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## Model State Sporting Association Constitution

### **Last updated: July 2018**

# *ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1985 (sa)*

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**HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE**

This model constitution has been prepared by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing as a guide for a state sporting organisation (SSO) in the community who may want to become incorporated or update its existing constitution.

This template has been designed specifically for sport, so it is more detailed than the generic guidelines available on the Consumer and Business Services website. This template takes into account issues which a general, non-sport community organisation might not need to include. Sport often operates under a national system where the national body can make rulings and set policy that will flow through the sport and affect those playing at club level.

This model constitution assumes that the SSO will be directly affiliated with the relevant national peak governing body for that particular sport and will in turn have regional associations and/or clubs affiliated with it. Please ensure you are familiar with your own national, state and regional framework before referring, adopting or using any part of this model constitution. This model constitution will not be suitable to all.

The benefit of such a national structure is that all levels of the particular sport are working together for the betterment of the sport and therefore, they will share common purposes, structures, policies and procedures, have the ability to work together to address issues of joint concern, and to ensure that information can flow freely between all levels of the sport. It also enables the various levels of the sport to share common strategic goals and work together to maximise the ability of the sport to govern and market itself.

Finally, with the increasing amount of legislation affecting sport, it enables the SSO to enact consistent and complementary policies and strategies that address areas of common risk and know that these can flow effectively through the SSO.

To enable ease of use, this model constitution contains extensive footnotes and explanations on clauses and highlights sections that can be varied to suit each particular SSO and their circumstances. As you work through the model constitution, you should think not just of your current circumstances but where you envisage the SSO will be in 5 or 10 years. While constitutions should be reviewed and can be amended from time to time, it is preferable that the SSO considers, adopts and implements an appropriate constitution for its circumstances at the outset or as early as possible, so that the SSO can operate effectively, minimise risk and grow over time.

Following the development of a constitution, the SSO will then need to develop a set of regulations that provide more detail on particular sections of the constitution. Regulations, (sometimes called Rules or By-Laws), are more easily adjusted and have a more operational tone to them. This is where you have more detail in relation to policies and procedures that underpin the constitution, including for example, grievance and selection policies and procedures.

Within this template there will be references to sections that should ideally be further detailed in the regulations developed to accompany the constitution. These are marked by ®. This is not an exhaustive guide as to what should be in the regulations, so always think broadly in terms of your SSO and circumstances.

In reviewing, considering and using the model constitution (or parts of the model constitution), we strongly recommend that each SSO:

* refers to the Australian Sports Commission Governance Principles in the process of developing or updating the constitution;
* checks whether there are obligations under their affiliation with the national body that may need to be taken into consideration in the process of developing or updating the constitution (e.g. obligatory inclusions or compliance requirements); and
* considers obtaining independent legal advice on the applicability of the model constitution (or parts of the model constitution) in light of the specific circumstances and requirements of the particular SSO and generally.

The comments /discussion boxes will need to be deleted from your final version.

We reiterate that this model constitution is a template and guide only and does not replace obtaining legal advice on the specific circumstances, legal structure and requirements applicable to the SSO and your sport.

**DISCLAIMER: THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS MODEL CONSTITUTION IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. THE OFFICE FOR RECREATION, SPORT AND RACING ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MODEL CONSTITUTION OR ANY RELIANCE UPON IT.**

**LIQUOR AND GAMING LICENSES**

A ‘club licence’ can generally only be held by a body that is a non-profit association incorporated under the A*ssociations Incorporation Act 1985*.

In order to prepare a constitution that satisfies the required criteria, the applicant for a licence must usually show that the rules of the association provide for:

* appropriate provision for admission to membership of the club;
* the management of the association’s affairs by a board (management committee) elected by the members;
* regular meetings of the members and the board;
* the payment of subscriptions by the members of the association; and
* keeping of proper records of the association’s proceedings and its financial affairs.

This template meets these requirements. However, applicants for licenses should consider obtaining independent legal advice in relation to their specific circumstances, legal structure and requirements and the application process generally.

For more information, visit the [Consumer Business Services – Liquor Licensing](http://www.olgc.sa.gov.au/).

If the SSO holds or intends to hold a Liquor or Gaming Licence, it may be necessary to vary the qualifications and job descriptions that apply to board members under this template so that the aforementioned requirements are met.

This should be done in the regulations, not in the constitution itself ®.

**DOES YOUR ASSOCIATION OPERATE OUTSIDE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA?**

While an association that is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* can operate anywhere in Australia, if your association wishes to carry on business in one or more States or Territories other than its home jurisdiction (South Australia), it must be registered under Part 5B.2 of the *Corporations Act 2001(Cth*).  
  
An association which is registered under a State law not recognised in other States will generally be a registrable Australian body.  
  
Whether a body is *carrying on business* *interstate* will depend on certain legal principles and on the circumstances of the case.

Where a body is in any doubt as to whether it may be *carrying on business* *interstate* it should seek its own legal advice. It is likely that having an affiliated member club located in another state, for example Broken Hill (NSW) or Mildura (Vic), could constitute *carrying on business interstate.*

For more information, visit the [Australian Securities and Investment Commission](http://www.asic.gov.au/asic/asic.nsf/byheadline/Registrable+Australian+Bodies?opendocument).

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**ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1985 (SA)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**of**

**[Insert name of Association] INCORPORATED**

*This is a template constitution for a South Australian SSO. The document complies with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA) (****Act****) (in particular – see section 23A of the Act as to what the rules of an incorporated association (or Constitution) should contain) and the Consumer and Business Services, (****CBS****) Model Rules.*

*The document has also been drafted to take into account the Australian Sports Commission’s (****ASC****) Governance Principles for Sporting Organisations (****ASC Principles****). Some of these ASC Principles are referred to within this template (and some are more appropriately matters for regulations or other governing documents).*

*The document has been prepared on the basis that the SSO is a key part of the overall national structure for the Sport and thus there are references to the national governing body for the Sport.*

*The document is a template only and has a number of text boxes throughout the document, which sets out the rationale and/or explanation for particular clauses and highlight options for the SSO. You may not want to use all clauses or you may want to amend certain clauses to suit your Association and circumstances.*

*There are also a number of comment boxes in the column which cross reference to the relevant sections of the Act or other legislation.*

***Please note*** *the document should be tailored to the requirements of each Association and not vice versa.*

# NAME OF ASSOCIATION

*The name of the Association can be varied according to what the organisation requires. The name chosen should give a clear description of the nature of the organisation and should not be misleading or likely to be confused with another existing organisation.*

The name of the association is “[Insert name of Association]” (‘**Association**’).

# DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

## Definitions

In this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

**Act** means the *Associations Incorporation**Act 1985 (SA)*.

**Affiliate Member** means a RSO or Club that is admitted as an Affiliate Member under clause 5.

*Clubs should, typically, only be Affiliate Members of an SSO when they are not a member of an RSO or there is no RSO to represent them.*

**Association** means “[Insert name of Association]”.

**Annual General Meeting** means a meeting of the kind described in **clause 7**.

**Appointed Director** means a Director appointed under **clause 8**.

**Board** means the body consisting of the Directors.

*In the Act, the term ‘committee’ is used to describe the governing body of an incorporated association. ‘Board’ is a term more commonly used in documents on governance and will be used throughout this document.*

*The term ‘Board’ reflects a more professional and corporate approach to governance terminology. Also, the terms ‘Board’ and ‘Directors’ have been used in the regional and club sporting association templates too and we have maintained those terms in this document for consistency across the various levels of sport.*

**Club** means a Club that enters teams in a competition in the Sport. which is a member of, or is otherwise affiliated with, the Association.

**Constituent Documents** means that Member’s governing documents, including but not limited to, that Member’s constitution and regulations and any other governing documents

**Constitution** means this constitution of the Association.

*Although the Act uses the term ‘rules’, the most common and accepted description of this document is ‘constitution’.* *Again, the term ‘constitution’ reflects a more professional and corporate approach to governance terminology.*

**Delegate** means the person(s) appointed from time to time to act for and on behalf of an Affiliate Member and to represent the Affiliate Member at General Meetings.

*The above may change given the membership structure in this template is based on Region and Club based membership. Thus each Region and Club is entitled to appoint a Delegate to represent it at General Meetings of the Association. This may vary according to the Association’s membership requirements.*

**Director** means a member of the Board and includes Elected Directors and Appointed Directors and any person acting in that capacity from time to time appointed in accordance with this Constitution.

**Elected Director** means a director appointed under **clause 8**.

*The document refers to ‘ ‘Directors’ instead of committee members. The reason for this is that an incorporated association is still a corporation and its management (whatever their title) owe duties to the Members and the Association. The document seeks to use true corporate governance terminology. There are also no ‘offices’ such as president, vice-president or treasurer. These terms, despite their cultural and historical use, are not of any constitutional relevance. There is nothing in the document, however, that precludes such titles being attached to a particular director’s office.*

*Titles of director positions and job descriptions can be included in the accompanying regulation documents, if desired.*

**Executive Officer** means the Executive Officer of the Association for the time being appointed under this Constitution. Where the Association does not have an Executive Officer, the Association secretary or public officer will, subject to confirmation by the Board, assume the functions of the Executive Officer under this Constitution.

*The title of the Executive Officer may vary and this definition acknowledges that some organisations may not even have an Executive Officer.*

**Financial year** means the year ending on the next 30 June following incorporation and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June each year.

*The financial year can be varied to suit your Association; for example, a winter sport may choose to run 1 January to 30 December.*

**General Meeting** means any general meeting of Members and includes the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting.

**IF** means [Sport International Federation].

*As noted previously, the document seeks to embrace the whole of the sport relevant to the Association including the international federation.*

**Individual Member** means a registered financial member of a Club or a natural person who is otherwise recognised by the association as an individual member.

*Usually Individual Members would not be allowed to be a member of the Association, as Individual persons are members of the Clubs, which in turn would normally be the members of a Regional Association (or in some cases, members of the Association).*

*The general purpose of the Association is to have representatives of RSOs (or Clubs) as Members and, therefore, Individual Members would not necessarily share the views of the RSO or the Clubs whom the RSO is created to represent.*

*This Constitution template does not include a Membership category for “Independent Members”*

**Intellectual Property** means all rights subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, equipment (including computer software), images (including photographs, videos or films) or service marks relating to the Association or any activity of or conducted, promoted or administered by the Association in the region.

*It is important for the Association to recognise and protect its intellectual property; thus, the inclusion of this definition.*

**Life Member** means an Individual Member appointed as a life member of the Association under **clause 5.3**.

**Member** means a member for the time being of the Association under **clause 5**.

**NSO** means [Sport National Sporting Organisation].

*The Sport’s NSO needs to be included here.*

**Objects** means the objects of the Association in **clause 3**.

**Regulations** means any regulations made by the Board under **clause 10.4**.

**Region** means the geographical area for which the Association is responsible and as recognised by the Association (which is typically the State).

*The term ‘region’ may be better described as ‘district’ if that is more appropriate in the Sport.*

**RSO** means a regional sporting association that conducts and manages competitions in the Sport (and which is distinct from a Club and may have Clubs as part of its own membership).

**Seal** means the common seal of the Association.

**Special Resolution** means a special resolution defined in the Act.

**Sport** means the sport of [insert].

*If the Association conducts more than one Sport (so a multi-sport regional body), then all of the Sports should be included here. For example: football and netball.*

## Interpretation

In this Constitution:

### a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;

### a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty;

### words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;

### words importing any gender include other genders;

### references to persons include corporations and bodies politic;

### references to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;

### a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction);

### a reference to ‘writing’ shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail; and

### any doubt arising as to the application or meaning of any clause or wording therein shall be decided by a vote at a General Meeting, which decision shall be final and conclusive.

## Severance

If any provision of this Constitution or any phrase contained in it is invalid or unenforceable, the phrase or provision is to be read down if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable, and otherwise shall be severed to the extent of the invalidity or unenforceability, without affecting the remaining provisions of this Constitution.

## The Act

Except where the contrary intention appears, in this Constitution, an expression that deals with a matter under the Act has the same meaning as that provision of the Act. Model rules under the Act are expressly displaced by this Constitution.

# OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

*The Objects of the Association are important and must be carefully considered. The Objects of the Association are the reasons for the existence of the Association and although this can be simply stated as ‘promotion and encouragement of the sport’, the changes in regulatory, commercial and sporting landscapes require a current sporting body to have relatively broad Objects.*

*The Objects are expressed to apply to the Region in which the Association operates and/or over which it has jurisdiction.*

*The Objects listed here include more than would be preferred by most Associations but have been included in full to assist the Association in compiling the Constitution.*

The objects of the Association are, within the Region, to:

### participate as a member of the NSO so the Sport can be conducted, encouraged, promoted, advanced and administered.

*The purpose of Object (a) is to recognise the ‘sporting authority’ which follows from being part of an IF/NSO recognised sport. To be part of the ‘authorised sport’ an organisation must be part of or affiliated with at least the national body (and international bodies where appropriate).*

*The wording in this Object below reflects the language of the Income Tax Assessment Act, which recognises sporting bodies as income tax exempt organisations.*

*Recreation organisations using this template may not be subject to the same income tax exemptions and should obtain their own advice on this matter.*

### arrange, conduct and regulate competitions in the Sport;

### affiliate with the NSO and act as its South Australian affiliated member;

### maintain and enhance the reputation of the Sport and the standards of play and behaviour of participants in the Sport;

### undertake and or do other things or activities which are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of these Objects;

*Ideally a sport will operate under consistent regulations and policy framework. This is the responsibility of the NSO as the technical “rules or laws of the game” are essentially the responsibility of the IF.*

*Generally, the Association would be responsible for implementation of policies that are developed by the NSO and will develop local policies for implementation by affiliated RSOs and Clubs.*

### have regard to the public interest in its operations;

*Generally, rules made in the “public interest” are less susceptible to challenge, therefore, this object reminds the members of the Association of the moral obligation to be mindful of the community when operating the Association.*

### promote at all times mutual trust and confidence between the Association, the NSO and the Members in pursuit of these objects;

### act at all times on behalf of, and in the interest of, the Members and the Sport;

### promote the economic and community service success, strength and stability of the Association, the Members and the Sport ;

### affiliate and otherwise liaise with the NSO and adopt its rule and policy framework to further these objects and the Sport;

### use and protect the intellectual property appropriately;

*The importance of protecting intellectual property (IP) cannot be emphasised enough at the Association level. Your IP is what separates you from other SSO’s. Please ensure you seek legal advice in relation to your IP.*

### strive for government, commercial and public recognition of the Association and the Sport ;

### abide by, promulgate, enforce and secure uniformity in the application of the rules of the Sport as may be determined from time to time by the NSO or the IF and as may be necessary for the management and control of the Sport and related activities;

### act as an arbiter (as required) on all matters pertaining to the conduct of the Sport , including disciplinary matters;

### pursue such commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities, as are appropriate to further the interests of the Sport ;

### adopt and implement such policies as may be developed by the NSO, including (as relevant and applicable) Member protection, anti-doping, health and safety, player and child welfare, junior sport, infectious diseases and such other matters as may arise as issues to be addressed in the Sport;

### have regard to the public interest in its operations;

### do all that is reasonably necessary to enable these Objects to be achieved and enable Members to receive the benefits which these Objects are intended to achieve;

### promote the health and safety of Members and all other participants in the Sport; and

### seek and obtain improved facilities for the enjoyment of the Sport .

# POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Solely for furthering the Objects, the Association has the rights, powers and privileges conferred on it under section 25 of the Act, namely to:

### acquire, hold, deal with, and dispose of, any real or personal property;

### administer any property on trust;

### open and operate ADI accounts;

### invest its moneys —

#### in any security in which trust moneys may, by Act of Parliament, be invested; or

#### in any other manner authorised by the rules of the Association;

### borrow money upon such terms and conditions as the Association thinks fit;

### give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by the Association as the Association thinks fit;

### appoint agents to transact any business of the Association on its behalf; and

### enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.

*An incorporated association is a type of incorporated legal structure made under the Act. A company limited by a guarantee is another type of incorporated legal structure made under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). Both are suitable legal structures for not-for-profit groups in SA. In deciding the appropriate structure for your Association, you should consider such factors as where the Association will operate and carry out activities, whether the Association will be a charity, the ability of the Association to pay fees and various other obligations including annual reporting, audits and reviews. You should obtain independent legal and other advice in this regard. This template has been prepared on the basis of the Association being an incorporated association under the Act.*

*Please also note the ASC recommends that NSOs be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (ASC Principle 1.2)*

# 

# MEMBERShip ®

*The Members of the Association and their rights and responsibilities are set out under this clause. The Member categories and their respective rights and responsibilities may of course vary.*

*Under this template, the Affiliate Members are the voting members. Life Members, Individual Members and Directors are also Members and are bound by the Constitution, but they do not have voting rights at General Meetings of the Association.*

*Also, the Board can create new categories of Members such as corporate members, but any new category cannot be granted voting rights unless approved by the General Meeting.*

*To grant voting rights is effectively a change in the Constitution and therefore any proposed change must be submitted to a General Meeting and dealt with by Special Resolution*

## Categories of Members

The Members of the Association shall consist of:

### **Affiliate Members**, which subject to this Constitution, shall be represented by a Delegate, and which shall have the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present, debate and vote on behalf of their respective RSO or Club at General Meetings;

*The ASC Principles advocate that a ‘one state one vote’ voting system be applied to federal sporting structures.*

*While a proportional voting system is an option, it is not recommended.*

*The same principle ‘one member one vote’ principle is recommended for state and regional sporting bodies. Large member bodies should never be able to dominate the direction of an organisation and proportionate voting systems can have that effect.*

### **Life Members**, who subject to this Constitution, shall have the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present and to debate at General Meetings, but shall have no voting rights at General Meetings;

### **Directors**, who shall have the right to be present and to debate at General Meetings, but have no voting rights at General Meetings; and

### such new categories of Members as may be created by the Board. Any new category of Member created by the Board cannot be granted voting rights without the approval of the Association in General Meeting.

## Affiliate Members ®

*The affiliation process for Association, RSOs and Clubs is very important, as it should be seen that the RSOs and Clubs are joining and re-joining the Association each year.*

*The process can be varied to suit the Association’s requirements.*

*Requiring Affiliate Members to be incorporated is a form of risk management. Incorporated Associations: have their own “corporate identity”; can sue and be sued; can enter into contracts; mostly appoint committees to run affairs; and documents lodged are kept on a public register.*

*Therefore, an unincorporated Affiliate Member cannot enter into a legally binding ‘deed’ as a part of their affiliation and cannot be sanctioned if they breach this agreement. In some cases, liability for the actions of the unincorporated Affiliate Member may unknowingly pass to the directors or management of the Affiliate Member personally.*

### An RSO or Club may apply to the Board for admission to Membership as an Affiliate Member;

### To be, or remain, eligible for Membership, an RSO or Club must be incorporated or be in the process of incorporation as detailed in the Regulations;

### Once a Member, an Affiliate Member has the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present, debate and vote at General Meetings;

### Each Affiliate Member is taken, by virtue of that membership, to have agreed:

#### that it recognises the Association as the authority for the Sport in South Australia and the NSO as the authority for the Sport nationally;

#### that it will submit an up-to-date copy of its Constituent Documents to the Board as and when requested by the Board or required by the Regulations;

#### that it will conscientiously attend General Meetings;

#### that it will maintain, in a form acceptable to the Association, a register of its Members and provide a copy of the register to the Board on request by the Board; and

#### that, if requested by the Association, it will also provide the Association with copies of its audited accounts, annual financial reports and other associated documents as soon as practicable following the Affiliate Member’s Annual General Meeting.

### If an Affiliate Member is not incorporated at the time of applying for membership, the process of incorporation must be completed within one year of applying for membership. If that process is not completed within that time, the Affiliate Member’s membership will lapse but it may reapply on becoming incorporated.

### Each Affiliate Member’s Constituent Documents must:

#### clearly reflect the Objects; and

#### conform with this Constitution, the Regulations and the policies of the Association.

## Life Members ®

### Life membership is the highest honour that can be bestowed by the Association for longstanding and valued service to the Association or to the Sport in South Australia.

### Any Member may recommend a person for Life Membership by notice in writing to the Board as detailed in the Regulations.

### A person may be appointed a Life Member only by Special Resolution put to an Annual General Meeting by the Board.

### A Life Member has the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present and to debate but not to vote at General Meetings.

### A Life Member cannot be required to pay fees or subscriptions (other than fees that are required to be paid by a participant in the Sport in his or her capacity as a participant in the Sport).

## Application for Membership ®

### Subject to this **clause 5**, an applicant candidate for membership must apply to the Board in writing.

### The application must:

#### be in a form approved by the Board;

#### contain full particulars of the name and address and contact details of the applicant;

#### identify the category of membership for which the applicant is applying; and

#### contain any other information prescribed by Regulation for an application for membership in that category.

## Discretion to Accept or Reject Application

### The Association may accept or reject an application for membership whether or not the applicant has complied with the requirements in this **clause 5**. The Association shall not be required or compelled to provide a reason for accepting or rejecting the Application.

### Where the Association accepts an application, the applicant shall become a Member. Membership shall be deemed to commence upon acceptance of the application by the Association. The Executive Officer/executive director/secretary [*appropriate person to be nominated*] shall amend the register accordingly as soon as practicable.

### Where the Association rejects an application, any fees forwarded with the application will be refunded and the application shall be deemed rejected.

## Re-Affiliation of Affiliate Members

### Affiliate Members must re-affiliate annually with the Association in accordance with the procedures set down by the Association in Regulations from time to time.

### Upon re-affiliation, Affiliate Members must lodge with the Association an updated copy of their own Constituent Documents (including all amendments) and they must provide details of any change in its Delegate and any other information reasonably required by the Association. Each Affiliate Member is to ensure that its own constitution is amended to conform to any amendments made to this Constitution.

## Deemed Membership

### All Members which or who are, prior to the operation of this Constitution, Members of the Association, shall be deemed Members from the time of the operation of this Constitution.

### Members shall provide the Association with such details as are reasonably required by the Association under this Constitution within one month of the operation of this Constitution.

### Any Members of the Association, prior to the operation of this Constitution, who are not deemed Members under **clause 5.7(a)** shall be entitled to carry on such functions equivalent to their previous functions as are provided for under this Constitution.

## Obligations of Members

### Each Member must:

### treat all staff, contractors and representatives of the Association, the NSO and all those involved with the Sport with respect, decency and courtesy at all times;

### maintain and enhance the standards, quality and reputation of the Association, the NSO and the Sport;

### not act in a manner:

### unbecoming of a Member or prejudicial to the Objects or the interests or reputation of the Association, the NSO or the Sport; or

### that is likely to bring the Association, the NSO or the Sport into disrepute or which might adversely affect or derogate from the standards, quality and reputation of the Association, the NSO or the Sport and its maintenance and development; and

### in the case of an Affiliate Member:

#### take reasonable steps to prevent any of its own members or any of its participants from acting in a manner:

#### unbecoming or prejudicial to the Objects of the interests or reputation of the Association, the NSO or the Sport; or

#### that is likely to bring the Association, the NSO or the Sport into disrepute or which might adversely affect or derogate from the standards, quality and reputation of the Association, the NSO or the Sport and its maintenance and development; and

#### take reasonable steps to discipline appropriately any of its own members or participants if that member or participant acts in such a way;

#### be or remain incorporated in South Australia;

#### nominate an appropriate Delegate annually to attend General Meetings, and shall inform the Association of the details of that person accordingly;

#### provide the Association with copies of its audited accounts, annual financial reports and other associated documents as soon as practicable, following its own annual general meetings;

#### recognise the Association as the authority for the Sport in South Australia and the NSO as the authority for the Sport nationally;

#### adopt and implement such policies as may be developed by the Association;

#### have regard to the Objects in any way pertaining to the Sport;

#### the Constituent Documents of each Affiliate Member shall, at the earliest available opportunity, but within one year of the commencement of this Constitution, recognise the Association as the authority for the Sport in South Australia and the NSO as the authority for the Sport nationally; and

* + - 1. it shall maintain, in a form acceptable to the Association, a register of all members of its members. Each Affiliate Member shall provide a copy of the register at a time and in a form acceptable to the Association. They shall also provide regular updates of the register to the Association.

*The ASC recommends that the NSO and its member bodies have aligned objects and purpose to ensure effective achievement of sport outcomes (ASC Principle 1.9)*

## Association to Keep Register

Subject to the Act, confidentiality considerations and privacy laws:

### the Association must keep and maintain a register of Members, which shall contain, at least;

### the full name, address, category of membership and date of entry to membership of each Member and Director; and

### where applicable, the date of termination of membership of each previous Member.

### the Register may contain such other information as the Board considers appropriate;

### Members must provide the Association with the details required by the Association to keep the register complete and up to date; and

### Members shall provide notice of any change and required details to the Association within one month of such change.

## Inspection of Register

Subject to the Act, confidentiality considerations and privacy laws, an extract of the register, excluding the address or other direct contact details of any Member, shall be available for inspection (but not copying) by Members who make a reasonable request for a proper purpose.

## Use of Register

Subject to the Act, confidentiality considerations and privacy laws, the register may be used to further the Objects, in such manner as the Board considers appropriate.

## Effect of Membership

*This clause reconfirms the requirements of the Act and that the Constitution is a contract between the Association and its Members.*

Members acknowledge and agree that:

### this Constitution forms a contract between each of them and the Association and that they are bound by this Constitution and the Regulations and policies of the Association (as well as the constitutions, regulations and policies of the NSO, where applicable);

### they shall comply with and observe this Constitution and the Regulations and policies of the Association and also any determination, resolution or decision, which may be made or passed by the Board or other entity with delegated authority on behalf of the Association;

### by submitting to this Constitution and the Regulations and policies of the Association, they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Association and the NSO (where applicable);

### the Constitution and the Regulations and policies of the Association are necessary and reasonable for promoting the Objects and particularly the advancement and protection of the Sport in the Region; and

### they are entitled to all benefits, advantages, privileges and services of being a Member of the Association.

## Resignation of Membership

### A Member who has paid all arrears of fees payable to the Association may resign or withdraw from membership of the Association by giving one month’s notice in writing to the Association, subject to the clauses below.

