

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE PHILATELISTS

1. Name : The name of the Association shall be “Association of Singapore Philatelists”.
2. Place of Business : The place of business of the Association shall be at 3 Kian Teck Way, Singapore 628732 or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Governing Council and approved by Registrar of Societies.
3. Aims and objectives : The aims and objectives for which the Association is formed are:-
 - (i) to promote the art and science of philately in all its facets and in particular to foster and encourage the study of stamp collecting, postal history and postal stationery and any other philatelic material and literature.
 - (ii) to hold seminars and other activities for the promotion of the art and science of philately.
 - (iii) to build up libraries of philatelic literature and reference collections and to encourage research in philately and to disseminate all useful knowledge about philately.
 - (iv) to establish schools and training centres to advance the study of philately and in particular for young collectors.
 - (v) to promote philatelic friendship and exchange philatelic knowledge in and amongst philatelists and philatelic societies.
 - (vi) to exchange information relating to stamps and other philatelic material issued in Singapore and elsewhere and to keep liaison with the issuing authorities.
 - (vii) to strengthen contacts with all postal administration and national organisations all over the world in philatelic matters for the promotion of philately.
 - (viii) to support exhibitions of postage stamps and philatelic material organised by postal administrations and member societies.
 - (ix) to establish prizes and trophies for the encouragement of art and science of philately.
 - (x) to organise, establish or support philatelic museums.
 - (xi) to organise national and international philatelic exhibitions and to participate in national and international philatelic exhibitions.
 - (xii) to issue philatelic bulletins and other publications.
 - (xiii) to exchange philatelic material amongst members, societies and institutions with similar objects in and outside Singapore.
 - (xiv) to affiliate with and become members of national and international societies or institutions with similar objects and accept affiliation from such societies and institutions.

4. Interpretation:

In the interpretation of these Articles unless there is something inconsistent with the subject or context:

‘Association’ shall mean the Association of Singapore Philatelists.

‘Art and Science of philately’ shall mean and include the collection and arrangement of stamps, essays, proofs, postal history, aerophilately, stationery, and other aspects of philately and allied subjects in philatelic literature.

‘Philatelic Society’ shall mean a voluntary association of philatelists other than the philatelic trade associations.

‘Award-winning Philatelist’ shall mean a person devoted to the art and science of philately, and who had additionally won awards of no less than a Vermeil Medal for his exhibit at a regional or world stamp exhibition held under patronage of the Inter-Asian Philatelic Federation (FIAP) or the world philatelic body, the Federation of International Philately (FIP).

5. Membership:

(a) The membership of the Association shall consist of:-

- (1) Institutional Members
- (2) Ordinary Members
- (3) Honorary Members
- (4) Associate Members

(b) A Philatelic Society, registered with the Registry of Societies, having 50 or more members, or a known philatelic organisation which has been in continuous existence for 5 years or more prior to their application and having not less than 50 members, will be eligible to become an institutional member of the Association on payment of an annual subscription calculated on the basis of \$2.00 in respect of each of its members subject to a maximum of \$200.00 per annum. The subscription shall be payable in advance.

(c) An award-winning philatelist, who is resident in Singapore shall be eligible to be an ordinary member of the Association on payment of an annual subscription fee of \$50.00 payable with the application for membership.

(d) The Governing Council may elect a person renowned in the field of philately to be an honorary member of the Association. The honorary member shall not be called upon to pay any subscription.

(e) Any person, who is resident in Singapore or a philatelic society in Singapore, other than that specified in sub-paras (b) and (c) above, interested in the art and science of philately shall be entitled to become an associate member on payment of an annual subscription of \$50.00, which will be payable in advance.

