



B.K.S. IYENGAR YOGA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
CONSTITUTION - 2006

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* Produced in booklet form and distributed to all members of the Institute

** Available from Regional Chairs or from the website

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE B.K.S. IYENGAR YOGA INSTITUTE
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) **The Institute shall be called the B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Institute of Southern Africa hereinafter referred to as the Institute and shall consist all members of all Regions as designated from time to time.**
- b) **The Joint Presidents of the Institute shall be Dr Geeta S Iyengar and Sri Prashant Iyengar or their designated successor.**
- c) **The Institute shall be affiliated to the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, situated in Pune, India, hereinafter referred to as the RIMYI.**
- d) **The Institute shall be a not-for-profit organisation.**

2) AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a) **To spread the teaching of Yogacharya Sri B.K.S. Iyengar and to maintain the teaching standard set by him.**
- b) **To provide facilities for the instruction and training of the public in the principles of Yoga established by Yogacharya Sri B.K.S. Iyengar.**
- c) **To advance public education in the classical teachings of the science of Yoga based upon the principles of the highest standards of personal conduct and service to others.**
- d) **To arrange and provide for the holding of Yoga demonstrations, meetings, conventions, lectures and classes.**
- e) **To support the aims and objects of the RIMYI (as set out in Appendix A.).**
- f) **To encourage communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar Yoga practitioners in Southern Africa and in other parts of the world.**
- g) **To be solely responsible in Southern Africa for training and assessing applicants for teaching certificates and to issue those certificates as set out in Appendix C. The certificates are those of the RIMYI and shall remain the property of the Institute (1).**
- h) **To maintain a national register of approved teachers of Iyengar Yoga.**
- i) **To maintain a national register of approved teacher trainers of Iyengar Yoga.**
- j) **To publish a magazine and/or other publications.**
- k) **To create and maintain a website.**
- l) **To promote and advance the study and practice of and research into, the remedial effects of Iyengar Yoga as a means of improving the mental, physical and spiritual health of the community and to publish the useful results of any such research.**
- m) **To establish and maintain links with Iyengar Yoga Associations, Institutes and other groups abroad.**
- n) **To employ staff, own property, borrow money, raise funds by subscription, incur expense or do any other thing required in pursuance of these aims and objects.**
- o) **To monitor and protect the use of the Registered Trademarks of the Institute.**

3) MEMBERSHIP

- a) **Membership of the Institute shall be open to all practitioners of Iyengar Yoga in Southern Africa.**
- b) **All members shall subscribe to the Institute an annual sum, fixed in accordance with the provisions hereof and shall be entitled to attend and vote at Regional meetings and**

at Institute meetings on proposals to change the Constitution (or via postal vote in both cases).

- c) Teachers holding the RIMYI's teaching certificate and the Certification Mark must become teacher members of the Institute and pay the teachers' professional subscription.
- d) An application for membership shall be in such form as the Central Committee may require and may be in different forms for different categories of membership.
- e) The Central Committee may on reasonable grounds refuse to accept any person as a member of the Institute.
- f) Honorary Life Membership may be granted at the sole discretion of the Central Committee.
- g) The Central Committee may terminate the membership of anyone in accordance with the disciplinary procedures as laid down in Appendix G.
- h) The Central Committee may terminate the membership of an individual whose subscription is more than three months in arrears.
- i) The Central Committee shall maintain an up-to-date central record of all members and publish it annually.

4) REGIONS

- a) The Institute shall be divided into Regions as defined and agreed by the Central Committee from time to time.
- b) All members of the Institute shall be members of a Region.
- c) Regional Representatives shall act as conduits of information to and from the Central Committee and the members in their respective Regions.
- d) Each region shall hold an AGM at least one month prior to the Central Committee AGM, to vote for its Office Bearers and Regional Representatives (as necessary) and on any other issues to be raised at the Central Committee AGM.
- e) Other regional meetings may be called by the Regional Committee as business dictates.
- f) Any changes made to the boundaries of the Regions shall be by majority vote of the Central Committee and the regions involved but should only be considered on the basis of mutual benefit to both the Institute and the affected regions.
- g) The Central Committee will be made up of Regional Representatives in accordance with the provisions of Para 6 below. Arrangements may be made for the co-opting of substitute Regional Representatives, at the discretion of the region.
- h) The regions will administer their affairs in accordance with this Constitution and Institute Rules and Standing Orders.

5) CENTRAL COMMITTEE: FUNCTION

- a) A Central Committee shall be elected to control and provide for the administration of the affairs of the Institute and in particular to determine and give effect to the policies of the Institute, in pursuance of the above Aims and Objectives.
- b) The Central Committee shall create, approve and maintain all Rules and Standing Orders etc. that may be necessary for the effective running of the Institute, its Committees, Sub-Committees and other activities needed to fulfil its functions.
- c) The Central Committee shall authorise the appointment or the dismissal of any staff deemed necessary for the efficient running of its business and shall approve the job description, functions and remuneration of any staff so appointed.
- d) The Central Committee shall determine the budget of the Institute and shall maintain proper accounting records and arrange for the preparation of annual statements of account for the Institute.