### An Affiliate Member may not resign, disaffiliate or otherwise seek to withdraw from the Association without approval by Special Resolution of the Affiliate Member. A copy of the relevant minutes of the Affiliate Member’s meeting showing that the Special Resolution has been passed by the Affiliate Member must be provided to the Association.

### If an Affiliate Member ceases to be a Member under this Constitution, the Association membership of all Individual Members affiliated or registered with or through the Affiliate Member shall not automatically cease at that time but shall be dealt with in accordance with the Regulations and the circumstances pertaining to each Member.

### Once the Association receives notice of resignation of membership given under this **clause 5.13**, it must make an entry in the register that records the date on which the Member who or which gave notice ceased to be a Member.

## Discontinuance of Membership for Breach

### Membership of the Association may be discontinued by the Board upon breach of any clause of this Constitution or the Regulations or the policies of the Association. This includes, but is not limited to, the failure to pay any monies owed to the Association, disciplinary matters, and the failure to comply with the Regulations or any resolutions or determinations made or passed by the Board or any duly authorised committee.

### Membership shall not be discontinued by the Board under **clause 5.14(a)** without the Board first giving the relevant Member sufficient opportunity to explain the breach and/or remedy the breach.

### A Member may not be expelled unless theMember has been afforded natural justice in accordance with the Act and procedural fairness generally.

### Where a Member fails, in the Board’s view, to adequately explain or remedy the breach, that Member’s membership shall be discontinued under **clause 5.14(a).** The Association shall give written notice of the discontinuance to the Member. The register shall be amended to reflect any discontinuance of membership under this **clause 5.14** as soon as practicable.

## Discontinuance of Membership for Failure to Re-Affiliate

### Membership of the Association may be discontinued by the Board if an Affiliated Member has not re-affiliated with the Association within one month of the re-affiliation falling due (and notice of such has been brought to the attention of the Affiliated member). In that case, the Affiliated Member’s membership will be deemed to have lapsed from that time.

### The register shall be amended to reflect any discontinuance by reason of lapse of membership under this **clause 5.15** as soon as practicable.

## Member to Re-Apply for Membership

A Member whose membership has been discontinued under **clauses 5.13, 5.14 or 5.15**:

### may seek renewal or re-apply for membership in accordance with this Constitution; and

### may be re-admitted as a Member at the discretion of the Board.

## Forfeiture of Rights

### A Member who or which ceases to be a Member, for whatever reason, shall forfeit all rights in and claims upon the Association and its property and shall not use any property of the Association including Intellectual Property.

### Any Association documents, records or other property in the possession, custody or control of that Member shall be returned to the Association immediately.

### Where an Affiliated Member ceases to be a Member, it shall also forfeit all representation rights on the Board and at General Meetings effective immediately.

## Delegate Position Lapses

The position of Delegate shall lapse immediately on cessation of membership of an Affiliate Member.

## Membership May be Reinstated

Membership which has been discontinued under this **clause 5** may be reinstated at the discretion of the Board, with such conditions of membership as the Board deems appropriate.

## Refund of Membership Fees ®

Membership fees or subscriptions paid by the discontinued Member may be refunded on a pro-rata basis to the Member upon discontinuance.

## Subscriptions and Fees ®

*The* *subscriptions and fees of the Association are the sole area of the Board NOT the membership. Should the Members seek to interfere or assume responsibility for the setting of subscriptions, fees and/or budgets, they risk potential liability, including for Club debts incurred as a result of the incorrect setting of subscriptions or fees to meet Association costs.*

### The Board will:

#### fix annual membership subscriptions;

#### fix such other fees or levies as the Board considers prudent for the effective and sustainable management of the affairs of the Association; and

#### determine the time for and manner of payment of the subscriptions, fees and levies by Members to the Association.

### The Board may fix subscriptions, fees or levies at different rates for different categories of membership and may determine that no subscriptions are payable by one or more of the categories for any year.

### The Board may also authorise payment of subscriptions, fees or levies by instalments for some or all of the categories of membership and it may prescribe different terms of instalments for different categories of membership.

### On admission to membership, a new Member must pay the current full year’s subscription unless the Board agrees to accept payment in instalments.

### The Board may waive all or part of a Member's subscriptions, fees or levies and may agree terms of payment for a Member different from those applicable to other Members of the same category if the Board is satisfied that there are special reasons to do so.

# discipline and dispute resolution ®

## Regulations

### The Board may make Regulations governing the hearing and determination of disputes, protests or complaints made by or against Members or participants or the Association or disciplinary matters generally or any other matter involving the enforcement of this Constitution or the Regulations or policies of the Association against Members or participants or the Association.

### A Regulation made under this **clause 6.1** may:

#### provide for one or more judiciary committees or tribunals to hear and resolve cases falling under this **clause 6.1**, including committees or tribunals for appeals from Affiliate Members;

#### prescribe penalties for breaches of this Constitution or the Regulations or policies of the Association;

#### invest a judiciary committee or tribunal with power to impose penalties; and

#### otherwise prescribe the procedures for dealing with cases falling under this **clause 6.1**.

### Despite any Regulation made under this **clause 6.1**, and unless otherwise specified, the Board may itself deal with any disciplinary matter referred to it or appoint a judiciary committee or tribunal to do so.

## Natural Justice and Procedural Fairness

### All proceedings relating to matters falling under **clause 6.1** must be conducted according to the rules of natural justice in accordance with the Act and procedural fairness generally.

## Process

### The dispute resolution procedure set out in this clause applies to disputes between a Member and:

#### another Member; or

#### the Association.

### In this clause ‘Member’ includes any former Member who was a Member not more than six months before the dispute occurred and who is involved in the dispute.

### The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within fourteen (14) days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.

### If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within ten (10) days after the scheduled meeting, refer the dispute to the Association or the State Sport Dispute Centre (if applicable to the Association) to resolve the dispute in accordance with **clause 6.1**.

### The Committee may prescribe additional grievance procedures in Regulations under **clause 6.1**.

*The process for complaints and dispute resolution set out above is a brief example. These procedures should, ideally, be set out in more detail in the Regulations.*

*The State Sport Dispute Centre is operated by the South Australian Sports Federation (Sport SA). The services are provided to Associations that are members of Sport SA.*

*Should your Association not wish to become or remain a member of Sport SA you will need to amend this clause accordingly and insert a different Dispute Resolution process.*

# GENERAL MEETINGs

## Types

There are two (2) General Meetings that can be convened where Affiliate Members have the opportunity to express opinions and vote on various matters. They are:

### **Annual General Meetings**: Annual General Meetings of the Association must be held in accordance with the Act and this Constitution and on a date and at a venue to be determined by the Board.

### **Special General Meetings**: Special General Meetings of the Association are special meetings that are convened by Members to discuss extraordinary issues.

## Attendance

### Unless this Constitution expressly provides otherwise, Members and the auditor are entitled to attend General Meetings but only Affiliate Members are entitled to vote at General meetings.

### Each Affiliate Member, by notice to the Association, may appoint a natural person to act as its Delegate in all matters connected with the Affiliate Member including for voting purposes at General Meetings.

### An Affiliate Member may, by notice under **clause 10.5** to the Association, revoke an appointment made under **clause 7.2(b)**.

### A Delegate appointed under **clause 7.2(b)** may attend a General Meeting by telephone or other electronic means by which he or she can hear and be heard.

### For all the purposes of this Constitution, an Affiliate Member represented at a General Meeting by a Delegate is to be taken to be present in person at the General Meeting.

## Notice

### Notice of General Meetings must be given to Members and the auditor by the means authorised in **clause 10.5**.

### A notice of a General Meeting must specify the place, day and hour of the General Meeting and state the nature and order of the business to be transacted at the General Meeting.

### At least twenty-one (21) days’ notice of a General Meeting must be given to those Members entitled to receive notice, together with:

#### the agenda for the General Meeting; and

#### any notice of motion received from Members entitled to vote.

## Business

*The modern practice is for the Directors, rather than the Members, to appoint the auditor at a General Meeting. This template reflects this approach.*

### The ordinary business to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting includes, but is not limited to, the consideration and approval of financial and other accounts and the reports of the Board (and those of any auditors), the election of Directors and any amendments to this Constitution.