- (f) Admission to membership shall be by application in the prescribed form made to the Governing Council which shall have the right to accept or reject the same, on payment of an Entry Fee of \$200.00 in addition to the annual subscription specified for the respective category of membership.
- (g) The membership year of the Association shall be from 1st January to 31st December of each calendar year.
- (h) Any amount paid towards membership fee or subscription shall not be refundable, after the acceptance of a membership by the Association on resignation or termination of the membership for any reasons whatsoever.
- (i) A member, who is in arrears of subscription or other dues shall lose all his membership privileges, including voting rights till he clears the arrears.
- (j) The rights and privileges of a member shall be personal and not transferable.
- (k) The rate of subscriptions may only be varied by a general meeting of the members. Any special subscriptions for particular purposes may only be raised from members with the consent of general meeting of the members.

6. Termination of Membership:

- (a) Any member guilty, in the opinion of the Governing Council of any misconduct, which is derogatory to his position as a member of the Association, is liable to suspension or expulsion by a two thirds majority vote of the Governing Council members present. However, the expulsion shall be done only after giving the concerned member of a show-cause notice in writing and providing him a reasonable opportunity to represent his case or defence.
- (b) A member is entitled to resign his membership provided he has paid all his dues up to date.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, a member is liable to be expelled by a majority vote of the Governing Council, without prejudice to any rights of the Association, if he is in arrears of subscription or other dues for more than one year.
- (d) The resignation or termination of a member, for any reasons whatsoever, shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Association against the member in respect of his obligations to the Association prior to his ceasing to be a member.

7. Patrons:

- (a) The Governing Council of the Association may by a resolution invite a person of eminence in public life to be the chief patron of the Association or its other organised activities.
- (b) The Governing Council of the Association may by a resolution invite a person or persons eminent in the art and science of philately to be a patron/patrons of the Association or its other organised activities.

8. Governing Council:

- (i) The Governing Council of the Association shall be elected from Institutional or Ordinary Members only at alternate annual general meeting and shall consist of:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice-President
 - (c) Honorary Secretary
 - (d) Honorary Treasurer; and
 - (e) 12 ordinary council members
- (ii) The general management of the Association shall be vested in the Governing Council. It may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the general meeting without prior reference to it and always remains subordinate to the general meeting.
- (iii) Apart from the elected members, the Governing Council shall have the right to co-opt or nominate three other observer members to represent special interests. Observer Members so co-opted or nominated shall have no voting rights at the Governing Council.
- (iv) All vacancies in the elected membership of the Governing Council whether caused by death, resignation, retirement, removal or otherwise may be filled by the Governing Council to hold office for the remaining term. The thus co-opted or nominated members shall have full voting rights.
- (v) The election of the Governing Council shall be as follows:-
 - (a) every two years at an annual general meeting of the Association 16 members shall be elected from the roll of Ordinary Members to be members in the Governing Council.
 - (b) The Governing Council so elected shall from among themselves elect the office bearers.
 - (c) All officers except the Honorary Treasurer may be re-elected for a consecutive term.
- (vi) To facilitate the work of the Association, the Governing Council may appoint such persons on the staff of the Association and on such terms and conditions as it deems proper and also set up different sections representing different aspects of its work.
- (vii) The Governing Council shall have the right to appoint sub-committees including members who are not officers of the Association. The President and Honorary Secretary, shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

9. Duties of Office Bearers:

- (i) The President shall preside over all the meetings of the Association and of the Governing Council.
- (ii) The Vice President shall assist the President and deputise for him in his absence.

- (iii) The Honorary Secretary shall be in charge of the day to day administration of the Association. He shall keep all records except financial of the Association and shall be responsible for their correctness. He shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Members at all times.
- (iv) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Association and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. He is authorised to expend up to \$200 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Association. He will not keep more than \$200 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Governing Council. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the President, Vice-President or Secretary in addition to the Treasurer.
- (v) Ordinary Governing Council members should attend and participate in all Governing Council meetings and assist in carrying out the decisions made at these meetings.
- (vi) Any member of the Governing Council absenting himself from three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Governing Council, and a successor may be appointed by the Governing Council to serve until the next annual general meeting.

10. General Meetings and the Governing Council meeting:

- (1) The supreme authority of the Association is vested in a general meeting of the members presided over by the President. At least one quarter of the total voting membership of the Association present at a general meeting shall form a quorum. In the event of there being no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for half an hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to alter, amend or make additions to any of the existing rules.
- (2) An Annual General Meeting will be held in March. A General Meeting shall be summoned if requisitioned by 1/3 of the Institutional and ordinary members.
- (3) Two weeks notice of a General Meeting of the Association and one week's notice of a meeting of the Governing Council shall be given. The following points will be considered at the Annual General Meeting:
 - (i) The previous financial year's accounts and report of the Governing Council.
 - (ii) The election of office-bearers and Honorary Auditors for the following year.

Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a General Meeting may do so provided he gives notice to the Honorary Secretary one week before the meeting is due to be held.

- (4) The Governing Council meeting shall be held at least 4 times a year at intervals of not more than 3 months. At least one half of the Governing Council must be present for its proceedings to be valid. The President may call a Governing Council meeting at any time by giving 5 days' notice.

- (5) A minute book shall be maintained of the meetings of the General Body of the Association and of the Governing Council.
- (6) All notice and communications shall be sent to the registered address of the Association.
- (7) The Chairman of the meeting shall, in addition to his right of voting as a member, have a casting vote in case of a tie.

11. Voting Rights:

- (1) An institutional member having 51 members to 150 members in its society shall have one vote at the General Meeting. An institutional member having 151 members to 300 members in its society shall have two votes at the General Meeting. An institutional member having more than 300 members in its society shall have a maximum of three votes at the General Meeting.
- (2) An ordinary member shall have one vote at a General Meeting.
- (3) Voting rights can be assigned by proxy in writing on a prescribed form if advance notification of such intention is given to the Honorary Secretary.
- (4) No other members shall be entitled to vote.
- (5) Only those members who are not in arrears shall be entitled to vote or be elected.

12. The Governing Council shall have the power to frame appropriate rules and regulations for the conduct of the elections and meetings and amend the same from time to time.

13. Affiliation:

- (1) The Association shall have the right to affiliate with or seek membership in any other institutions with like objects.
- (2) The Association shall have the right to accept affiliation from any other institutions with like objects.

14. General:

- (i) The funds of the Association shall consist of the following:
 - (a) Membership subscriptions
 - (b) Donations and grants;
 - (c) Revenue from publications and exhibitions;
 - (d) Revenue from other sources, including fees, sale of tickets for charity shows, and the like.

- (ii) The bankers of the Association shall be appointed from time to time by the Governing Council.
- (iii) Two voting members who are not members of the Governing Council will be elected as Honorary Auditors at each alternate AGM and will hold office for 2 year(s) only and may not be re-elected for consecutive terms. Alternatively, a public accountant may be appointed by the general membership. They will be required to audit each financial year's accounts and present a report upon them to the AGM. They may be required by the President to audit the Association's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Governing Council. The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

15. Prohibitions:

- (i) Gambling of any kind and the playing of paikow or mahjong, whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Association's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- (ii) The funds of the Association shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in Court.
- (iii) The Association shall not engage in any Trade Union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- (iv) The Association shall not attempt to restrict or interfere with trade or make directly or indirectly any recommendation to, any arrangement with its members which has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of fixing or controlling the price or any discount, allowance or rebate relating to any goods or services to be supplied by them.
- (v) The Association shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Association or its office-bearers, Committee or members.
- (vi) The Association shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- (vii) The Association shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Registrar of Societies and other relevant authorities.

16. Amendments to Rules:

- (i) No alterations or additions/deletions to these rules shall be made except at a general meeting, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of Societies.

17. Interpretation On Rules

- (i) In the event of any question or matter arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in the rules, the Governing Council shall have power to use their own discretion. The decision of the Governing Council shall be final unless it is reversed at a general meeting of members.

18. Dissolution:

- (i) The Association shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than 3/5 of the voting members of the Association for the time being resident in Singapore expressed, either in person or by proxy, at a general meeting convened for the purpose.
- (ii) In the event of the Association being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the society shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be donated to an approved charity or charities in Singapore.
- (iii) Certificate of dissolution shall be given within 7 days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies.

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