, any surplus of the following assets of the Association remaining after the payment of its debts:

- (1) Gifts;
- (2) contributions made to the Association in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the objects of the Association; and
- (3) money received by the Association because of such Gifts or contributions, must not be paid to or distributed among the members, but must be given or transferred to:
- (4) one or more bodies corporate, associations or institutions (whether or not a member or members) selected by the members by resolution at or before the dissolution of the Association:
 - (a) having object similar to the objects of the Association;
 - (b) gifts which are allowable deductions pursuant to the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) (**ITAA 1997**); and
 - (c) whose constitution prohibits the distribution of its or their income or property to no lesser extent than that imposed on the Association pursuant to rule 6; or
- (5) if there are no bodies corporate, associations or institutions which meet the requirements of subrule 76(4), to one or more bodies corporate, associations or institutions selected by the members by resolution at or before dissolution of the Association:
 - (a) the objects of which are the promotion of charity; and
 - (b) gifts which are allowable deductions pursuant to the ITAA 1997; or
- (6) if the members do not make a selection pursuant to subrules 76(4) or 76(5) for any reason, to one or more bodies corporate, associations or

institutions meeting the requirements of either Article 76(4) or 76(5) selected by the Board, subject to Board obtaining court approval pursuant to the Corporations Act to exercise this power.

76A Revocation of deductible gift recipient status

If the Association has obtained endorsement as a deductible gift recipient under the ITAA 1997 and that endorsement is subsequently revoked by the Commissioner of Taxation, as soon as reasonably possible following the revocation of such endorsement, surplus amounts of:

- (1) Gifts;
- (2) contributions made to the Association in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the objects of the organisation; and
- (3) money received by the Association because of such Gifts or contributions, must be given or transferred to one or more bodies corporate, associations or institutions selected by resolution of the Board:
- (4) which have objects which are charitable at law; and
- (5) gifts to which are allowable deductions pursuant to the ITAA 1997.

76B Establishment of a Gifts Subcommittee

- (1) The Association must establish a sub committee (**Gifts Subcommittee**) to manage all money and property received by the Association in the form of a gift for the objects of the organisation and contributions of money or property made to the Association in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the objects of the Association.
- (2) The Gifts Subcommittee must ensure that all money and property described in subrule 76B(1) are deposited into a separate account which is segregated from other funds of the Association.

77 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

Note

An alteration of these Rules does not take effect unless or until it is approved by the Registrar. If these Rules (other than rule 1, 2 or 3) are altered, the Association is taken to have adopted its own rules, not the model rules.