### All business that is discussed at a Special General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting, other than those matters referred to in **clause 7.4(a)**, is special business.

### No business other than that stated on the notice for a General Meeting may be discussed at that General Meeting.

## Notices of Motion

Members entitled to vote may submit notices of motion for inclusion as special business at a General Meeting. All notices of motion must be submitted in writing to the CEO not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the General Meeting.

## Quorum

*The quorum for a General Meeting can be varied. The number or percentage of Members required must be realistic so that a meeting can proceed. e.g. If there are 50 Clubs then it may be appropriate to have 25 plus 1 Clubs or maybe 55% of Members.*

*PLEASE NOTE: This clause specifies that the specific number of Affiliate Members MUST be in attendance for a quorum to exist.*

### No business may be discussed or transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the General Meeting proceeds to business. Subject to **clause 7.7(b)(ii)**, a quorum for General Meetings is **[insert number or percentage]** of Affiliate Members plus 1.

## Chairperson to Preside

### The chairperson of the Board will, subject to this Constitution, preside as chairperson at every General Meeting except:

#### in relation to any election for which the chairperson of the Board is a nominee; or

#### where the chairperson of the Board has a conflict of interest.

### If the chairperson of the Board is not present or is unwilling or unable to preside, the Affiliate Members present must appoint another Director to preside as chair for that General Meeting only.

## Adjournment

### If within half an hour from the time appointed for the General Meeting, a quorum is not present, the General Meeting must be adjourned until the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day, time and place as the chairperson determines.

### If at the adjourned General Meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the adjourned General Meeting:

#### if the General Meeting was convened on the requisition of Affiliate Members under **clause 7.12(b)**, the General Meeting will lapse and will not be adjourned or reconvened; and

#### in any other case, those Affiliate Members present will constitute a quorum.

### The chairperson may, with the consent of any General Meeting at which a quorum is present, and must, if directed by the General Meeting, adjourn the General Meeting from time to time and from place to place but no business may be transacted at any adjourned General Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the General Meeting from which the adjournment took place.

### When a General Meeting is adjourned for thirty (30) days or more, notice of the adjourned General Meeting must be given as in the case of an original General Meeting.

### Except as provided in clause 7.7(c), it is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or the business to be discussed or transacted at any adjourned General Meeting.

## Voting Procedure

*Voting at General Meetings will depend upon which Members have voting rights. It may vary where Members have different rights or, for example, where a member is not financial.*

### At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the General Meeting will be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before the show of hands) demanded by:

#### the chairperson; or

#### a simple majority of Affiliate Members present at the General Meeting.

### Each Affiliate Member is entitled to one (1) vote at General Meetings.

### The chairperson may not exercise a casting vote at General Meetings.

## Proxy Voting

*Proxy voting has not been provided for in this template. It is optional and does not need to be provided for under the Act. Some care is needed in deciding to allow Proxy voting as this may not ensure appropriate representation by the Members.*

*Proxy voting may be appropriate where an organisation’s Members are geographically challenged to attend the meetings.*

*Should you choose to allow proxy voting we recommend that you adopt different clauses 7.11 (a) & (b), along these lines:*

*(a) Proxy voting shall be permitted at all General Meetings as long as a proxy form in the format approved by the Board has been duly completed and executed and is lodged with the Executive Officer at or before the commencement of the General* *Meeting. Proxies shall only be exercised by Members entitled to vote. No Member entitled to vote shall exercise more than one proxy vote at any one time*

*(b) The instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll. A Delegate shall be entitled to instruct his proxy to vote in favour of or against any proposed resolutions. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may exercise the proxy vote as he thinks fit.*

## Recording of Determinations

## A declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried (either unanimously or by a particular majority) or lost and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the proceedings of the Association is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

## Special General Meetings

*The number or percentage of Members who can requisition a Special General Meeting can be varied.*

### The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a Special General Meeting of the Association.

## Requisition of Special General Meetings by Affiliate Members

### On the requisition in writing of [insert number or percentage] of the total number of Affiliate Members, the Board must, within one month after the receipt of the requisition (and provided notice is given in accordance with clauses 7.3 and 10.5), convene a Special General Meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition.

### Every requisition for a Special General Meeting must be signed by requisitioning Affiliate Members, state the purpose of the meeting and be sent to the Association. The requisition may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one or more of the Affiliate Members making the requisitions.

### If the Board does not cause a Special General Meeting to be held within one month after the receipt of the requisition, the Affiliate Members making the requisition may convene a Special General Meeting to be held not later than three (3) months after the receipt of the requisition.

### A Special General Meeting convened by the Affiliate Members under this Constitution must be convened in the same manner, or as nearly as practical to the same manner, as a meeting convened by the Board and for this purpose the Board must ensure that the Affiliate Members making the requisition are supplied free of charge with particulars of the Affiliate Members entitled to receive a notice of meeting. The reasonable expenses of convening and conducting such a meeting must be borne by the Association.

# MANAGEMENT

*Some of the material below is taken from the ASC Principles.*

*The Board’s primary responsibility is one of trusteeship on behalf of its stakeholders, ensuring that the legal entity, the Association, remains viable and effective in the present and for the future.*

*The Board’s role includes determining the Association’s strategic direction, core values and ethical framework, as well as key objectives and performance measures.*

*A key critical component of this role is the Board’s ultimate authority and responsibility for financial operations and budgeting to ensure the achievement of strategic objectives.*

*There should be no overlap in the powers of any two bodies (i.e. the Board and another body) or individuals in the governance of the Association.*

*The governance structure should feature a clear separation of powers and responsibilities between the Board and the CEO and their staff (ASC Principle 1.5)*

The Board constitutes the Committee for the purposes of the Act.

## General powers of Board

### Subject to the Act and this Constitution, the business and affairs of the Association must be managed by the Board, which may exercise the powers of the Association for that purpose.

### The Board must perform its functions in the pursuit of the Objects and in the interests of the Association as a whole, having regard to the Association's position and role in the structure and reputation of the Sport in South Australia.

* + 1. The Board may not cause the Association to disaffiliate from the NSO or the Sport in any way unless decided by resolution of the Members at a General Meeting.

## Composition of the Board ®

*It is encouraged that the composition of the Board aligns with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing 40:40:20 Policy Initiative.*

*The numbers on the Board may vary. This template has seven Elected Directors and up to two ‘external’ Appointed Directors who may be appointed by the Elected Directors.*

*The Association needs to ensure it has a Board size and composition that meets its needs.*

*The ASC states that each Board should be structured to reflect the complex operating environment facing the modern sporting organisation (ASC Principle 1.8). Normally, it is envisaged that a Board will:*

*-comprise between five and nine directors*

*-have a sufficient blend of expertise, skills, gender and diversity necessary to effectively carry out its role*

*-have all directors being independent, regardless of whether they are elected or appointed*

*-have the ability to make a limited number of external appointments to the Board to fill skills gaps*

*-institute a staggered rotation system for Board members with a maximum term in office to encourage Board renewal while retaining corporate memory*

*-be broadly reflective of the organisation’s key stakeholders, but not at the expense of the Board’s skills mix and the organisation’s objectives*

*There is a strong community expectation that sporting boards will comply with the ASC Principles.*

*As an Association, there are a number of sub-committees that could exist and it is appropriate to ensure fair representation across all Affiliate Members. Each sub-committee approved by the Board will have a Board Appointed Director*

### The Board will comprise of:

### up to seven (7) Elected Directors elected under **clause 8.6**; and

### up to two (2) Appointed Directors appointed under **clause 8.8**; and

### A Director cannot also be a Delegate.

*This template provides that a Director cannot also be a Delegate. This is to prevent any actual conflict of interests between a Director’s duty to the Association and a Director’s duty to the RSO or the Club that the Director represents.*

## Portfolios ®

The Board may allocate portfolios to Directors.

*The trend in sporting organisations is not to entrench portfolios in the Constitution. If the Association decides to allocate portfolios to Directors, discretion should simply be retained by the Board. This maintains flexibility and does not require constitutional change if a portfolio is no longer required or needs to be added. Structure, participation and operation of portfolios can be documented in the Association’s Regulations.*

## Nominations for Elected Directors

### The Board must call for nominations for Elected Directors at least forty-nine (49) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

### The Board may, when it calls for nominations, indicate which portfolios on the Board it wishes to fill, the job descriptions for those portfolios and the qualifications or experience it considers desirable for those portfolios.

## Nominations must: ®

### be in writing;

### be in the prescribed form (if any) provided for that purpose;

### be signed by the nominee;

### disclose any position the nominee holds in a Club, including as an officer, a participant, a Delegate or an employee; and

### be delivered to the Association not less than twenty-eight (28) days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.

