



KANNADA SANGHA (SINGAPORE)

CONSTITUTION

**NO.1, NORTH BRIDGE ROAD
#19-04, HIGH STREET CENTRE
SINGAPORE – 179094**

CONSTITUTION OF KANNADA SANGHA (SINGAPORE)

NAME

1. The society shall be known as the “ **Kannada Sangha (Singapore)**”, herein after referred as “**Sangha**”.

PLACE OF BUSINESS

2. Its place of business shall be at “No.1, North Bridge Road, # 19-04 High Street Centre Singapore 179094” or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Committee and approved by the Registrar of Societies. The Sangha shall carry out its activities only in places and premises, which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Its objectives are

- a) To promote social, cultural, educational, recreational and welfare activities as well as hold celebrations for Kannada people in Singapore.
- b) To promote intercultural understanding between the Kannada community and Singaporeans.
- c) To bridge cultural relationship between Kannada people throughout the world.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION AND RIGHTS

- 4.1 Membership consists of:

- a) **Ordinary Members:** Any Kannada-speaking person who is interested in the activities of the Sangha may be admitted to ordinary Membership. Ordinary Members above 18 years of age shall be eligible to vote and stand for elections of the Committee.
- b) **Life Members:** Any ordinary Member may become a Life Member upon payment of a lump sum as decided by Sangha. Life Members above 18 years of age shall be eligible to vote and stand for elections to the Committee.
- c) **Associate Members:** Any non-Kannada-speaking person interested in the activities of the Sangha may be admitted to the Associate Membership. Associate members shall not be eligible to vote or stand for elections to the committee.
- d) **Honorary Members:** Selected dignitaries and sponsors (individual or organization) can be admitted to be Honorary Members for tenure as decided by the Kannada Sangha Executive Committee. Each Honorary membership for an organization will have 1 representative. Honorary members shall not be eligible to vote or stand for elections to the committee.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 A person wishing to join the Sangha should submit his particulars to the Secretary on a prescribed form.
- 5.2 A new member must be proposed and seconded by existing members. His name will then be posted on the notice board in the Sangha's premises for one week at the end of which time the committee will decide on membership taking into consideration any objections raised.
- 5.3 A copy of the constitution shall be furnished to every approved member.

ENTRANCE FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER DUES

- 6.1 There shall be no entrance fee payable for all members.
- 6.2 The annual subscriptions shall be determined by the General Meeting on the recommendation from the committee from time to time and documented in the minutes of AGM. The subscription amount shall also be published on Sangha's notice board / website and membership application form.
- 6.3 For retiree memberships, the annual subscriptions payable shall be reduced by half.
- 6.4 Annual subscriptions are payable in advance in January each year. If a member falls into arrears with his subscription or other dues, he shall be informed immediately by the Treasurer. If he fails to settle his arrears within four weeks of their becoming due, the President may order that his name be posted on the Sangha's notice board and that he be denied the privileges of membership until he settles his account. If he falls into arrears for more than 3 months, he will automatically cease to be a member and the Committee may take legal action against him provided that they are satisfied that he has received due notice of his debts.
- 6.5 Any additional fund required for special purposes may only be raised from members with the consent of the General meeting of the members.

SUPREME AUTHORITY AND GENERAL MEETINGS

- 7.1 The supreme authority of the Sangha is vested in a General Meeting of the members presided by the President.
- 7.2 An Annual General Meeting shall be held in June.
- 7.3 At other times, an Extraordinary General Meeting must be called by the President on the request in writing of not less than 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is the lesser, and may be called at anytime by the order of the Committee. The notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary setting forth the business that is to be transacted. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convening the Extraordinary General Meeting.

- 7.4 If the Committee does not within 2 months after the date of the receipt of the written request proceed to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, the members who requested for the Extraordinary General Meeting shall convene the Extraordinary General Meeting by 10 days' notice to voting members setting forth the business to be transacted and simultaneously posting the agenda on the Sangha's notice board.
- 7.5 At least 2 weeks' notice shall be given of an Annual General Meeting and at least 10 days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to all voting members. The particulars of the agenda shall be posted on the Sangha's notice board 4 days in advance of the meeting.
- 7.6 Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, voting by proxy shall not be allowed at all General Meetings.
- 7.7 The following points will be considered at the Annual general Meeting:
- a) The previous financial year's accounts and annual report of the Committee.
 - b) Where applicable, the election of office-bearers and Honorary Auditors for the following term.
- 7.8 Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a General Meeting may do so provided he gives notice to the Secretary one week before the meeting is due to be held.
- 7.9 At least 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is lesser, present at a General Meeting shall form a quorum. Proxies shall not be constituted as part of the quorum.
- 7.10 In the event of there being no quorum at the commencement of a General Meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for half an hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the existing rules.

MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE

- 8.1 The administration of the Sangha shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the following to be elected at alternate Annual General Meeting:
- A President
 - A Vice President
 - A Secretary
 - An Assistant Secretary
 - A Treasurer
 - Six Ordinary Committee Members
- 8.2 Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers, except the Treasurer who shall not be elected to the same post for a consecutive term of office, can be reelected to serve on the Committee for a maximum of three consecutive terms in any capacity and can only seek nomination to the Committee after a break of one term (two years) following the three consecutive terms in office. The term of office of the Committee is 2 years.

- 8.3 Election will be either by show of hands or, subject to the agreement of the majority of the voting members present, by a secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 8.4 A committee Meeting shall be held at least once every 3 months after giving seven days' notice to the Committee Members. The President may call a Committee Meeting at any time by giving five days' notice. At least ½ of the Committee Members must be present for its proceedings to be valid.
- 8.5 Any member of the committee absenting himself from the three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Committee and a successor may be co-opted by the Committee to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Any changes in the Committee shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies within two weeks of the change.
- 8.6 The duty of the committee is to organise and supervise the daily activities of the Sangha. The Committee may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the General Meeting without prior reference to it and always remains subordinate to the General Meetings.
- 8.7 The Committee has power to authorise the expenditure of a sum not exceeding \$5,000 per month from the Sangha's funds for the Sangha's purposes.

DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS

- 9.1 The President shall chair all General and Committee meetings. He shall also represent the Sangha in its dealings with outside persons.
- 9.2 The Vice-President shall assist the President and deputise for him in his absence.
- 9.3 The Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the Sangha and shall be responsible for their correctness. He will keep minutes of all General and Committee meetings. He shall maintain an up to date Register of Members at all times.
- 9.4 The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary and deputise for him in his absence.
- 9.5 The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Sangha and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. He is authorised to expend up to \$500 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Sangha. He will not keep more than \$100 in form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Committee. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or Vice-President or the Secretary.
- 9.6 Ordinary Committee Members shall assist in the general administration of the Sangha and perform duties assigned by the Committee from time to time.
- 9.7 All the Committee Members are responsible for and shall make effort to preserve the history and properties of Kannada Sangha (Singapore), including, but not limited to limited assets, photos, videos, publications etc. and also make the information available to Sangha members wherever possible. After the election, it is the responsibility of outgoing committee to transfer the above and also provide a status update of various improvement initiatives carried out during their term.

AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR

- 10.1 A firm of Certified Public Accountants shall be appointed as Honorary Auditors at each Annual General Meetings for a term of ONE YEAR and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 10.2 They:
- a) Will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual General Meetings
 - b) May be required by the President to audit the Sangha's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Committee.
- 10.3 The financial year shall be from 1st April to 31st March.

TRUSTEES

- 11.1 If the Sangha at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust.
- 11.2 The trustees of the Sangha shall:
- a) Not more than 4 and not less than 2 in number.
 - b) Be elected by a General Meeting of members.
 - c) Not effect any sale or mortgage of property without the prior approval of the General Meeting of Members.
- 11.3 The office of the trustees shall be vacated:
- a) If the trustees dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind.
 - b) If he is absent from Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one year.
 - c) If he is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a trustee.
 - d) If he submits notice of resignation from his trusteeship.
- 11.4 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by posting it on the notice board in the Sangha's premises at least two weeks before the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such General Meeting shall than be notified to the Registrar of the Societies.
- 11.5 The address of each immovable property, name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notifies to the Registrar of Societies.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

- 12.1 Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of the Sangha but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of the Sangha. All visitors and guests shall abide by the Sangha's rules and regulations.

PROHIBITIONS

- 13.1 Gambling of any kind, whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Sangha's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 13.2 The funds of the Sangha shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in court of law.
- 13.3 The Sangha 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.
- 13.4 The Sangha 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 service which adversely affect consumer interests.
- 13.5 The Sangha shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 13.6 The Sangha shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of Sangha or its office bearers, Committee or members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 13.7 The Sangha shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Head, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- 14 No alteration or addition/deletion to this Constitution shall be made except at a general meeting and with the consent of two thirds of the voting members present at the General Meeting, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of the Societies.

INTERPRETATION

- 15 In the event of any question or matter pertaining to day-to-day administration, which is not expressly provided for this Constitution, the Committee shall have power to use their own discretion. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless it is reversed at a General Meeting of members.

DISPUTES

- 16 In the event of any dispute arising amongst members, they shall attempt to resolve the matter at an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with this Constitution. Should the members fail to resolve the matter, they may bring the matter to a court of law for settlement.

DISSOLUTION

- 17.1 The Sangha shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not more than 3/5 of the total voting membership of the Sangha for the time being resident of Singapore expressed, in either in person or by proxy, at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 17.2 In the event of the Sangha being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Sangha shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be imposed of in such manner as the general Meeting of the members may determine or donated to an approved charities in Singapore.
- 17.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies.