

# CONSTITUTION

of the

SUNBURY and DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.



**25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

This document reflects the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations,  
Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.



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## Constitution of the Sunbury and District Obedience Dog Club Incorporated

### Note

The persons who from time to time are members of the Association are an incorporated association by the name given in clause 1 of this Constitution.

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

## PART 1—PRELIMINARY

### 1 Name

The name of the incorporated association is "Sunbury and District Obedience Dog Club Incorporated".

#### Note

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

### 2 Purposes

The purposes of the association are—

- (a) to affiliate and remain affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association;
- (b) to promote Obedience training and to conduct Obedience Trials and Agility and Jumping Trials to promote the holding of exhibitions and to conduct exhibitions;
- (c) to foster, promote and protect the interests of exhibitors of dogs at exhibitions;
- (d) to promote good fellowship and sportsmanship amongst members and those participating in or attending Trials, Tests and Exhibitions;
- (e) to inform members of and make known to them the laws and regulations of the State relating to the ownership and care of dogs and the responsibility of owners for the conduct and actions of their dogs;
- (f) to hold functions and lectures relating to dogs and to the purposes of the Club generally;
- (g) to provide awards and donate prizes for competitions at Trials, Tests and Exhibitions and for the competition by breeders and exhibitors of dogs;
- (h) to foster relations with other Clubs and bodies having similar aims;
- (i) to promote and assist worthy causes;
- (j) to invest the funds of the Club not immediately required in such manner as the members and Committee in lieu thereof shall determine;
- (k) to purchase, hire, lease, etc. and do such things as are conducive or incidental to promoting and achieving the purposes of the Club;
- (l) to carry on such other activities or promote or encourage interest in the upkeep and training of and the general well-being and improvement of all breeds and to do all such other things as may be necessary or conducive to carrying out the purposes of the Club.



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### 3 Affiliation with the Victorian Canine Association

- (1) The Association must make every reasonable effort to remain affiliated to the VCA and so long as it is affiliated is eligible to apply for permission to conduct authorised exhibitions in accordance with the VCA's rules and regulations.
- (2) So long as the Association is an affiliate of the VCA, every member, whether a member of the VCA or not, is deemed to have agreed to be bound by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the VCA so far as they relate to the member.

### 4 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### 5 Definitions

In this Constitution—

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

**By-Laws** means the By-Laws in force for the time being of the Club;

A reference to a **clause, subclause or paragraph** is a reference to a clause, subclause or paragraph in this Constitution;

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

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

**committee meeting** means a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with this Constitution;

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

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

**disciplinary meeting** means a meeting of the Committee convened for the purposes of clause 22;

**disciplinary subcommittee** means the subcommittee appointed under clause 20;

**financial year** means the 12 month period specified in clause 3;

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

**member** means a member of the Association;



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

**Office Bearer** means the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer;

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

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

**the Registrar** means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations;

**VCA** means the Victorian Canine Association



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## PART 2—POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

### 6 Powers of Association

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

### 7 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
  - (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
  - (b) for goods or services provided by the member—

if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

#### Note

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



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## **PART 3—MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES**

### **Division 1—Membership**

#### **8 Minimum number of members**

The Association must have at least 5 members.

#### **9 Who is eligible to be a member**

Any person who is at least 18 years of age (or, in the case of Junior Members, 14 years of age) and supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

#### **9A Classification of Members**

- (1) Members of the Association are classified into the following categories—
  - (a) Member;
  - (b) Dual Member;
  - (c) Life Member;
  - (d) Honorary Member; and
  - (e) Junior Member.
- (2) Any member who is not a Dual Member, Life Member, Honorary Member or Junior Member will be classified as a Member and has all the rights and privileges of a member set out in clause 13.
- (3) Dual Members are two members of the same family resident at the same address, or any two persons who are partners in the conduct of a kennel business that has a kennel prefix in their joint names registered with the Kennel Control Council of Victoria, who has been admitted with the other such person as a dual member of the Association
- (4) A Dual Member who is aged at least 18 years has all the rights and privileges of a Member;
- (5) Any two persons aged at least 18 years plus two children between the age fourteen years and eighteen years who are resident at the same address may be admitted to membership as Family Members.
- (6) Each Family Member who is aged at least 18 years has all the rights and privileges of a Member;
- (7) Upon the recommendation of the Committee or upon a written nomination signed by not less than five members, a person may be elected an Honorary Member of the Association by Special Resolution for such period as may be so determined.