## Elections

*The process for electing and appointing Directors is not typically entrenched in the Constitution. It should be set out in the Regulations and can be by such process as the Association deems appropriate.*

*There is no reason why the Association cannot advertise for people with the skills they are seeking or approach potential Directors directly with an invitation to find out more about the Association. It is important if this approach is adopted that the potential Director must be a member of a Club.*

*To work towards achieving a more equitable gender representation on the Board some state associations have updated their constitutions to include the following type pf clause:*

* *This Clause will remain in effect for a period of 2 years only from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. On 30 June 2021, this Clause will automatically cease to have effect. The vacancies created at the 2019, 2020 General Meetings by virtue of Clause 8.7 (a) and (b) are only available to be filled by a female until a minimum balance of 40% male, 40% female representation is achieved. Affiliates entitled to vote in the 2019 and 2020 election may only nominate females for those Director positions unless otherwise indicated in writing by the Board, and if no females are nominated the provisions of Clauses 8.8 and 8.12 shall apply with the same restriction until such balance is achieved.*

### If the number of nominations received for the Board is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled or if there are insufficient nominations received to fill all vacancies on the Board, then those nominated shall be declared elected only if approved by the majority of Members entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

### If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, an election must be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.

### Voting shall be conducted in such a manner and by such a method as determined by the Board from time to time.

*Typically, such voting is conducted by secret ballot.*

### If at the close of the Annual General Meeting, vacancies on the Board remain unfilled, the vacant position(s) will be deemed casual vacancies under **clause 8.12**.

### If a person nominated at the Annual General Meeting is not approved by the majority of Members under **clause 8.6(a)**, he or she will not be entitled to take office until approved by the Members at an Annual General Meeting.

## Term of Appointment for Elected Directors

*Under this template, Directors’ terms are for two years, although this can be changed depending on the Association or circumstances.*

### Directors elected under **clause 8** shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. Subject to provisions in this Constitution relating to early retirement or removal of Directors, Elected Directors shall remain in office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which their relevant election occurred until the conclusion of the second Annual General Meeting following.

### At least half of the Elected Directors shall retire in each odd year and the balance of the Elected Directors shall retire in each even year until, after two (2) years the original elected Directors have all retired.

### The sequence of retirements under **clause 8.7(b)**, which is designed to ensure rotational and staggered terms, shall be determined by the Board.

### Following the adoption of this Constitution, no person who has served as an Elected Director or Appointed Director for a period of ten (10) years shall be eligible for election as an Elected Director until the next Annual General Meeting following the date of conclusion of their last term as an Elected Director.

### If the law requires the Elected Director to have a particular qualification or clearance (for example, police clearance), the Elected Director's term will not begin until the qualification or clearance has been established.

## Appointment of Appointed Directors

*The principle behind the appointment of “Appointed” Directors is that Elected Directors often require new Directors with additional skills that may facilitate or assist the Board with a particular issue in time. For example, an Association may require marketing or lobbying skills. It can then approach and invite an appropriately skilled person to join the Board as an Appointed Director.*

The Elected Directors may appoint up to two (2) Appointed Directors, at their sole discretion.

## Qualifications for Appointed Directors

In appointing Appointed Directors, the Elected Directors should have regard to which personal skills, diversity (including, but not limited to gender, ethnicity and age) and experience the Elected Directors believe will complement the Board composition.

## Term of Appointment

The term of office of each Appointed Director must be fixed by the Elected Directors at the time of the Appointed Director's appointment but it cannot exceed one (1) year.

## Chairperson

The Board shall appoint a chairperson from amongst its Elected Directors. The chairperson shall be the nominal head of the Association and will act as chair of any Board meeting at which they are present. If the chairperson is not present or is unwilling or unable to preside at a Board meeting, the remaining Directors shall appoint another Director to preside as chair for that meeting only.

*There is a strong argument for either a Chairperson or President. The President potentially provides the Association with a “leadership figure” in the community who can represent the Association publicly. In the community, the term ‘President’ is a more commonly accepted.*

*The ASC recommends that the chairperson should be selected by the Board (ASC Principle 1.6)*

## Casual Vacancies

Subject to **clause 7.6** any casual vacancy occurring in the position of Director may be filled by the remaining Directors from among appropriately qualified persons. Any casual vacancy may only be filled for the remainder of the Director’s term under this Constitution.

## Duties of Directors

In accordance with Division 3A of the Act, Directors must:

### not, in the exercise of their powers or the discharge of their duties, commit an act with intent to deceive or defraud the Association, Members or creditors of the Association or creditors of any other person or for any fraudulent purpose;

### not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of their position in the Association so as to gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage themselves or any other person, or so as to cause a detriment to the Association;

### not make improper use of their position as such an officer or employee so as to gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage for themselves any other person, or so as to cause a detriment to the Association; and

### at all times act with reasonable care and diligence in the exercise of their powers and the discharge of the duties of their office.

## Grounds for Termination of Director

### The office of a Director becomes vacant if the Director:

### dies;

### becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his or her creditors generally;

### suffers from mental or physical incapacity;

### cannot obtain or retain office under section 30 of the Act;

### resigns his or her office by notice in writing to the Association;

### is absent without the consent of the Board from meetings of the Board held during a period of six (6) months;

### holds any office of employment with the Association;

### is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Association and fails to declare the nature of his or her interest (and which amounts to a conflict of interest);

### in the case of an Appointed Director, is removed from office by the Elected Directors;

### is removed by the Members in General Meeting; or

### would otherwise be prohibited from being a director of a corporation under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*.

### If a Director is removed by resolution of the Members, the Director cannot be reappointed to the Board as an Appointed Director without a further resolution of Members authorising the appointment.

*It is important that Directors are aware that, like the Members, they have a responsibility to adhere to the Association’s Constitution, Regulations, Policies and Codes of Behaviour.*

*Failure to do so should lead to the same discipline being taken as it would for any other Member.*

## Board May Act

If there are any vacancies on the Board, the remaining Directors may act but, if the number of remaining Directors is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board, they may act only for the purpose of increasing the number of Directors to a number sufficient to constitute a quorum.

## Board to Meet

*These clauses of the template have been drafted so that they comply with the law, but also so that they provide the board maximum flexibility in terms of how it meets. The ASC Principles recommends that a Board meet no less than six times per year and as often as monthly. A small Association may only need to meet bi-monthly to properly conduct its business. In alternate months it may meet not as a board, but as a committee to address operational issues thereby keeping separate the strategic and operational dimensions of running the Association. Alternatively, it may meet monthly during the season but less often between seasons.*

### The Board must meet as often as it considers necessary in every calendar year for the dispatch of business (and must meet at least as often as is required under the Act) and in accordance with principles of good governance. Subject to this Constitution, the Board may adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.

### Any Director may at any time convene a meeting of the Board on reasonable notice to the other Directors.

## Decisions of Board

*This template does not give the chairperson a discretionary casting vote. This is optional.*

*The ASC Principles recommend that ‘votes taken at Board or General Meetings should be passed by a majority of director/members and not be subject to a casting vote. The principle is based on the premise that if a majority cannot agree on an issue then the issued should be forfeited’.*

Subject to this Constitution, questions arising at any meeting of the Board may be decided by **r**esolutionof the Directors. Each Director has one (1) vote on any question. The chair does not have a casting vote.

## Circulatory Resolutions ®

### A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by email, facsimile or other form of visible or other electronic communication by all the Directors for the time being present in Australia shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of Directors duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed or assented by one (1) or more of the Directors.

### A resolution may not be passed under **clause 8.18(a)** if, before it is circulated for voting under **clause 8.18(a)** the Board resolves that it can only be put at a meeting of the Board.

### A resolution passed under this clause must be recorded in the minute book.

## Resolutions not in Meeting

### Without limiting the power of the Board to regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, and subject to **clause 8.20**, a meeting of the Board may be held where one or more of the directors is not physically present at the meeting, provided that:

#### all persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with each other effectively, simultaneously and instantaneously whether by means of telephone or other form of communication;

#### notice of the meeting is given to all the Directors entitled to notice in accordance with the usual procedures agreed upon or laid down from time to time by the Board or this Constitution. The notice will specify that Directors are not required to be present in person;

#### if a failure in communications prevents **clause 8.19(a)(i)** from being satisfied by the number of Directors which constitutes a quorum (**clause 8.20**), and none of such Directors are present at the place where the meeting is deemed by virtue of the further provisions of this rule to be held, then the meeting shall be suspended until **clause 8.19(a)(i)** is satisfied again. If such condition is not satisfied within fifteen minutes from the interruption, the meeting shall be deemed to have been terminated or adjourned and

#### any meeting held where one or more of the Directors is not physically present shall be deemed to be held at the place specified in the notice of the meeting, provided a Director is there in person. If no Director is there in person, the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place where the chairperson of the meeting is located.

