

ACT DEBATING UNION INC. CONSTITUTION

APRIL 2001

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

- (1) The name of the Association is the ACT Debating Union Incorporated.
- (2) In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears -
- "financial year" means the year ending 31 December;
 - "ACTDU" means the ACT Debating Union Incorporated;
 - "committee" means the committee of the ACTDU;
 - "ordinary committee member" means a member of the committee who is not an office-bearer of the association as referred to in paragraph 12 (1) (a);
 - "secretary" means the person or, where no such person holds that office, the public officer of the association;
 - "the Act" means the Associations Incorporation Act 1991;
 - "the regulations" means the Associations Incorporation Regulations;
 - "general meeting" means the Annual General Meeting or a general meeting of the ACTDU; and
 - "member" means a member, however described of the association, and may include:
 - (a) an individual member;
 - (b) a school member;
 - (c) an organisational member; and
 - (d) a life member.
- (3) In these rules:
- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty:
and

- (b) 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 or the performance of the duty.
- (4) The provisions of the Interpretation Act 1967 apply to and in respect of these rules in the same manner as those provisions would so apply if these rules were an instrument made under the Act.
- (5) The objects of the association are to promote debating in schools, universities and other educational institutions.
- (6) The Association is a non-profit organisation.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

2. Membership qualifications

A person is qualified to be a member if –

- (a) They are the official representative of a school who has registered at least 1 team in the previous year; or
- (b) They are an active adjudicator of the ACTDU; or
- (c) They are a voting member of the ACTDU committee

Active Adjudicators & Voting rights:

- The status of adjudicators is maintained by the Adjudications Core consisting of the President, the Training Officer, the Coaching Officer & the Adjudications Officer. Any dispute about whether an adjudicator is an active adjudicator will be settled by the Adjudications core.
- An active adjudicator is one who has been available to adjudicate over the course of the previous 12 months.
- An adjudicator who has not adjudicated in over 2 years is not an active adjudicator.
- An adjudicator who has been debarred as an adjudicator, or expelled from membership of the ACTDU, shall not be an active adjudicator.
- “Life members” under the old ACTDU constitution remain life members, but have no vote at an AGM or any ACTDU committee meeting whatsoever on the basis of their life membership.

3. Nomination For School Membership

- (1) That secretary of administrator shall, on payment by the nominee of the annual membership fee determined by the committee according to section 7-enter the nominee’s name in the register of school members and, upon the name being so entered, the nominee shall become a school member of the association.

4. Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of an association –

- (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person; and
- (b) terminates upon cessation of the person's membership.

5. Cessation of Membership

A person ceases to be a member of an association if the person-

- (a) Dies or, in the case of a body corporate, is wound up;
- (b) resigns from membership of the association;
- (c) is expelled from the association; or
- (d) fails to renew membership of the association.

6. Resignation of membership

- (1) A member is not entitled to resign from membership of the association except in accordance with this rule.
- (2) A member who has paid all amounts payable by the member to the association may resign from membership of the association by first giving notice, being not less than 1 month, in writing to the secretary or administrator of the member's intention to resign and, upon the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- (3) Where a person ceases to be a member, the secretary or administrator shall make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

7. Fee, subscription etc.

- (1) The committee shall determine the annual membership fee of the association and the due date for payment of that fee and the committee shall make that determination before the beginning of the calendar year for which that fee is to apply.
- (2) Where the committee does not adopt a motion determining the entrance fee for a particular year, the entrance fee shall be the fee for the previous year unless otherwise determined by a general meeting of the association.

8. Members' liabilities

The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the association as required by rule 7.

9. Disciplining of members

- (1) Where the committee is of the opinion that a member –
- (a) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of these rules:
or
 - (b) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association,

The committee may, by resolution-

- (a) expel the member from the association; or
 - (b) suspend the member from such rights and privileges of the membership of the association as the committee may determine for a specified period.
- (2) A resolution of the committee under subrule (1) is of no effect unless the committee, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service on the member of a notice under subrule (3), confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.
- (3) Where the committee passes a resolution under subrule (1), the secretary or administrator shall, as soon as practicable, cause a notice in writing to be served on the member-
- (a) Setting out the resolution of the committee and the grounds on which it is based;
 - (b) stating that the member may address the committee at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
 - (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting; and
 - (d) informing the member that the member may do either or both of the following:
 - (i) attend and speak at the meeting;
 - (ii) submit to the committee at or prior to the date of that meeting written representations relating to the resolution.
- (4) Subject to section 50 of the Act, at a meeting of the committee mentioned in subrule (9), the committee shall –
- (a) give to the member mentioned in subrule (1) an opportunity to make oral representations;
 - (b) give due consideration to any written representations submitted to the committee by that member at or prior to the meeting; and