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- (8) An Honorary Member has the rights and privileges of a financial member, but shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings or hold office in the Association.
- (9) Life membership may be awarded to any member of the Association by Special resolution at a general meeting subject to receipt by the Secretary not less than seven days before the notified date of the general meeting of a written nomination signed by at least ten members.
- (10) A Life Member has the rights of members set out in clause 13, subject to having been actively involved in the club for at least 50% of the club's training calendar during the preceding year.
- (11) By way of general guidelines, the criteria for becoming a Life Member include —
  - (a) having given consistently outstanding service to the Association; and
  - (b) having given a minimum of eight years' service to the Association as an instructor or committee member.
- (12) In the event that a Life Member has been disqualified or suspended as a result of disciplinary action taken by a Disciplinary Hearing resulting in a suspension of six months or more their Life Membership is revoked effective immediately.
- (13) A person who is aged at least 14 and less than 18 years may be admitted to the Association as a Junior Member.
- (14) A Junior Member must not vote or hold office but is entitled to participate in the proceedings of a general meeting and exercise all other rights and privileges of membership.

## **10` Application for membership**

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must submit a written application to a committee member on the Association's Membership Application Form as approved from time to time by the Committee, stating that the person—
  - (a) wishes to become a member of the Association; and
  - (b) supports the purposes of the Association; and
  - (c) agrees to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.
- (2) The application—
  - (a) must be signed by the applicant; and
  - (b) may be accompanied by the joining fee.

### **Note**

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



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## 11 Consideration of application

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

## 12 New membership

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

## 13 Annual subscription and fee on joining

At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine—

- (1)
  - (a) the amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following financial year for each class of membership;
  - (b) the date for payment of the annual subscription; and
  - (c) in respect of each class of membership, whether a joining fee will be required from applicants for membership and, if so, the amount of the joining fee
- (2) The Association may determine that any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to—
  - (a) the full annual subscription; or
  - (b) a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
  - (c) a fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.
- (3) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.



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## 14 General rights of members

- (1) A member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right—
  - (a) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by this Constitution; and
  - (b) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
  - (c) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
  - (d) to vote at a general meeting; and
  - (e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under clause 75; and
  - (f) to inspect the register of members; and
  - (g) to participate in all Association activities; and
  - (h) to compete for prizes and trophies available to members when competing or exhibiting at any trial or exhibition conducted by the Association, subject to having attended at least 50% of training days during the preceding two months.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
  - (a) the member is a member who is not in a class of membership that is not entitled to vote at a General Meeting; and
  - (b) more than 10 business days have passed since he or she became a member of the Association; and
  - (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

## 15 Rights not transferable

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

## 16 Ceasing membership

- (1) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion or death.
- (2) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members
- (3) A member disqualified or suspended by the VCA ceases to be a member of the Club for the period of the VCA disqualification or suspension.
- (4) A person ceasing to be a member of the Club for any reason whatsoever shall not be entitled to any refund of membership fees paid.



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## 17 Resigning as a member

- (1) A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.

**Note**

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

- (2) A member is taken to have resigned if—
- (a) the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or
  - (b) where no annual subscription is payable—
    - (i) the Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that he or she wishes to remain a member; and
    - (ii) the member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that he or she wishes to remain a member.

## 18 Register of members

- (1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes—
- (a) for each current member—
    - (i) the member's name;
    - (ii) the address for notice last given by the member;
    - (iii) the date of becoming a member;
    - (iv) if the member is of a class of member other than a Member, a note to that effect, specifying the class of member to which the member belongs;
    - (v) any other information determined by the Committee; and
  - (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.
- (2) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members. This right does not include a right to make a copy of the address or other personal details of any member.

**Note**

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



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## Division 2—Disciplinary action

### 19 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

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

- (a) has failed to comply with this Constitution, the By-Laws or any Policies made by the Committee regulating the behavior and interaction of members and their guests at Association meetings and activities and in respect of Association business; or
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

### 20 Disciplinary subcommittee

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

### 21 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member—
  - (a) stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
  - (b) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
  - (c) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the ***disciplinary meeting***); and
  - (d) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following—
    - (i) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;
    - (ii) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
  - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under clause 23.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.



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## 22 Decision of subcommittee

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

## 23 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under clause 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given—
  - (a) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
  - (b) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under subclause (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- (4) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must—
  - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
  - (b) state—
    - (i) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and
    - (ii) the grounds for taking that action; and
    - (iii) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.



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## **24 Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting**

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

## **Division 3—Grievance procedure**

### **25 Application**

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

### **26 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute**

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

### **27 Appointment of mediator**

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by clause 26, the parties must within 10 days—
  - (a) notify the Committee of the dispute; and
  - (b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
  - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.



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

## **28 Mediation process**

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

## **29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation**

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



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## **PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **30 Annual general meetings**

- (1) The Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite subclause (1), the Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (b) to receive and consider—
    - (i) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
    - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
  - (c) to elect the members of the Committee;
  - (ca) to appoint an auditor;
  - (cb) to elect any patron or patrons;
  - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee payable in respect of each class of membership.
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with this Constitution.

### **31 Special general meetings**

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

#### **Note**

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



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## 32 Special general meeting held at request of members

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

## 33 Notice of general meetings

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

### Note

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



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## **34 Proxies**

- (1) A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.
- (4) If the Committee has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (5) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under clause 33 must—
  - (a) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
  - (b) include a copy of any form that the Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

## **35 Use of technology**

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

## **36 Quorum at general meetings**

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

### **Note**

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



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

## **37 Adjournment of general meeting**

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

### **Example**

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

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

## **38 Voting at general meeting**

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



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## **39 Special resolutions**

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

### **Note**

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

- (a) to remove a committee member from office ;
- (b) to alter this Constitution, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

## **40 Determining whether resolution carried**

(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been—

- (a) carried; or
- (b) carried unanimously; or
- (c) carried by a particular majority; or
- (d) lost—

and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.

(2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question—

- (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
- (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.

(3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.

(4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

## **41 Minutes of general meeting**

(1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.

(2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.



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- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include—
- (a) the names of the members attending the meeting; and
  - (b) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under clause 34(6); and
  - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with clause 30(4)(b)(ii); and
  - (d) the certificate signed by two committee members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association; and
  - (e) the audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.



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## PART 5—COMMITTEE

### Division 1—Powers of Committee

#### 42 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.
- (2) The Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that this Constitution or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- (3) The Committee may—
  - (a) appoint and remove staff;
  - (b) establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate;
  - (c) make By-Laws for the conduct of the Association's affairs; and
  - (d) make Policies regulating the behavior and interaction of members and their guests at Association meetings and activities and in respect of Association business.

#### 43 Delegation

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

### Division 2—Composition of Committee and duties of members

#### 44 Composition of Committee

The Committee consists of—

- (a) a President; and
- (b) a Vice-President; and
- (c) a Secretary; and
- (d) a Treasurer; and
- (e) ordinary members (if any) elected under clause 53.



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## 45 General Duties

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

### Note

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

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

## 46 President and Vice-President

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any committee meetings.
- (2) If the President and the Vice-President are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be—
  - (a) in the case of a general meeting—a member elected by the other members present; or
  - (b) in the case of a committee meeting—a committee member elected by the other committee members present.

## 47 Secretary

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

### Example

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



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- (2) The Secretary must—
  - (a) maintain the register of members in accordance with clause 18; and
  - (aa) keep and maintain minutes of all proceedings at committee and general meetings; and
  - (ab) maintain all necessary records of affairs and events of the Association; and
  - (ac) keep and maintain a complete record of awards made at all Trials and Exhibitions conducted by the Association; and
  - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in clause 70(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with clauses 72 and 75; and
  - (c) subject to the Act and this Constitution, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
  - (d) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by this Constitution
- (3) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

## **48 Treasurer**

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



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## **Division 3—Election of Committee members and tenure of office**

### **49 Who is eligible to be a Committee member**

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

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting; and
- (c) is a financial member of the VCA; and
- (c) has not, within the period 5 years prior to the General Meeting at which Committee members are elected, or within the period of 5 years prior to the date of appointment to the Committee by any other means, been subject to a suspension of membership of 6 months or longer arising under Division 2 of Part 3 of this Constitution

### **50 Positions to be declared vacant**

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

### **51 Nominations**

- (1) The Notice of Annual General Meeting shall include a call for nominations for Committee positions.
- (2) Nominations for Committee positions including Office Bearers must be made in writing, signed by the nominee and at least one member having voting rights at the general meeting and be received by the Secretary not less than 7 days before the notified date of the annual general meeting.
- (3) A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

### **52 Election of President etc.**

- (1) At the annual general meeting, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions—
  - (a) President;
  - (b) Vice-President;
  - (c) Secretary;
  - (d) Treasurer.
- (2) If only one member is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the member elected to the position.