## Quorum

*The quorum for a Board meeting can be varied. It should be at least half plus one of the Directors in office. For example, if there are six Directors the quorum should be four. If there are seven Directors the quorum should also be four. If there are ten Directors the quorum should be six and so on.*

## At meetings of the Board the number of Directors whose presence is required to constitute a quorum is:

### if the number of Directors then in office is an even number, half of the number of Directors plus one; or

### if the number of Directors then in office is an odd number, half of the number of Directors rounded up to the next whole number.

## The chairperson of the Association will act as chairperson of any Board meeting or General Meeting at which he or she is present and unless the Board decides otherwise, is the nominal head of the Association. If the chairperson is not present or is unwilling or unable to preside at a Board meeting, the remaining Directors must appoint another Director to preside as chair for that meeting only.

## Conflict of Interest ®

## The Directors must comply with sections 31 and 32 of the Act regarding disclosure of interests and voting on contracts in which a Director has an interest.

## A Director shall declare his or her interest in any contractual, selection, disciplinary, or financial matter in which a conflict of interest arises or may arise and shall, unless otherwise determined by the Board, absent themselves from discussions of such matters and shall not be entitled to vote in respect of such matters. If the Director casts a vote, the vote shall not be counted.

## In the event of any uncertainty as to whether it is necessary for a Director to absent themselves from discussions and refrain from voting, the issue should be immediately determined by vote of the Board. If this is not possible, the matter shall be adjourned or deferred.

## Disclosure of Interests

### The nature of the interest of a Director must be declared at the meeting of the Board at which the relevant matter is first taken into consideration, if the interest then exists. In any other case, the interest should be revealed to the Board at the next meeting of the Board. If a Director becomes interested in a matter after it is made or entered into, the declaration of the interest must be made at the first meeting of the Board held after the Director becomes interested.

### All disclosed interests must also be disclosed to each Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Act.

## General Disclosure

A general notice stating that a Director is a member of, or associated with, any entity and that he or she is ‘interested’ in all transactions with that entity is sufficient declaration under **clause 8.22.** After the distribution of the general notice, it is not necessary for the Director to give a special notice regarding any particular transaction with that firm or company.

## Recording Disclosures ®

Any declaration made, any disclosure or any general notice given by a Director in accordance with **clauses 8.21, 8.22** and/or **8.23** must be recorded in the minutes of the relevant Meeting.

## Delegations

*The Delegations clause recognises that the Board has to delegate functions and tasks to special committees. In sport, special committees, such as rules and technical committees, selection committees and judicial committees, are common. This clause sets out how such delegations should be made and how they operate.*

*The Act requires that a ‘Public Officer’ be appointed (section 56 of the Act). That person may also assume the responsibilities of the ‘Secretary’ or this may be another person. A Treasurer may be appointed or instead, a finance committee may assume that role.*

*Clause 8.21 refers to an ‘instrument in writing’ which outlines delegations. The standard practice is that the instrument is a list/register of delegations, which is subject to a formal resolution of the Board. In addition to the register of delegations, the resolution to approve the delegations is to be clearly recorded in the Board minutes.*

*Delegations can and should in some cases include the authority to spend the Association’s funds in accordance with the agreed budget.*

### **Board May Delegate Functions**

The Board may, by instrument in writing, create or establish or appoint special committees, individual officers and consultants to carry out such duties and functions. The Board will also determine what powers these entities are given.

## Delegation by Instrument

The Board may, in the establishing instrument, delegate such functions as are specified in the instrument, other than:

### this power of delegation; and

### a function imposed on the Board or the Executive Officer by the Act or any other law, or this Constitution or by resolution of the Association in General Meeting.

### **Delegated Function Exercised in Accordance with Terms**

A function, the exercise of which has been delegated under this clause, may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

### **Procedure of Delegated Entity**

The procedures for any entity exercising delegated power shall, subject to this Constitution and with any necessary or incidental amendment, be the same as that applicable to meetings of the Board. The entity exercising delegated powers shall make decisions in accordance with the Objects. It shall promptly provide the Board with details of all material decisions and shall provide any other reports, minutes and information as the Board may require from time to time.

### **Delegation May be Conditional**

A delegation under this clause may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function. These may be specified in the delegation.

### **Revocation of Delegation**

By instrument in writing, the Board may at any time revoke wholly or in part any delegation made under this clause. It may amend or repeal any decision made by such body or person under this clause.

## Seal

*In addition to recording the use of the seal in the Board minutes, the Association may like to consider establishing a register for the use of the seal.*

### The Association will have a Seal on which its corporate name appears in legible characters.

### The Seal may not be used without the express authorisation of the Board and every use of the Seal must be recorded in the minute books of the Association. The affixing of the Seal must be witnessed by two (2) Directors or by one Director and another person authorised by the Board for that purpose.

## Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

*Many Associations may not want or need to appoint a CEO. The option is there to leave this reference in or to change it to refer to the Secretary or Public Officer, if those terms are more appropriate.* *Please ensure you understand what these various roles entail.*

*The duties of the CEO will be set out not only in the Constitution but also in any employment contract that he or she may have with the Association.*

### A CEO may be appointed by the Board for such term and on such conditions as the Board thinks fit.

### The CEO holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, delegated to them by the Directors.

*The ASC Principle 1.5, states that: The governance structure should feature a clear separation of powers and responsibilities between the Board and the CEO and their staff.*

### The exercise of those powers and authorities, and the performance of those duties, by the CEO are subject at all times to the control of the Directors.

### Subject to the terms and conditions of the appointment, the Directors may suspend or remove the CEO from that office.

*The ASC Principle 1.13 states the CEO should attend meetings but not have a vote.*

### The Directors may delegate to the CEO the power (subject to such reservations on the power as are decided by the Directors) to conduct the day-to-day management and control of the business and affairs of the Association. The delegation will include the power and responsibility to:

### develop business plans, budgets, strategies, policies, processes and codes of conduct for consideration by the Directors and to implement them to the extent approved by the Directors;

### manage the financial and other reporting mechanisms of the Association;

### approve and incur expenditure subject to specified expenditure limits;

### sub-delegate his or her powers and responsibilities to employees or internal management committees of the Association;

### prepare agendas for Board and General Meetings;

### attend all Board and General Meetings;

### report regularly on the activities of, and issues relating to, the Association;

### in consultation with the Board, employ such personnel as are deemed necessary or appropriate from time to time; and

### have any other powers and responsibilities which the Directors consider appropriate to delegate to the CEO.

### The CEO is entitled, subject to a determination otherwise by the Directors, to attend all meetings of the Association, all meeting of the Directors and any Committees and may speak on any matter, but does not have a vote.

## Appointment of Secretary

* + 1. There must be at least one Secretary who is to be appointed by the Directors.
    2. The Directors may suspend or remove a Secretary from that office.

### A Secretary holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, delegated to them by the Directors.

*Either the CEO or Secretary will usually assume the role of the Public Officer of the Association and will need to administer and manage the Association in accordance with the Act and the Constitution. You should specify who has this role in your Constitution.*

# RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS

## Accounts to be Kept and Distributed

* + 1. The Association must keep such accounting records as correctly record and explain the transactions and financial position of the Association.
    2. The Directors will cause proper accounting and other records to be audited and distributed in accordance with Division 2 of the Act, including all documents required to be distributed to the Members for the purpose of the Annual General Meeting.

*For instance, you may want to add further detail on what is kept and distributed i.e. copies of the statements of account, the Board’s report, the auditor’s report and other documents required under the Act (if any), to all persons entitled to receive notice of Annual General Meetings in accordance with this Constitution.*

* + 1. The Association must lodge with the Corporate Affairs Commission such periodic returns, containing accounts and other information relevant to the affairs of the Association, as the Act and associated regulations (Associations Incorporation Regulations 2008) may require.

*Where an Executive Officer is not appointed, the Board should appoint one of the Directors to fulfil the position of “Treasurer” or “Finance Director”. This person could also be, for example, the chairperson of the Board Finance Committee*

## Transaction Accounts

* + 1. The Association shall open and keep at least one transaction account as the Board may from time to time determine, and all monies belonging to the Association shall, as soon as practicable after the same shall be received, be paid and deposited to the credit of those account(s) of the Association.
    2. No withdrawal shall be made from, and no cheques shall be drawn on, any transaction account in the name of the Association unless the withdrawal form, cheques or electronic transfer is signed or password-activated, as appropriate, by any two of the persons appointed by the Board for such purposes. All extraordinary and capital expenditure must be unequivocally ratified by the Board.

