



Rules of the
Williamstown Cannons
Basketball Club Inc

Updated: December 2023

CONSUMER AFFAIRS VICTORIA
Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

RULES of the WILLIAMSTOWN CANNONS BASKETBALL CLUB INCORPORATED

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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 "Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club Incorporated" (in these Rules called "the Association").

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 are:

- Promote and encourage community participation in the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club.
- Provide social and sporting contact amongst players and parents from Williamstown and surrounding suburbs, but not limited to those suburbs.
- To support and encourage good sportsmanship and teamwork from players, parents, coaches and spectators.

3 Financial year

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

4 Definitions

In these Rules—

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

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

coach member means a member referred to in rule 8 (6);

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

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

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

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

disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Committee 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;

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;

junior member means a member referred to in rule 8 (4);

life member means a member referred to in rule 8 (5);

member means a member referred to in rule 8 (3);

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

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;

volunteer official member means a member referred to in rule 8 (7);

waitlist status means an applicant has registered with the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club and has not yet been allocated to a team referred to in rule 14 (3).

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.

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 50 members.

8 Membership eligibility and membership types

- (1) Any person who supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.
- (2) There shall be five categories of membership; members, junior members, life members, coach members and volunteer official members.
- (3) Members are considered to be the parents or guardians of a current financial junior member.
- (4) Junior members are playing members aged between 5 and 18 years of age.
- (5) Life members are members who have been awarded Life Membership by the Committee. The criteria and entitlements relating to Life Membership is set by the Committee and can be detailed in a Life Membership policy.
- (6) Coach members are members who are appointed to coach a Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club team and are NOT members (that is a parent or guardian of a current financial junior member) each season.
- (7) Volunteer official members are members who assist the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club in an official role such as a Committee member or a Coordinator and are NOT members (that is a parent or guardian of a current financial junior member).

9 Application for membership

- (1) All coach members are required to complete an expression of interest each season to be appointed by the Committee and/or Director of Coaching.
- (2) In order to be a member, all players (or their parents or guardians on behalf of the players) are required to:—
 - (a) complete the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club's online registration application process prior to the commencement of each season; and
 - (b) have paid the prescribed registration fee for the season prior to the first game of the season; and
 - (c) agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (3) On completion of the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club's online registration process, the applicant's details are recorded in the Club's register of members however the applicant is automatically given waitlist status (as they have not yet been confirmed a placement in a team).
- (4) This application process does not apply to life members who are awarded their membership status by the Committee, and coach members or volunteer official members who are appointed by the Committee.

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 Committee (via an Age Group Coordinator or Director of Coaching) must respond to the applicant in writing to advise whether a position in a team is available or whether the applicant is placed on the waitlist.
- (2) If an applicant cannot be placed into a team in the next season and is notified that they

are required to remain on the waitlist in the next season, and the applicant has paid the seasonal registration fee, the Committee must return any money accompanying the online registration application to the applicant.

- (3) All team allocations are at the discretion of the Committee and their delegates (including the Director of Coaching if applicable)
- (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 Committee (via the Age Group Coordinator, or Director of Coaching)—
 - (a) will as soon practicable advise the applicant and the coach and team manager of the team into which the applicant will be placed; and
 - (b) will also advise the Registrar of the Association.
- (2) A person becomes a member of the Association and, subject to rule 14(2), is entitled to exercise his or her rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which—
 - (a) the Committee (via the Age Group Coordinator) approves the person's membership by confirming the applicant into a team; or
 - (b) the person pays the joining fee.

12 Removal of Membership

- (1) Membership can be withdrawn at any time by the Committee subject to their internal policies and procedures. Written notice must be given to the member, including any refund of fee (pro-rata or otherwise) stating the reasons for withdrawn membership. Access to the dispute resolution protocols must be provided.

13 Seasonal registration fees

- (2) All fees including, but not limited to, seasonal registration (including early bird and coach/coordinator discounts) and uniform fees payable by junior members shall be determined by the Committee.
- (3) Seasonal registration fees for each season are due and payable prior to the first round of each season unless prior arrangement has been made with the Treasurer of the Association.
- (4) Any player who has fees outstanding shall be suspended from participating with a team, including games and training, until such time as payment has been made (as non-financial members are not covered by Personal Accident Insurance in the event of an injury).
- (5) A player who has outstanding registration, uniform or other fees will not be granted a clearance to another club until such time as those outstanding fees are paid.