- (c) by resolution determine whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution of the committee made under subrule (1).
- (5) Where the committee confirms a resolution under subrule (4), the secretary or administrator shall, within 7 days after that confirmation, by notice in writing inform the member of that confirmation and of the member's right of appeal under rule 10.
- (6) A resolution confirmed by the committee under subrule (4) does not take effect –
 - (a) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution where the member does not exercise the right of appeal within that period; or
 - (b) where within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association confirms the resolution in accordance with subrule 10(4).

10. Right of appeal of disciplined member

- (1) A member may appeal to the association in general meeting against a resolution of the committee which is confirmed under subrule 9(4), within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the secretary or administrator a notice to that effect.
- (2) Upon receipt of a notice under subrule (1), the secretary or administrator shall notify the committee which shall convene a general meeting of the association to be held within 21 days after the date pm which the secretary or administrator received the notice or as possible after that date.
- (3) Subject to section 50 of the Act, at a general meeting of the association convened under subrule (2) –
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
 - (b) the committee and the member shall be given the opportunity to make representations in relation to the appeal orally or in writing, or both; and
 - (c) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution made under subrule 9(4), that the resolution is confirmed.
- (4) If the meeting passes a special resolution in favour of the confirmation of the resolution made under subrule 9(4), that resolution is confirmed.

PART III - THE COMMITTEE

11. Powers of the committee

The committee, subject to the Act, the Regulations, these rules, and to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting –

- (a) shall control and manage the affairs of the association;
- (b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the association other than those functions that required by these rules to be exercised by the association in general meeting; and
- (c) (has the power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association.

12. Constitution and membership

Constitution and membership

- (1) The committee shall consist of -
 - (a) the office-bearers of the association
- (2) The office-bearers of the association, who act as the ACTDU executive, shall be -
 - (a) the president;
 - (b) the treasurer;
 - (c) the secretary; and
 - (d) such additional officers as the committee from time to time may determine.
- (3) Each member of the committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.
- (4) In the event of a vacancy in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the appointment.

13. Election of committee members

- (1) Nomination of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members –
 - (a) shall be made in writing-and
 - (b) shall be delivered to the secretary or the administrator of the association before the commencement of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (1) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.

- (2) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee shall be deemed to be vacancies.
- (3) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons shall be taken to be elected.
- (4) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
- (5) The ballot for election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members shall be completed at the annual general meeting and shall be by secret ballot unless the meeting otherwise unanimously agrees.
- (6) A person is not eligible to simultaneously hold more than 2 positions on the committee.

14. Secretary or Administrator

- (1) The secretary or administrator shall keep minutes of:
 - (a) all elections and appointments of office-bearers and ordinary committee members;
 - (b) the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting; and
 - (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.
- (3) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting shall be signed by the person presiding at the meeting or by a person presiding at the next succeeding meeting.

15. Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer of the association shall:
 - (a) collect and receive all moneys due to the association and make payments authorised by the association; and
 - (b) keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.

16. Vacancies

- (1) For the purposes of these rules, a vacancy in the office of a member of the committee occurs if the member -
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) ceases to be a member of the association;

- (c) resigns from office according to subrule 16(2);
 - (d) is removed from office pursuant to rule 17;
 - (e) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporations Law;
 - (f) suffers from mental or physical incapacity;
 - (g) is disqualified from office under subsection 63(1) of the Act; or
 - (h) is absent without consent of the committee members from all meetings of the committee held during a period of 6 months.
- (2) A member of the committee may only resign from their position by notice in writing to the President.

17. Removal of committee members

The association in general meeting may by a resolution, subject to section 50 of the Act, remove any member of the committee from the office of member of the committee before the expiration of the member's term to office.

