

## **BY-LAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

1. These By-Laws must be read subject to the Rules for the Victorian Rifle Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Rules”) and shall apply to the Council and Members of the Association. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency the provisions of the Rules shall prevail.

### **DEFINITIONS**

2.

2.1 In these By-Laws unless a contrary intention is expressed or the context otherwise requires, words and phrases shall have the same meaning as that given in the Rules.

2.2 References to the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender or neuter genders and vice versa.

### **REGISTRATION FEES**

3. Every person before becoming entitled to the privileges of membership (unless granted a dispensation hereunder) shall pay a registration fee fixed by the Council from time to time, such registration fee being for a period twelve months. Registration fees for new memberships lodged after 1st November and before 1st February shall be the applicable N.R.A.A. affiliation fee plus 50% of the V.R.A. portion of the annual fee, while registration fees for new memberships lodged after 1st February shall include the applicable N.R.A.A. affiliation fee plus 25% of the V.R.A. portion of the annual fee remaining.

4. Registration fees shall become due and payable on the 1st day of May in each year. Until the receipt of current registration fees into the hands of the Secretary no person shall enjoy the privileges of membership of the Association, except Temporary, Honorary, Life and Honorary Life Members.

### **PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

5. Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Rules and By-Laws only Active members shall:-

5.1 nominate candidates, or be nominated for the Council, or for any office of the Association; or

5.2 be eligible for selection in any state or national rifle team; or

5.3 enter and compete in championship meetings held by Club, District and state Associations and the N.R.A.A.

### **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

6. Any person who donates the sum of an amount equivalent to that of the current membership fee or gives a trophy to the same value shall be eligible for election as an Honorary Member during the financial year in which the donation or gift is made.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

7.

7.1 Life members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership during their lives without any payment of registration fees or other fees levied by the Association.

7.2 Any corporate body, or other like body that renders valuable service to the Association or to rifle shooting shall be eligible for Honorary Life membership.

7.3 Any person may become eligible for Honorary Life membership who:-

7.3.1 donates at least \$2,000 in one sum to the funds of the Association or gives a trophy or other prize of equal or greater value; or

7.3.2 is a member of a corporate body or other like body which complies with the requirements of the preceding By-Law.

7.4 Guidelines for eligibility as a Life member or Honorary Life member are included in Appendix D.

## PATRON

8. If the office of Patron is not filled according to Rule 19 then nominations for the office of Patron shall be sought by the Council for election at the annual general meeting.

## MANAGEMENT DELEGATION

9. Council may from time to time delegate any of its powers, functions or responsibilities to a Councillor or to a Committee comprised of Councillors and such other persons as Council may determine. Any delegation of such powers may be terminated at any time by Council by notice in writing to the Councillors or other persons concerned.

10. Reserved

11. Reserved

12. Reserved

13. Reserved

14. Reserved

15. Reserved

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

16. Council may require Minutes of meetings of Committees established under By-Law 9 to be kept in such manner as it may deem appropriate from time to time.

## ELECTION OF COUNCIL

17. A candidate for election to Council may only be nominated by a Member who is entitled to vote and who is a member of a Club which has its home rifle range within the relevant electoral zone.

18.

18.1 In the event of an election the Council shall appoint two scrutineers whose duty it shall be to conduct the ballot to a speedy result in the manner prescribed by the Council and to report the result to the Chairman as soon as the counting of votes is complete.

18.2 In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall exercise a casting vote unless one of the candidates with tied votes was seeking re-election in which case such candidate shall be declared re-elected.

18.3 Any candidate who may be dissatisfied as to the accuracy of the number of votes recorded for him may demand a recount provided the demand shall be made within 14 days of the announcement of the ballot. Any candidate demanding a re-count may appoint an observer to act with scrutineers subject to a deposit of a fee of \$5 with the Secretary. If the original count was incorrect the fee shall be refunded.

18.4 All reasonable precautions shall be taken to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

## MEETINGS

19. It shall be the duty of the Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and office bearers of the Association to prepare an Agenda for all meetings authorised by the Rules. Such Agenda to be in the form specified in Appendix C.

## MISCELLANEOUS

20. All correspondence from District Associations, Rifle Clubs and individual Members shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Association.

21. The Council may in its discretion elect any person so qualified to act as an Honorary Officer of the association, namely, a Medical Officer, an Optician, a Solicitor, or an Armourer, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Council. An Honorary Officer shall not hold any of the benefits of membership unless he is a member.

## FORMATION OF CLUBS

22. The number of Members required to form a Rifle club shall be prescribed by the Regulations (if any) for the time being in force or the constitution of the N.R.A.A. but otherwise as determined by Council.

## DISBANDMENT OF CLUBS

23. The funds and assets of any Club which is disbanded shall be handed over to the Association to be held in trust for at least six years, and if the Club is not reformed within that time or such extended time as may be granted by Council, the funds and assets shall become the property of the Association.

## PROTEST AND APPEALS

24.

- 24.1 No protest or appeal to the Council or charge against a Member shall be considered until such protest, appeal, or charge is put into writing setting out in simple language the nature of the matter to be determined.
- 24.2 The Council may call before it any Member or other person willing to give evidence concerning the matter determined and likewise a Member may call witnesses in his defence.
- 24.3 The Council shall not determine any appeal, protest, or charge concerning a Member of the Association unless that Member has had an opportunity to hear the evidence, cross examine the witness, and speak and/or tender evidence in his defence.
- 24.4 A Member shall be deemed to have had an opportunity to be heard in his defence if the Council is satisfied that he has had such notice of the matter complained of and the time and place of the meeting dealing with the appeal, protest or charge, as would enable the Member concerned in the ordinary course travel to be present at the meeting.
- 24.5 The preceding paragraph of the By-Laws shall also apply to all protests, appeals and disputes dealt with by the executive committee as well as any motion before Council for the expulsion of a Member.

25. In the case of protests and appeals from decisions of the executive committee the decision of the Council shall be final. Any member of the Council who is directly or indirectly interested in the proceedings of that body when engaged in the settlement of any dispute, protest or appeal shall be debarred from taking any part in such decision.

## POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

26. Council shall have the powers granted in Rule 34 including, without limiting the generality thereof, the following;
  - 26.1 power to invest the surplus funds of the Association in any investment for the time being authorised by the law of any state or the Commonwealth of Australia for the investment of trust funds and such power may be delegated to a finance committee appointed by the Council.
  - 26.2 power to acquire or construct buildings or carry out other works or undertakings as may in its absolute discretion be deemed necessary or expedient for carrying out the objects of the Association notwithstanding that any such buildings, works or undertakings may be located on land vested in the Commonwealth with the right to permissive occupancy only.
27. The Council may appoint an Auditor or Auditors, one of whom shall be a qualified Accountant. Such Auditor or Auditors shall not be a member or members of Council.

## PRIZE MEETING

28.

- 28.1 At least one general prize meeting for rifle shooting competitions shall, if practicable, be held during the year at such time and place as the Council may appoint.
- 28.2 The programme of matches and dates of holding them, of any prize meeting promoted by a District Association or rifle Club shall be submitted to the Secretary for approval by Council.
- 28.3 The Standard Shooting Rules for Australian Rifle Clubs shall govern the conduct of ALL prize meetings.
- 28.4 Provisions shall be made in all Association prize meetings for Members desiring to shoot for trophies only.