

**Rules of the  
Victorian Croatian  
Chamber of Commerce**

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# Rules of the Victorian Croatian Chamber of Commerce

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The persons who from time to time are members of the VCCC are an incorporated association by the name given in rule 1 of these Rules.

Under section 46 of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, these Rules are taken to constitute the terms of a contract between the VCCC and its members.

## Part 1 - Preliminary

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### 1. Name

The name of the incorporated association is "Victorian Croatian Chamber of Commerce Inc." (VCCC).

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### 2. Purposes

The purposes of the VCCC are:

- a) **Local:** To promote, encourage and facilitate trade, investment, technical and economic cooperation between members of the VCCC and businesses and individuals in Australia.
  - b) **International:** To promote, encourage and facilitate trade, investment, technical and economic cooperation between businesses and individuals in Australia, Croatia and other countries.
  - c) **Community:** To promote, encourage and facilitate programs and events that support the Croatian community in Australia.
  - d) **Education:** To promote, encourage and facilitate the education and careers of professionals in Australia and Croatia to further the purposes of the VCCC.
  - e) **Government:** To communicate and work with the governments of Croatia, Australia and Victoria, trade groups and others to further the purposes of the VCCC.
  - f) **Cooperation:** To communicate and work with other chambers of commerce, trade groups and others to further the purposes of the VCCC.
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### 3. Financial year

The financial year of the VCCC is each period of 12 months ending on 30 June.

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## 4. Definitions

In these Rules:

**absolute majority**, of the Committee, means a majority of the committee members currently holding office and entitled to vote at the time (as distinct from a majority of committee members present at a committee meeting);

**Ambassador** means the person appointed as Ambassador to Australia by the Republic of Croatia, from time to time;

**Business member** means a member of the Business category of membership under rule 13;

**Chairperson**, of a general meeting or committee meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under rule 45;

**Committee** means the Committee having management of the business of the VCCC;

**committee meeting** means a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with these Rules;

**committee member** means a member of the Committee elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5;

**Consul-General** means the person appointed as Consul-General to the State of Victoria by the Republic of Croatia, from time to time;

**disciplinary appeal meeting** means a meeting of the members of the VCCC convened under subrule 22(c);

**disciplinary meeting** means a meeting of the Committee convened for the purposes of rule 21;

**disciplinary subcommittee** means the subcommittee appointed under rule 19;

**Individual member** means a member of the Individual category of membership under rule 13;

**financial year** means the 12 month period specified in rule 3;

**general meeting** means a general meeting of the members of the VCCC convened in accordance with Part 4 and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting and a disciplinary appeal meeting;

**Honorary member** means a member of the Honorary category of membership under rule 13;

**member** means a member of the VCCC;

**member entitled to vote** means a member who under rule 12 is entitled to vote at a general meeting;

**special resolution** means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a general meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution;

**Student member** means a member of the Student category of membership under rule 13;

**the Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and includes any regulations made under that Act;

**the Registrar** means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations; and

**VCCC** means the Victorian Croatian Chamber of Commerce Inc..

## Part 2 - Powers of VCCC

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### 5. Powers of VCCC

- (a) Subject to the Act, the VCCC has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.
- (b) Without limiting subrule (a), the VCCC may:
  - (1) acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
  - (2) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
  - (3) invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
  - (4) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
  - (5) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
  - (6) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
  - (7) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (c) The VCCC may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes.

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### 6. Not for profit organisation

- (a) The VCCC must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (b) Subrule (a) does not prevent the VCCC from paying a member:
  - (1) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
  - (2) for goods or services provided by the member,if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.
- (c) Before a payment can be made to a member under subrule (b), the payment must be approved by a resolution of the Committee.

## **Part 3 – Members, Disciplinary Procedures and Grievances**

### **Division 1 – Membership**

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#### **7. Minimum number of members**

The VCCC must have at least 5 members.

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#### **8. Who is eligible to be a member**

Any person is eligible for membership if they support the purposes of the VCCC.

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#### **9. Application for membership**

- (a) To apply to become a member of the VCCC, a person must submit a written application to a committee member stating that the person:
- (1) wishes to become a member of the VCCC;
  - (2) supports the purposes of the VCCC; and
  - (3) agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (b) The application:
- (1) must be in the form, or one of the forms, prescribed by the Committee, whether in writing or electronic;
  - (2) must contain a valid email address for the applicant, being an email address at which the applicant confirms he or she will receive emails;
  - (3) must be signed by the applicant or submitted electronically by the applicant;
  - (4) must be signed, or approved electronically, by a nominator who is an existing member of the VCCC;
  - (5) if made on or after 1 July 2015, must be signed, or approved electronically, by a seconder who is an existing member of the VCCC; and
  - (6) may be accompanied by the joining fee and the applicant's annual subscription for the first year (pro-rated in accordance with subrule 11(b) below).
- (c) The completed application form and the joining fee and annual subscription must be provided to the Secretary, or to a person or persons nominated by the Secretary.
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#### **10. New membership**