18. Committee meetings and quorum

- (1) The committee shall meet at least 3 times each calendar year at such place and time as the committee may determine.
- (2) Additional meetings of the committee may be convened by any member of the committee.
- (3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee shall be given by the secretary or administrator to each member of the committee at least 48 hours (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed upon by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- (4) Notice of a meeting given under subrule(3) shall specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business shall be transacted at the meeting, except business which the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.
- (5) Any 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.
- (6) No business shall be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting stands adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the day in the following week.
- (7) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.

(8) At meetings of the committee -

- (a) the president or in the absence of the president, the secretary shall preside; or
- (b) if the president and the Secretary are absent, 1 of the remaining members of the committee may be chosen by the members to preside.

19. Delegation by committee to sub – committee

- (1) The committee may, by instruction in writing, delegate to 1 or more sub - committees (consisting of such member or members of the association as the committee thinks fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the committee as are specified in the instrument, other than -
 - (a) this power of delegation; and
 - (b) a function which is a function imposed on the committee by the Act, by any other law of the territory, or by resolution of the association in general meeting.
- (2) A function, the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this rule may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- (3) A delegation under this rule may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function, or as time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
- (4) Notwithstanding any delegation under this rule, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- (5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this rule has the same force and effect as it would have if it had done or suffered by the committee.
- (6) The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this rule.
- (7) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

20. Voting and decisions

- (1) Questions arising at the meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the committee or sub-committee present at the meeting.
- (2) Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to 1 vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

- (3) Subject to subrule 18(5), the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the committee.
- (4) Any act or thing or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the committee or by the sub-committee appointed by the committee, is valid and effectual notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee or sub-committee.

PART IV - GENERAL MEETINGS

21. Annual general meetings - holding of

- (1) With the exception of the first annual general meeting of the association, the association shall, at least once in each calendar year and within the period of 5 months after the expiration of each financial year of the association, convene an annual general meeting of its members.
- (2) The association shall hold its first annual general meeting -
 - (1) within the period of 18 months after its incorporation under the Act; and
 - (2) within the period of 15 months after the expiration of the first financial year of the association.
- (3) Subrules (1) and (2) have effect subject to the powers of the Registrar of Incorporated Associations under section 120 of the Act in relation to extensions of time.

22. Annual general meetings calling of and business at

- (1) The annual general meeting of the association shall, subject to the Act, be convened on such date and at such place and time as the committee thinks fit.
- (2) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting shall be -
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the association during the last preceding financial year;
 - (c) to elect members of the committee, including office-bearers; and
 - (d) to receive and consider the statement of accounts and the reports that are required to be submitted to members pursuant to subsection 73(1) of the Act.
- (3) An annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it in accordance with rule 24.

- (4) An annual general meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

23. General meetings - calling of

- (1) The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a general meeting of the association.
- (2) The committee shall, on the requisition in writing of not less than 5 per cent of the total number of members, convene a general meeting of the association.
- (3) A requisition of members for a general meeting -
 - (a) shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting;
 - (b) shall be signed by the members making the requisition;
 - (c) shall be lodged with the secretary or administrator; and
 - (d) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by 1 or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the committee fails to convene a general meeting within 1 month after the date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary or administrator, any 1 or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a meeting to be held not more than 3 months after that date.
- (5) A general meeting convened by a member or members referred to in subrule (4) shall be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by the committee and any member who thereby incurs expense is entitled to be reimbursed by the association for any reasonable expense so incurred.

24. Notice

- (1) Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution, the secretary or administrator shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent by mail, fax or email to each member a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (2) Where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary or administrator shall, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be sent to each member in the manner provided in subrule (1) specifying, in addition to the matter required under that subrule, the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

(3) No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting shall be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business which may be transacted pursuant to subrule 22(2).

(4) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary or administrator who shall include that notice from the member.

25. General meetings - procedure and quorum

- (1) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
- (2) 10 members present in person (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of the members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- (4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 5 shall constitute a quorum.
- (5) For the purposes of this rule, a school member or an organisational member is counted as one member, and may exercise 1 vote through its nominated representative.

26. Presiding member

- (1) The president, or in the absence of the president, the secretary, shall preside at each general meeting of the association.
- (2) If the president and the secretary are absent from the general meeting, the members present shall elect 1 of their number to preside at the meeting.