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

## **53 Election of ordinary members**

- (1) The annual general meeting must by resolution decide the number of ordinary members of the Committee (if any) it wishes to hold office for the next year.
- (2) A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
- (3) If the number of members nominated for the position of ordinary committee member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
- (4) If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with clause 54.

## **54 Ballot**

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

### **Example**

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

- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position—
  - (a) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
  - (b) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with subclause (7)(b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.



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- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subclause (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must—
- (a) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subclauses (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
  - (b) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

**Examples**

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

## 55 Term of office

- (1) Subject to subclause (3) and clause 56, a committee member holds office until the positions of the Committee are declared vacant at the next annual general meeting.
- (2) A committee member may be re-elected.
- (3) A general meeting of the Association may—
  - (a) by special resolution remove a committee member from office; and
  - (b) elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (4) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subclause (3)(a) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (5) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.

## 56 Vacation of office

- (1) A committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.
- (2) A person ceases to be a committee member if he or she—
  - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
  - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence under clause 67; or
  - (c) otherwise ceases to be a committee member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

**Note**

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



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## **57 Filling casual vacancies**

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

## **Division 4—Meetings of Committee**

### **58 Meetings of Committee**

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

### **59 Notice of meetings**

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

### **60 Urgent meetings**

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with clause 59 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.



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- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

## **61 Procedure and order of business**

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

## **62 Use of technology**

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

## **63 Quorum**

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

## **64 Voting**

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



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## 65 Conflict of interest

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

### **Note**

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

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

## 66 Minutes of meeting

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

## 67 Leave of absence

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



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## PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 68 Source of funds

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

### 69 Management of funds

- (1) The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (3) The Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 committee members, who are not to be members of the same family or household.
- (5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.
- (6) With the approval of the Committee, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

### 70 Financial records

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



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## **71 Financial statements**

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



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## **PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS**

### **71A Audit and Auditor**

- (1) At the annual general meeting members are to appoint a person with accountancy knowledge to hold the office of auditor for the Association's financial books and records until the next annual general meeting.
- (2) Notice of the nomination of any person other than a retiring auditor for appointment as auditor must be given to members not less than fourteen days before the notified date of the annual general meeting.
- (3) Any person who is an Office Bearer, Committee member or employee of the Club must not be appointed to act as the auditor;
- (4) In the event of a casual vacancy in the position of auditor, the Committee will appoint a new auditor.

### **72 Common seal**

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

### **73 Registered address**

The registered address of the Association is—

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

### **74 Notice requirements**

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a committee member under this Constitution may be given—
  - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
  - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
  - (c) by email or facsimile transmission.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to notice given under clause 60.



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- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Committee may be given—
  - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; or
  - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
  - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
  - (d) if the Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances—
    - (i) by email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or
    - (ii) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

## 75 Custody and inspection of books and records

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

### Note

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

- (2) The Committee may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the Association that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (3) The Committee must on request make copies of this Constitution available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to subclause (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this clause and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (5) For purposes of this clause—

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

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



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## 76 Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former members of the Association.
- (3) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the Association and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.
- (4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

## 77 Alteration of Constitution

This Constitution may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

### Note

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

## 78 By-Laws

- (1) Subject always to the VCA Rules and Regulations, and this Constitution, the Committee may make By-Laws and from time to time amend such By-Laws by variation, deletion or addition as they shall think fit in respect of:-
  - (a) the content and layout of the Membership Application Form;
  - (b) The date by which the annual subscription is to be paid in each financial year, and provisions for payment of the first annual subscription in respect of new members whose initial year of membership is less than a full financial year ;
  - (c) The conduct of ballots;
  - (d) the holding and conducting of exhibitions by the Club;
  - (e) the granting of awards and prizes at such exhibitions;
  - (f) the manner and procedure of dealing with protests and objections made at exhibitions;
  - (g) the conduct of meetings of Members, the Committee and any Sub-Committees;
  - (h) the procedure for publishing newsletters and journals;
  - (i) Club and Training Directives as required.
- (2) By-Laws will be published on the Club's website and Club noticeboard and Notices of Amendment to By-Laws will be published prominently on the Club's website and noticeboard and it will be the responsibility of members to make themselves familiar with the By-Laws and to keep up to date with amendments to them.