- (a) When a completed application form, joining fee and annual subscription have been provided to the Secretary, or to a person or persons nominated by the Secretary, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the details of the new member, as required under rule 17 below, in the register of members.
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- (b) A person becomes a member of the VCCC and, subject to subrule 0, is entitled to exercise his or her rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which:
  - (1) the person's name is entered into the register of members; or
  - (2) the person pays the joining fee and his or her annual subscription for the first year of membership.

## 11. Annual subscription and fee on joining

- (a) At each annual general meeting, the VCCC must determine:
  - (1) the amount of the joining fee and the annual subscription (if any) for each class of membership for the following financial year; and
  - (2) the date for payment of the annual subscription.
- (b) Any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to the full annual subscription pro-rata on the basis of number of months (including any partial month) remaining in the financial year, using the following formula:

$$\text{Pro-rata Annual Subscription} = \frac{\text{Annual Subscription} \times \text{Number of months (including any partial month) remaining in financial year}}{12}$$

- (c) Honorary members are not liable for any joining fee or annual subscription.
- (d) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

## 12. General rights of members

- (a) Each member of the VCCC is entitled to a single vote at a general meeting and has the right:
  - (1) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
  - (2) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
  - (3) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
  - (4) to vote at a general meeting; and
  - (5) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the VCCC as provided under rule 74; and
  - (6) to inspect the register of members.

- (b) A member is entitled to vote if:
  - (1) more than 21 days have passed since he or she became a member of the VCCC; and
  - (2) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.
- (c) A member is not entitled to vote if he or she is a Student member or an Honorary member.

### **13. Membership categories**

- (a) The VCCC has the following membership categories:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>
Individual	Any individual.
Business	Any business, whether sole trader, partnership, association or corporation.
Student	Any individual studying full time holding a VPT Student Concession Card or a current student identification card from a TAFE, college or university.
Honorary	A person being the Ambassador or Consul-General or any individual voted as an Honorary member by a special resolution at a general meeting in accordance with rule 38 below

- (b) The Committee may by resolution establish an additional category, or categories, of membership or alter or abolish an existing category, or categories, of membership.
- (c) In addition to the requirements specified under rule 8 and subrule (a), the Committee may decide to specify further eligibility requirements for each category of membership.
- (d) The Committee may by resolution decide to assign different annual subscription fees and rights, including voting rights, with respect to each of the member categories.

### **14. Rights not transferable**

The rights of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

### **15. Ceasing membership**

- (a) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion or death.
- (b) If a person ceases to be a member of the VCCC, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members.

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## **16. Resigning as a member**

- (a) A member may resign by notice in writing given to the VCCC.
- (b) A member is taken to have resigned if the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears.

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## **17. Register of members**

- (a) The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes:
  - (1) for each current member:
    - (A) the member's name;
    - (B) the email address for notice last given by the member;
    - (C) the postal address last given by the member;
    - (D) the date of becoming a member;
    - (E) the category of membership held by the member; and
    - (F) any other information determined by the Committee; and
  - (2) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.
- (b) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members.
- (c) Any member must provide notice to the VCCC of a change of his or her details, including email address or postal address. Any notice sent to the member under these rules at the existing email address or postal address will be deemed to have been received by the member unless such a notice of change of details has been received by the VCCC.

## **Division 2 – Disciplinary action**

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### **18. Grounds for taking disciplinary action**

The VCCC may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division if it is determined that the member:

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the VCCC; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the VCCC.

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### **19. Disciplinary subcommittee**

- (a) If the Committee is satisfied by absolute majority that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Committee must appoint a

disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.

- (b) The members of the disciplinary subcommittee:
  - (1) may be Committee members, members of the VCCC or anyone else; but
  - (2) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

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## **20. Notice to member**

- (a) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member:
  - (1) stating that the VCCC proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
  - (2) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
  - (3) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the disciplinary meeting); and
  - (4) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following:
    - (A) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting; and/or
    - (B) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
  - (5) setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 22.
- (b) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.