14 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 attend Committee meetings as a guest.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
- (a) the member is a member, life member, coach member or volunteer official member; and
 - (b) is a current financial member as has paid the applicable seasonal registration fee (not required in the case of life members, coach members or volunteer official members); and
 - (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended or under any form of discipline or review for any reason.
- (3) A member is entitled to the following number of votes—
- (a) in the case of members, the parents or guardians are entitled to one vote per family provided that the family has at least one current financial junior member and both parents or guardians cannot claim this entitlement to a vote. In the case where parents or guardians cannot agree on how to vote on behalf of the family, there shall be no vote recorded from that family; and
 - (b) in the case of life members, the life member is entitled to one vote; and
 - (c) in the case of coach members, the coach member is only entitled to one vote if they are not already a member (that is a parent or guardian of a financial junior member). If the coach member is also a member (being a parent or guardian of a financial junior member), they are not entitled to a vote as a coach member and can only vote as a member; and
 - (d) in the case of volunteer official members, the volunteer official member is only entitled to one vote if they are not already a member (that is a parent or guardian of a financial junior member). If the volunteer official member is also a member (being a parent or guardian of a financial junior member), they are not entitled to a vote as a volunteer official member and can only vote as a member.

Note

For example, if a family has four children who are all financial junior members, the parent or guardian representing the family is entitled to only one vote and there can be only one vote recorded from the family. There cannot be two votes from the family being both parents/guardians lodge one vote on behalf of their children.

15 Junior members and members with waitlist status

- (1) Junior members of the Association include—
- (a) any members aged between 5 and 18 years; and
 - (b) any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting.
- (2) A junior member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.
- (3) Members who have a waitlist status are applicants who, have completed the online registration process and their names appear on the register of members however, they have not been confirmed a place in a team. Members with waitlist status are not entitled to vote regardless of whether they have paid the seasonal registration fee.

16 Rights not transferable

The rights, privilege or obligation of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

17 Ceasing membership

- (1) The membership of a person ceases on the expiry of the season relating to the seasonal fees paid by the member, resignation, expulsion or death.
- (2) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association, the Registrar of the Association must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members.

18 Resigning as a member

- (1) 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 committee.

19 Register of members

- (1) The Registrar of the Association must keep and maintain a register of members (or use a digital database prescribed by regulatory bodies such as Basketball Victoria) that includes—
 - (a) for each current junior member—
 - (i) the member's name;
 - (ii) the address for notice last given by the member;
 - (iii) the date of becoming a member;
 - (iv) the date of birth of the junior member;
 - (v) the name/s and contact details of the junior member's parents or guardians;
 - (vi) any other information determined by the Committee; 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, request a copy of their own details as listed on the register.
- (3) Members are not permitted to request or view the details of any other members listed on the register.
- (4) Members acting in an authorised position as assigned by the Committee such as Committee members, Coordinators (Age Group, Coaching, Uniform and Events Coordinators), Coaches and Team Managers are permitted to have access to all or part of the register of members (whichever is most appropriate to their duties) provided that they have a current Working with Children Card and require access to the register or information from the register in order to perform their duties.

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

20 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;
- (c) breaches the various code of conducts prescribed by the association;
- (d) has their fitness and propriety come into question via a court of law or disciplinary tribunal; or
- (e) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

21 Disciplinary subcommittee

- (1) If the Committee is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Committee may appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.
- (2) The Governance Sub-Committee acts as the disciplinary committee in most instances. In some circumstances, the disciplinary sub-committee may be deferred to independent body such as a basketball association tribunal or Basketball Victoria by request of the member.
- (3) The members of the disciplinary subcommittee—
 - (a) may be Committee members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - (b) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

22 Notice to member

- (1) 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 24.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 7 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held (unless by agreement of the member). A notice is deemed to be delivered via the email address recorded for the member in the register of members.

23 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;
 - (ii) Removal from and prevention from attending, participating, or coaching practices and/or games; or
 - (iii) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iv) 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.

24 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under rule 23 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/ notice provided.
- (3) If a person has given notice under subrule (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened via two methods
- A) Via a special general meeting (see rule 33)
 - B) Via an independent Body
- (4) An appeal to the membership body ((sub rule 3A) may not be granted if an independent mediation has been concluded by another Associations' Tribunal, Basketball Victoria or Basketball Australia.
- (5) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting under 3A 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.

25 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 Committee 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

26 Application of the grievance procedure

- (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 Committee;
 - (c) a member and the Association.
- (2) All grievances must be sent to the Secretary of the Association for it to be officially recorded.
- (3) 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. The grievance procedure set out in this division of the rules should be read in conjunction with the Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club's Complaint and Grievance Policy.
- (4) No matter litigated under the disciplinary procedures will be subsequently considered under the grievance procedures.
- (5) Appointment of coaches, team managers and team allocation does NOT constitute a typical grievance unless exceptional circumstances exist relating to unlawful conduct.