27. Adjournment

- (1) The person presiding at a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

- (2) Where a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the secretary or administrator shall give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in subrules (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

28. Making of decisions

- (1) A question arising at a general meeting of the association shall be determined on a show of hands and unless a poll is demanded, a declaration by the person presiding that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the association, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- (2) At a general meeting of the association, a poll may be demanded by the person presiding or by not less than 3 members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.
- (3) Where the poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll shall be taken -
 - (a) immediately in the case of a poll which relates to the election of the person to preside at the meeting or to the question of an adjournment; or
 - (b) in any other case, in such a manner and at such time before the close of the meeting as the person presiding directs, and the resolution of the poll on the matter shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting on the matter.

29. Voting

- (1) Subject to subrule (3), upon any question arising at a general meeting of the association a member has 1 vote only.
- (2) All votes shall be given personally or by proxy but no member may hold more than 5 proxies.
- (3) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the person presiding is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- (4) A member or proxy is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association unless all money due and payable by the member or proxy to the association has been paid, other than the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the then current year.

30. Appointment of proxies

- (1) Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the secretary or administrator no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.
- (2) The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form set out in appendix 2 to these rules.

PART V - MISCELLANEOUS

31. Funds - source

- (1) The funds of the association shall be derived from entrance fees and annual subscriptions of members, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting and subject to section 114 of the Act, such other sources as the committee determines.
- (2) All money received by the association shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the association's bank account.
- (3) The association shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

32. Funds - management

- (1) Subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the funds of the association shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the association in such a manner as the committee determines.
- (2) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any 2 members of the committee or employees of the association, being members of the committee or employees authorised to do so by the committee.
- (3) The association shall not pay or in any way transfer by way of profit any part of its property and income to a member.

33. Alteration of objects and rules

Neither the objects of the association referred to in section 29 of the Act nor these rules shall be altered except in accordance with the Act.

34. Common seal

- (1) The common seal of the association shall be kept in the custody of the secretary or the administrator.
- (2) The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures either of 2 members of the committee or of 1 member of the committee and of the secretary or administrator.

35. Custody of books

Subject to this Act, the Regulations and these rules, the secretary or administrator shall keep in his or her control all records, and other documents relating to the association.

36. Inspection of books

The records, books and other documents of the association shall be open to inspection at a place in the Territory, free of charge, by a member of the association at any reasonable hour.

37. Service of notices

- (1) For the purpose of these rules, a notice may be served by or on behalf of the association upon any member at the member's address shown in the register of members.
- (2) Where a document is sent to a person by properly addressing, prepaying and posting to the person a letter containing the document, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of these rules to have been served on the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

38. Surplus property

- (1) At the first general meeting of the association, the association shall pass a special resolution nominating –
 - (a) another association for the purpose of paragraph 92(1)(a) of the Act; or
 - (b) a fund, authority or institution for the purpose of paragraph 92(1)(b) of the Act, in which it is to vest its surplus property in the event of the dissolution or winding up of the association.

An association nominated under paragraph (1)(a) must fulfil the requirements specified in subsection 92(2) of the Act.

39. Rules governing use of monies by the ACTDU

- 1) In any given year there shall be at least 3 signatories to the ACTDU accounts, 2 of whom will be required to validate any cheque.
- 2) The ACTDU committee and officer bearers, in the use of ACTDU monies, shall not:
 - (a) sign blank cheques; or
 - (b) sign 'payable to cash' cheques; or
 - (c) sign cheques for personal use, rather than for services rendered to the ACTDU; or
 - (d) sign a cheque for any amount over \$500 without approval of all 3 executive officers of the ACTDU; or

(e) sign cheques for self-payments. Any payment for services rendered to a signatory must be signed by the 2 other signatories.

- 3) ACTDU Office Bearers shall not receive more than the following amounts over the course of a financial year, for work done in respect of these particular offices:

(a) President- \$500

(b) Secretary- \$250

(c) Treasurer- \$500

(d) Any other executive officer- \$150

- The above subsections shall not apply to remuneration given to the sponsorship officer, given as a % of total sponsorship obtained.

- The above subsections shall not in any way limit or effect the payment of an honorarium to the Duty Officers, funding for ACTDU coaches, payments for adjudications or reimbursement for costs carried out in the course of ACTDU business, approved by the ACTDU committee.