## Auditor

* + 1. A properly qualified auditor or auditors shall be appointed by the Directors and the remuneration of such auditor or auditors fixed and duties regulated in accordance with the Act.
    2. The following people may not be appointed as an auditor:
       1. an officer of the Association, including a Director (and any partners, employers or employees of officers); or
       2. an employee of the Association, including the CEO (and any partners, employers or employees of employees).
    3. The auditor may be removed by the Directors.
    4. The auditor has a right of access at all reasonable times to the accounting records and other records of the Association and is entitled to require from any officer of the Association such information and explanations as he or she desires for the purpose of an audit.
    5. The auditor must provide the Board with reports that comply with the Act with sufficient time for the Board to lay such material before the Members as and when required (including for the Annual General Meeting).
    6. The reasonable fees and expenses of the auditor are payable by the Association.

*Associations that are “prescribed associations” need to appoint an auditor. See section 3 of the Act for the definition of a ‘****prescribed association’*** *and also section 4 of the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2008.*

*The gross receipts threshold level at which an Association is identified as a* ***prescribed association*** *is $500,000 per annum.*

*What this means is that an Association in South Australia with a turnover of less than $500,000 per annum is no longer legally required to arrange for an auditor to assess the Association’s books annually. Nor is the Board required to lay this report before the Members at the AGM. It does not, however, take away the requirement that the Association keeps proper accounts and records of the financial position of the Association.*

*For a non-prescribed Association* ***clause 9.3*** *could be kept or could be replaced with:*

***“Auditor***

*The Association shall prepare and make available to the Members an annual financial report comprising; an annual profit and loss statement, a balance sheet, a statement of cash flows and a directors’ report.”*

*NOTE: There may be a requirement from your NSO to submit audited financial documents as part of your affiliation*

## Application of Income

### The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

### Except as prescribed in this Constitution or the Act:

### no portion of the income or property of the Association shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to any Member; and

### no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be paid or given by the Association to any Member who holds any office of the Association.

### Nothing in **clauses 9.4(a)** or **9.4(b)** shall prevent payment to any Member for:

### any services actually rendered to the Association whether as an employee, Director or otherwise; or

### goods supplied to the Association in the ordinary and usual course of operation;

### interest on money borrowed from any Member;

### rent for premises demised or let by any Member to the Association; or

### any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Member on behalf of the Association.

### provided that any such payments shall not exceed the amount ordinarily payable between ordinary commercial parties dealing at arm’s length in a similar transaction and there is no conflict of interest in making the payment.

# ADMINISTRATION

## Winding Up

### The Association may be wound up in accordance with the Act.

## Distribution of Assets and Property on Winding Up

### If upon winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any assets or property, the same shall not be paid to or distributed to its Members, but instead, those assets or property must be given or transferred to another organisation(s) that has objects similar to the Objects of the Association.

### Those organisation(s) must prohibit the distribution of income and property among its members to an extent at least as great as that imposed on the Association by this Constitution.

### The organisation(s) is to be determined by the Members in a Meeting at or before the time of dissolution. If this does not occur, the decision will be made by a judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia or other court as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.

*The provision above may require amendment to comply with requirements of the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Please check these requirements and relevant requirements for your Association generally.*

## Amendment of Constitution

### This Constitution shall not be amended except by Special Resolution.

## Regulations

*The Regulations are the key ‘delegated legislation’ of the Association (sometimes referred to as by-laws). These are key rule and policy documents, which can address a whole range of issues for a Association. These include disciplinary regulations, election procedures, policies including member protection and anti-doping (subject to the Association and NSO requirements), financial management and particular sporting matters.*

## Board to Formulate Regulations

### The Board may formulate, issue, adopt, interpret and amend such Regulations for the proper advancement, management and administration of the Association and the advancement of the purposes of the Association and the Sport in South Australia as it thinks necessary or desirable. Such regulations must be consistent with the Constitution, the NSO’s constitutions, any regulations made by the NSO and any policy directives of the Board.

## Regulations Binding

### All Regulations are binding on the Association and all Members.

## Regulations Deemed Applicable

### All clauses, rules, by-laws and Regulations of the Association in force at the date of the approval of this Constitution (as long as such clauses, rules, by-laws and Regulations are not inconsistent with, or have been replaced by, this Constitution) shall be deemed to be Regulations and shall continue to apply.

## Bulletins Binding on Members

### Amendments, alterations, interpretations or other changes to Regulations shall be advised to Members by means of bulletins approved by the Board and prepared and issued by the Executive Officer. Clubs shall take reasonable steps to distribute information in the bulletins to their Individual Members. The matters in the bulletins are binding on all Members.

## Notice

### Notices may be given by the Association to any person entitled under this Constitution to receive any notice. Notices will be sent by pre-paid post or facsimile transmission or, where available, by electronic mail (email) to the Member’s registered address or facsimile number or email address. Notices to Delegates will be sent to the last notified address, facsimile number or email address.

### Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting the notice. Service of the notice is deemed to have been effected six (6) days after posting.

### Where a notice is sent by facsimile transmission, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected upon receipt of a confirmation report confirming the facsimile was sent to/or received at the facsimile number to which it was sent.

### Where a notice is sent by email, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected the next business day after it was sent.

### Notices given to the Association are subject to **clauses 10.5(a), (b), (c)** and **(d)**.

## Patrons and Vice Patrons ®

## At a General Meeting, the Association, on the recommendation of the Board, may annually appoint a chief patron and the number of patrons, as it considers necessary. This is subject to approval of that person or persons.

## Indemnity

### Every Director of the Association shall be indemnified out of the property and assets of the Association against any liability incurred by them in their capacity as Director in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal.

### The Association shall indemnify its Directors and employees against all damages and losses (including legal costs) for which any such Director or employee may be or become liable to any third party in consequence of any act or omission except wilful misconduct:

#### in the case of a Director, performed or made while acting on behalf of and with the authority, express or implied, of the Association

#### in the case of an employee, performed or made in the course of, and within the scope of, their employment by the Association.

## Authority to Trade

The Association is authorised to trade in accordance with the Act.

*This section makes it clear that all trade and transactions must be in accordance with the Act*

## Colours of The Association ®

The colours of the Association are [insert Colours]

## Transitional Provisions

*This section provides for continuity of the Association, its officers, membership and regulations on implementing a new constitution*

## Continuing Membership

### Each Affiliate Member that is a Member of the Association on the day on which this Constitution is adopted will automatically be admitted to membership as an Affiliate Member.

### Each other person who is a Member on the day on which this Constitution is adopted, will automatically be admitted to membership in the category that, in the reasonable opinion of the Board, is the category most appropriate for that Member.

## Directors

### For the purpose of determining when the term ends for each Director in office on the day on which this Constitution is adopted, time served in the Director's current term will be counted as if this Constitution had been in place at the commencement of that term.

## Regulations deemed applicable

### All rules, by-laws, policies and Regulations of the Association in force at the date of the adoption of this Constitution are to be deemed to be Regulations and continue to apply unless they are inconsistent with, or have been replaced by this Constitution.

## Status and Compliance of Association

*This section entrenches and strengthens the relationship between the Association and the NSO.*

## Recognition of Association

## The Association is a member of the NSO and is recognised by the NSO as the entity responsible for the delivery of the Sport in South Australia. Subject to compliance with this Constitution and the NSO’s constitutions, the Association shall continue to be so recognised and it shall administer the Sport in South Australia in accordance with the Objects.

## Constitution of the Association

## This Constitution will clearly reflect the objects of the NSO and will conform to the NSO’s constitution, subject always to the Act.

## Operation of NSO’s Constitution

### The Association will take all reasonable steps to ensure this Constitution conforms to the NSO’s constitution, subject always to the Act; and

### The Association shall provide a copy of this Constitution and all amendments to this Constitution to the NSO. The Association acknowledges and agrees that the NSO has power to veto any provision in its Constitution which, in the NSO’s opinion and acting reasonably, is contrary to the Objects of the NSO.

## Status and Compliance of Affiliate Members

## Affiliate Members acknowledge and agree that they shall:

### be or remain incorporated in South Australia;

### nominate a delegate annually to attend General Meetings, and shall inform the Association of the details of that person accordingly;

### provide the Association with copies of their audited accounts, annual financial reports and other associated documents as soon as practicable, following the club’s annual general meeting;

### recognise the SSO as the authority for the Sport in South Australia and the NSO as the national authority for the Sport;

### adopt and implement such communications and intellectual property policies as may be developed by the Association and/or the SSO; and

### have regard to the Objects in any matter of the Affiliated Member pertaining to the Sport.

**Constitution Version Control**

*All changes to the Constitution should be recorded here to allow for clear, concise and easy retrieval of those changes to the Constitution which can be cross-referenced to General Meeting minutes.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Clauses amended | Description of change | General Meeting Date |
| xx/xx/20xx | Entire Constitution |  | Xx/xx/20xx |
|  |  |  |  |