27 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 28 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party

28 Notification to the Committee of a grievance and assessment by the Committee

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 27, the parties must within 10 days—
 - (a) notify the Committee of the dispute or grievance; and
 - (b) determine the parties responsible to manage the dispute
- (2) The Committee will assess the grievance on the basis of verbal and written submissions by various parties.
- (3) If the Committee determines the grievance to be trivial or vexatious, the complainant will be notified in writing and the grievance closed.
- (4) If the Committee determines that the grievance is legitimate and in need of action, the Committee will convene a Grievance Panel.

29 Appointment of a grievance panel and grievance panel hearings

- (1) The Association has typically appointed a Governance Sub-Committee to oversee all disciplinary items including grievances.
- (2) The Grievance Panel is to consist of three people who are impartial to the event and may include but is not limited to;
 - (a) the appropriate Head of the subcommittee;
 - (b) members of the Committee; and
 - (c) external parties as deemed necessary.
- (3) The Grievance Panel must meet within 14 day of being formed.
- (4) The Grievance Panel will invite all parties in the matter to be heard.

- (5) Once all parties have been heard, the Grievance Panel will make a recommendation to the Committee.
- (6) All parties will be advised in writing of the outcome of the Grievance Panel hearing once the recommendations have been ratified by the Committee.
- (7) All internal processes for hearing a grievance should be completed within one month (unless exceptional circumstances exist) of the initial grievance being lodged with the Committee.

30 Avenues of appeal

- (1) Complainants may appeal decisions made by the Committee with Basketball Victoria under the provisions of the Member Protection By-Law.
- (2) Complainants should advise the Committee in writing if they are to make such an appeal to Basketball Victoria.

PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

31 Annual general meetings

- (1) The Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite subrule (1), the Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) 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 Committee 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 Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) to elect the members of the Committee;
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.
- (6) There is no requirement for a quorum in order to commence and conduct business at an annual general meeting.

32 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 Committee 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.

33 Special general meeting held at request of members

- (1) The Committee must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (2) by at least 25% 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 Committee 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).

34 Notice of annual general meetings and special general meetings

- (1) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 33(3), the members convening the meeting) must give to each member of the Association—
- (a) at least 21 days' notice of an annual general meeting or a special general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
 - (b) at least 14 days' notice of a special 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(4).
- (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.

35 Proxies

- (1) A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at an annual general meeting and a special 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 on the Committee approved Form of Appointment of Proxy (**Appendix 2**).
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.

- (4) Notice of an annual general meeting and or a special 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 the Form of Appointment of Proxy (Appendix 2).
- (5) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

36 Use of technology

- (1) A member not physically present at a special 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 special 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.

37 Quorum at special general meetings

- (1) No business may be conducted at a special general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (2) The quorum for a special general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 35) of 25 members entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a special 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 special general meeting has been adjourned under subrule (3)(b), the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 15) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

38 Adjournment of special general meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a special 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 Committee 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.

39 Voting at a special general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a special 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 25.

40 Special resolutions

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at an annual general meeting or a special 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 committee member from office ;
- (b) to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

41 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairperson of a special 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.

42 Minutes of an annual general meeting and a special general meeting

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each annual general meeting and a special 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(5); and
 - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with rule 30(4)(b)(ii); and
 - (d) the certificate signed by two committee 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—COMMITTEE

Division 1—Powers of Committee

43 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.
- (2) The Committee 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 Committee may—
 - (a) appoint and remove staff;
 - (b) establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate; and
 - (c) create the necessary policies of the Association.

44 Delegation

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

Division 2—Composition of Committee and duties of members

45 Composition of Committee

The Committee consists of—

- (a) a President; and
- (b) a Vice-President; and
- (c) a Secretary; and
- (d) a Treasurer; and
- (e) a Registrar of the Association; and
- (f) ordinary members (if any) elected under rule 55.

Positions (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) represent mandatory positions of the Association

46 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Committee, each committee member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Committee is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Committee comply with these Rules.
- (3) Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Committee 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) Committee members and former committee 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 committee member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

47 President and Vice-President

- (1) Subject to subrule (2), the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any committee meetings.
- (2) If the President and the Vice-President 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 committee meeting—a committee member elected by the other committee members present.

48 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) keep custody of the business registration documentation of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 72(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with rule 76; and
 - (b) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (c) 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.

49 Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association; and
 - (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 Committee or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and
 - (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 committee members.
- (2) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act and that the accounts and books show all the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association; and
 - (b) shall prepare or coordinate the preparation of the annual financial statements for the financial year of the Association and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association; and

- (c) shall arrange for the accounts and financial statements to be audited by a suitability accredited professional who is either a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and/or a member of the Certified Practising Accountants of Australia; and
 - (d) shall, at the request of any member and endorsement of the Committee, arrange for the annual financial statements to be audited by a party other than the party who has prepared the annual financial statements; and
 - (e) shall, ensure that the annual financial statements include at minimum a detailed profit and loss statement, a fixed asset register and a detailed balance sheet which are to be accompanied by all reconciled bank statements.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

50 Registrar of the Association

- (1) The Registrar of the Association must—
- (a) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 18; and
 - (b) manage user accounts to control the security of the database register of members and levels of access to the database and its functions; and
 - (c) ensure that any persons authorised by the Committee to access the register of members have a current Working with Children Card in accordance with rule 18 (4).