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## **21. Decision of subcommittee**

- (a) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must:
  - (1) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
  - (2) consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (b) After complying with subrule (a), the disciplinary subcommittee may:
  - (1) take no further action against the member; or
  - (2) subject to subrule (c):
    - (A) reprimand the member; or

- (B) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period;  
or
    - (C) expel the member from the VCCC.
  - (c) The disciplinary subcommittee may not fine the member.
  - (d) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.
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## **22. Appeal rights**

- (a) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the VCCC under rule 21 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
  - (b) The notice must be in writing and given:
    - (1) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
    - (2) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
  - (c) If a person has given notice under subrule (b), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
  - (d) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the VCCC who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must:
    - (1) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
    - (2) state:
      - (A) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and
      - (B) the grounds for taking that action; and
      - (C) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
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## **23. Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting**

- (a) At a disciplinary appeal meeting:
    - (1) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
    - (2) the Committee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
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- (3) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (b) After complying with subrule (a), the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
- (c) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.
- (d) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

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### **Division 3 – Grievance procedure**

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#### **24. Application**

- (a) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between:
  - (1) a member and another member;
  - (2) a member and the Committee;
  - (3) a member and the VCCC.
- (b) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.

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#### **25. Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute**

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

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#### **26. Appointment of mediator**

- (a) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 25, the parties must within 10 days:
  - (1) notify the Committee of the dispute; and
  - (2) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
  - (3) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (b) The mediator must be:
  - (1) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - (2) in the absence of agreement:
    - (A) if the dispute is between a member and another member – a person appointed by the Committee; or

- (B) if the dispute is between a member and the Committee or the VCCC – a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
  - (c) A mediator appointed by the Committee may be a member or former member of the VCCC but in any case must not be a person who:
    - (1) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
    - (2) is biased in favour of or against any party.
- 

## **27. Mediation process**

- (a) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must:
    - (1) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
    - (2) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
    - (3) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
  - (b) The mediator must not determine the dispute.
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## **28. Failure to resolve dispute by mediation**

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

## **Part 4 – General Meetings of the VCCC**

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### **29. Annual general meetings**

- (a) The Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the VCCC to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (b) Despite subrule (a), the VCCC may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (c) The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (d) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows:
  - (1) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (2) to receive and consider:
    - (A) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the VCCC during the preceding financial year; and
    - (B) the financial statements of the VCCC for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
  - (3) to elect the members of the Committee;
  - (4) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (e) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

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### **30. Special general meetings**

- (a) Any general meeting of the VCCC, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (b) The Committee may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (c) No business other than that set out in the notice under rule 32 may be conducted at the meeting.

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### **31. Special general meeting held at request of members**

- (a) The Committee must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (b) by at least 20% of the total number of members.
- (b) A request for a special general meeting must:
  - (1) be in writing; and

- (2) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and
    - (3) include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
    - (4) be given to the Secretary.
  - (c) If the Committee does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
  - (d) A special general meeting convened by members under subrule (c):
    - (1) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
    - (2) may only consider the business stated in that request.
  - (e) The VCCC must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under subrule (c).
- 

## **32. Notice of general meetings**

- (a) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 31(c), the members convening the meeting) must give to each member of the VCCC:
    - (1) at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
    - (2) at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
  - (b) The notice must:
    - (1) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
    - (2) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
    - (3) if a special resolution is to be proposed:
      - (A) state in full the proposed resolution; and
      - (B) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
      - (C) comply with subrule 33(e).
    - (4) This rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.
  - (c) The notice may be sent to any member by email to the email address recorded in the register of members pursuant to rule 17 above.
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### **33. Proxies**

- (a) A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (b) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (c) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.
- (d) If the Committee has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (e) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under rule 32 must:
  - (1) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
  - (2) include a copy of any form that the Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (f) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (g) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the VCCC no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

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### **34. Use of technology**

- (a) A member not physically present at a general meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (b) For the purposes of this Part, a member participating in a general meeting as permitted under subrule (a) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

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### **35. Quorum at general meetings**

- (a) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (b) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 34) of 10% of the members entitled to vote.
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting:

- (1) in the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under rule 31 – the meeting must be dissolved;
  - (2) in any other case:
    - (A) the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
    - (B) notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.
  - (d) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under subrule (c)(2), the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 3) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present. If fewer than 3 members are present at the adjourned meeting, the meeting must be dissolved.
- 

### **36. Adjournment of general meeting**

- (a) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
  - (b) Without limiting subrule (a), a meeting may be adjourned:
    - (1) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
    - (2) to give the members more time to consider an item of business.
  - (c) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
  - (d) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 32.
- 

### **37. Voting at general meeting**

- (a) On any question arising at a general meeting:
    - (1) subject to subrule (c), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
    - (2) members may vote personally or by proxy; and
    - (3) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
  - (b) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
  - (c) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
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- (d) This rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under rule 23 above.