- e) The Central Committee may appoint and pay such legal and financial advisors as shall from time to time be necessary for carrying out the work of the Institute.

6) CENTRAL COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP

- a) The Central Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as regionally elected representatives (in accordance with 6b below) and the Chairs of Sub-Committees.
- b) Regions will have proportional representation on the Central Committee. Proportions will be as follows: 0 – 30 - one representative; 31 and more - two representatives, one of whom must be a teacher. Regional Representatives will be elected by Regional ballot, organised and funded by the Regions.
- c) Institute Ballots shall be carried out in accordance with procedures decided by the Central Committee.
- d) Should members be dissatisfied with election procedures in their Region, they should follow the terms of the Grievance Procedure (see Appendix G).
- e) In order to be eligible to stand for election as a Regional Representative, members must be either:
 - i) teacher members;
 - ii) non-teaching members who have:
 - 1) signed a document affirming their commitment to practice the Iyengar method only;
 - 2) practiced for a period of at least 4 years;
 - 3) been a member of the Institute for at least 3 years;
 - 4) at the point of nomination, provided the signature of their Iyengar Yoga teacher and listed their Iyengar Yoga teachers over the designated period.
- f) **The majority of the members of the Central Committee shall be teacher members** of the Institute. If this majority is not achieved by the normal election process the Central Committee may co-opt sufficient additional teacher members as full members of the Central Committee to achieve that majority.
- g) A **significant minority** of the members of the Central Committee **may be non-teaching members of the Institute**.
- h) The Central Committee shall, from time to time, determine the number of non-teaching members it deems to be a significant minority.
- i) Regional Representatives shall be elected for a period of **three years** and shall be eligible for re-election for **1x further term**; thereafter there must be a **gap of three years** before they can stand for further election. Under exceptional circumstances this clause may be waived by the Central Committee.
- j) If a Regional Representative resigns before the end of his/her three-year term, the regional members, as applicable, shall elect a replacement by ballot.
- k) A member of the Central Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
 - i) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
 - ii) is absent without permission of the Central Committee for three or more consecutive meetings and the Central Committee resolves that his or her office should be vacated;
 - iii) notifies the Central Committee of his or her wish to resign.
- l) The Central Committee shall maintain an up-to-date list of Regional Representatives and publish it annually.
- m) If a Regional Representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Central Committee, the Regional Committee may appoint another Regional member as a substitute. This

substitute shall have all the rights of a Regional Representative in meetings of the Central Committee.

- n) It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Representatives to report back to their members on the discussions and decisions of the Central Committee and in return to convey regional opinions/decisions/views to the Central Committee.

7) OFFICE BEARERS

- a) The Office Bearers of the Institute shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair (who shall be the Chair elect), the Secretary and the Treasurer
- b) Office Bearers of the Institute shall be nominated by the Central Committee from within their own membership whenever possible.
- c) When a Regional Representative is elected as an Office Bearer, they must continue to represent their region on Central Committee, except in the case of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- d) Office Bearers may hold office for a period of **three years and shall be eligible for re-election for 1 x further term, thereafter there must be a gap of 3 years before they may stand for further election, unless conditions and/or numbers dictate otherwise.**
- e) The Central Committee may co-opt Office Bearers onto Central Committee where suitable candidates are not available from its elected ranks. Such co-opted Office Bearers shall have all the rights and responsibilities as if they were elected.
- f) Wherever possible the Vice Chair should come from a different region from the Chair.

8) SUB-COMMITTEES

- a) There will be Sub-Committees as determined from time to time by the Central Committee each with a designated task (see Appendix D).
- b) These Sub Committees will be made up of **members of the Central Committee** and of **co-opted members approved by the Central Committee unless otherwise specified in Appendix D.**
- c) The Chair of each Sub-Committee will be appointed or ratified by the Central Committee.
- d) The members of the **Assessment Committee shall all be teacher members of the Institute.**
- e) All members of the Sub Committees shall have equal voting rights within their committees and each Chair will have a casting vote.
- f) The Chairs of the Sub Committees shall automatically become members of the Central Committee if not already on it.
- g) Policy proposals by Sub Committees shall be subject to ratification by the Central Committee.
- h) All members of Sub Committees shall have tenure of **3 years** and shall be eligible for re-election for **1x further term**; thereafter there must be a **gap of three years** before they can stand for further election, unless conditions and/or numbers dictate otherwise.
- i) All Sub Committees to meet as necessary but at least once per year during their existence.
- j) Any proposals by a Sub Committee to commit expenditure on behalf of the Institute and outside the agreed budgets shall be referred to the Central Committee for approval before implementation.
- k) When a Sub Committee is formed a Secretary to the Sub Committee will be elected from its members.

9) GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) In each year there shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Institute which shall be held not later than three months after the end of the financial year of the Institute and such other General Meetings as the Central Committee may determine.
- b) All members of the Institute shall be entitled to attend and vote at all general meetings of the Institute (or submit a postal vote as determined by the Central Committee).
- c) Every member shall have one vote.
- d) The normal business of an Annual General Meeting shall be:
 - i. to approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - ii. to receive reports from Central Committee Officer Bearers, Sub Committees and Regional Committees;
 - iii. to receive and approve the accounts of the Institute;
 - iv. to appoint a reputable accountant to verify the accounts of the Institute for the following year in accordance with South African law.
- e) Any other business at an Annual General Meeting and all business at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be approved by the Central Committee and deemed to be special.
- f) Notification of special matters shall be circulated to members in the notice of the meeting which must be received by post at least 28 days before the date of the meeting, providing that accidental failure to notify any member shall not invalidate the meeting.
- g) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members. If a deadlock arises the Chair will have a second or casting vote.
- h) Every matter shall be decided in the first place on a show of hands but the Chair may order a ballot and must do so if requested by at least five members.
- i) 28 days notice of any General Meeting shall be given to each member by post or e-mail, providing that the accidental failure to notify any member shall not invalidate the meeting.
- j) Motions submitted by regions for consideration at a General Meeting must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than 30 days before the meeting.
- k) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Central Committee or shall be called at the request, in writing, of not less than 50 percent of regions of the Institute. The proposals, in full, shall be placed before the Central Committee and sent to the members in the notice of the meeting.
- l) The time and date of such Extraordinary General Meeting shall be at the discretion of the Central Committee.
- m) The quorum for any General Meeting (except one which has proposals to change the Constitution) shall be at least 5% of members, including not less than 75% of the members of the Central Committee.
- n) The Secretary or other person appointed by the Central Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at any General Meeting.

10) FINANCE

- a) Members shall pay a subscription at such rate as the Central Committee shall decide and the Central Committee may determine different rates of subscription for different categories of membership.
- b) The financial year of the Institute shall be determined by the Central Committee.
- c) The Central Committee shall appoint an accountant to verify the accounts in accordance with South African law before they are presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The Central Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to:
 - i. all sums of money received and expended by the Institute and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place.
 - ii. the assets and liabilities of the Institute.
- e) The books of account shall give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Institute.
- f) The books of account shall be kept at such place and shall be available for inspection by any member at such time as the Central Committee shall decide.
- g) The Central Committee shall maintain such banking account or accounts in the name of the Institute as it thinks fit into which (as may be appropriate) shall be paid all sums of cash belonging to the Institute (other than petty cash not exceeding a sum to be agreed by the Central Committee).
- h) Cheques for expenditure approved within existing budgets may be signed by any one of the 'authorised signatories' of the Central Committee.
- i) Approval for unbudgetted expenditure over such levels agreed by the Central Committee, from time to time, must be obtained from the Central Committee before commitment is made.
- j) The Central Committee may invest excess funds in income-generating but secure investment vehicles at their discretion, in compliance with the law of South Africa and taking care not to expose their members to undue risk.

11) RULES AND STANDING ORDERS

- a) The Central Committee has the power to make and alter Rules and Standing Orders, Bye-laws, etc to manage and conduct all affairs of the Institute, other than to alter the Constitution or to elect its own membership.
- b) A copy of any such Rules and Standing Orders etc shall be appended to the Constitution and made available to the Institute Joint Presidents Dr Geeta S Iyengar and Shri Prashant Iyengar and notice shall be made to all its members.

12) ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a) The Constitution may only be amended, either in whole or in part, at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
- b) For the purposes of this Clause, the Constitution shall also include Appendices A, and B only. Appendices C, D, E, F and G are all to be classified as Rules and Standing Orders that may be changed by a normal decision of the Central Committee or as dictated by RIMYI.
- c) Any alteration to the Constitution must receive the assent of not less than 75% of the members present (including postal votes received) at the General Meeting.

- d) A quorum for such a meeting shall be not less than 75% of the members of the Central Committee and not less than 10% of all Institute members (whether present at the meeting or by postal vote).
- e) Provision for postal voting will be made available to the members giving at least 28 day's notification of proposed changes.
- f) Any alteration to the Constitution once approved by the Institute shall be presented to Dr Geeta S Iyengar and Shri Prashant Iyengar for ratification.

13) DISSOLUTION

- a) The Institute shall be dissolved, following a proposal by the Central Committee, by either:
 - i. a resolution approved by 75% of members present and postal votes received at an Extraordinary General Meeting called to dissolve the Institute; or
 - ii. at the insistence of the Joint Presidents of the Institute, Dr Geeta S Iyengar and Shri Prashant Iyengar.
- b) A quorum for such a meeting will be not less than 75% of the Central Committee members and not less than 10% of all Institute members
- c) Any disposable assets remaining upon dissolution of the Institute after satisfaction of any outstanding liabilities shall be given or transferred to the Light on Yoga Research Trust (Mumbai) or such other non-profit making Iyengar Yoga body as the membership may decide.