Division 3—Election of Committee members and tenure of office

51 Who is eligible to be a Committee member

A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a committee member if the member—

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

52 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 all positions on the Committee vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with rules 53 to 55.

53 Nominations for Committee members

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the Committee—
- (a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the Form of Nomination – Appendix 1); and
 - (b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than seven days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.

- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.
- (3) Upon a call for further nominations by the Chairperson at an annual general meeting, an eligible member of the Association may—
 - (a) nominate himself or herself; or
 - (b) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.
- (4) A member 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.

54 Election of Officers of the Association

- (1) At the annual general meeting, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions—
 - (a) President;
 - (b) Vice-President;
 - (c) Secretary;
 - (d) Treasurer;
 - (e) Registrar of the Association.
- (2) If only one member is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the member elected to the position.
- (3) If more than one member is nominated, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 56.
- (4) On his or her election, the new President may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.

55 Election of ordinary members

- (1) The annual general meeting must by resolution decide the number of ordinary members of the Committee (if any) it wishes to hold office for the next year. A maximum of 3 ordinary members is recommended for an efficient and workable Committee.
- (2) A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
- (3) If the number of members nominated for the position of ordinary committee member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
- (4) If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 56.

56 Ballot

- (1) 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.
- (2) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- (3) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
- (4) The election must be by secret ballot.
- (5) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to—
 - (a) each member present in person; and

- (b) each proxy appointed by a member.

Example

If a member has been appointed the proxy of 5 other members, the member must be given 6 ballot papers—one for the member and one each for the other members.

- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position—
 - (a) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule (7)(b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must—
 - (a) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subrules (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
 - (b) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

Examples

The choice of candidate may be decided by the toss of a coin, drawing straws or drawing a name out of a hat.

57 Term of office

- (1) Subject to subrule (3) and rule 58, a committee member holds office until the positions of the Committee are declared vacant at the next annual general meeting.
- (2) A committee member may be re-elected.
- (3) A general meeting of the Association may—
 - (a) by special resolution remove a committee member from office; and
 - (b) elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (4) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (3)(a) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (5) The Secretary or the President 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.

58 Vacation of office

- (1) A committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.
- (2) A person ceases to be a committee member if he or she—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
 - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence under rule 69; or
 - (c) otherwise ceases to be a committee member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

Note

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

59 Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Committee may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Committee that—
 - (a) has become vacant under rule 58; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Rule 57 applies to any committee member appointed by the Committee under subrule (1) or (2).
- (4) The Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Committee

60 Meetings of Committee

- (1) The Committee must meet at least 5 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Committee.
- (2) The date, time and place of the first committee meeting must be determined by the members of the Committee as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the Association at which the members of the Committee were elected.
- (3) Special committee meetings may be convened by the President or by any 4 members of the Committee .
- (4) A term of reference regarding voting and meeting conduct is maintained by the Secretary and supplements the constitution which is endorsed each year by Committee.

(5)

61 Notice of meetings

- (1) Notice of each committee meeting must be given to each committee member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting (unless by agreement).
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one committee meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special committee 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.

62 Urgent meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 61 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

63 Procedure and order of business

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

64 Use of technology

- (1) A committee member who is not physically present at a committee meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that committee member and the committee members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a committee member participating in a committee 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.

65 Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The quorum for a committee meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 64) of a majority of the committee members holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a committee 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 61.

Note If there are 5 committee members holding office, a quorum for a committee meeting is the presence of 3 office bearers.

66 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a committee meeting, each committee member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of committee 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 Committee.
- (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.

67 A Conflict of interest

- (1) A committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Committee.
- (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 committee 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.

68 Minutes of meeting

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each committee 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 67.

69 Leave of absence

- (1) The Committee may grant a committee member leave of absence from committee meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (2) The Committee must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the committee member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS

70 Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from seasonal registration fees, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Committee.

71 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 Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.

- (3) The Committee 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 Committee 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 2 committee members.
- (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 Committee, 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.

72 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 Committee.

73 Financial statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Committee 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 Committee;
 - (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

74 Registered address

The registered address of the Association is—

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

75 Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a committee 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 61.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Committee may be given—
- (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; 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 Committee 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.

76 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may on request inspect free of charge—
- (a) the minutes of general meetings;
 - (b) subject to subrule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Committee meetings (noting these may be redacted in some instances).

Note

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

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

77 Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former

members of the Association.

(3) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the Association and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

(4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

78 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a special general meeting (including an Annual 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.