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### **38. Special resolutions**

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

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### **39. Determining whether resolution carried**

- (a) Subject to subsection (b), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been:
  - (a) carried; or
  - (b) carried unanimously; or
  - (c) carried by a particular majority; or
  - (d) lost,and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- (b) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question:
  - (1) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
  - (2) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (c) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (d) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

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### **40. Minutes of general meeting**

- (a) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (b) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (c) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include:
  - (1) the names of the members attending the meeting; and
  - (2) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under rule 33(f); and

- (3) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with subrule 29(d)(2)(B); and
- (4) the certificate signed by two committee members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the VCCC; and
- (5) any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

## **Part 5 – Committee**

### **Division 1 – Powers of Committee**

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#### **41. Role and powers**

- (a) The business of the VCCC must be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.
  - (b) The Committee may exercise all the powers of the VCCC except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the VCCC.
  - (c) The Committee may:
    - (1) appoint and remove staff;
    - (2) establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.
- 

#### **42. Delegation**

- (a) The Committee may delegate to a member of the Committee, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than:
  - (1) this power of delegation; or
  - (2) a duty imposed on the Committee by the Act or any other law.
- (b) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Committee considers appropriate.
- (c) The Committee may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

### **Division 2: Composition of Committee and duties of members**

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#### **43. Composition of Committee**

The Committee consists of:

- (a) a President; and
  - (b) a Vice-President; and
  - (c) a Secretary; and
  - (d) a Treasurer; and
  - (e) the Ambassador; and
  - (f) the Consul-General; and
  - (g) ordinary members (if any) elected under rule 52.
-

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#### **44. General Duties**

- (a) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Committee, each committee member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (b) The Committee is collectively responsible for ensuring that the VCCC complies with the Act and that individual members of the Committee comply with these Rules.
- (c) Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (d) Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties:
  - (1) in good faith in the best interests of the VCCC; and
  - (2) for a proper purpose.
- (e) Committee members and former committee members must not make improper use of:
  - (1) their position; or
  - (2) information acquired by virtue of holding their position,so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the VCCC.
- (f) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a committee member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

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#### **45. President and Vice-President**

- (a) Subject to subrule (b), the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any committee meetings.
- (b) If the President and the Vice-President are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be:
  - (1) in the case of a general meeting – a member elected by the other members present; or
  - (2) in the case of a committee meeting – a committee member elected by the other committee members present.

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#### **46. Secretary**

- (a) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.
- (b) The Secretary must:
  - (1) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 17; and

- (2) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the VCCC and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 69(c), all books, documents and securities of the VCCC in accordance with rules 71 and 74; and
  - (3) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
  - (4) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
- (c) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.
- 

#### **47. Treasurer**

- (a) The Treasurer must:
- (1) receive all moneys paid to or received by the VCCC and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the VCCC; and
  - (2) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the VCCC within 5 working days after receipt; and
  - (3) make any payments authorised by the Committee or by a general meeting of the VCCC from the VCCC's funds; and
  - (4) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 committee members.
- (b) The Treasurer must:
- (1) ensure that the financial records of the VCCC are kept in accordance with the Act; and
  - (2) coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the VCCC and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the VCCC.
- (c) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the VCCC.

### **Division 3 – Election of Committee members and tenure of office**

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#### **48. Who is eligible to be a Committee member**

- (a) Excluding the positions of Ambassador and Consul-General, a person is eligible to be elected or appointed as a committee member if the person:
- (1) is an Individual member of the VCCC or a person nominated by a Business member of the VCCC;
  - (2) is 18 years or over; and
  - (3) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.
-

- (b) A person nominated by a Business member of the VCCC in accordance with subrule 48(a)(1) above must be a director, owner or employee of that Business member. This subrule also applies to any additional category of membership that consists of more than one person and is established by the Committee under subrule 13(b) above from time to time.
  - (c) The positions of Ambassador and Consul-General on the committee are filled by the persons holding those positions as defined in these Rules.
- 

#### **49. Positions to be declared vacant**

- (a) This rule applies to:
    - (1) the first annual general meeting of the VCCC after its incorporation; or
    - (2) any subsequent annual general meeting of the VCCC, after the annual report and financial statements of the VCCC have been received.
  - (b) The Chairperson of the meeting must declare all positions on the Committee, excluding the positions of Ambassador and Consul-General, vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with rules 50 to 53.
- 

#### **50. Nominations**

- (a) Prior to the election of each position, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill that position.
  - (b) An eligible member of the VCCC may:
    - (a) nominate himself or herself; or
    - (b) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.
  - (c) A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.
- 

#### **51. Election of President etc.**

- (a) At the annual general meeting, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions:
    - (1) President;
    - (2) Vice-President;
    - (3) Secretary; and
    - (4) Treasurer.
  - (b) If only one member is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the member elected to the position.
-

- (c) If more than one member is nominated, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 53.
  - (d) On his or her election, the new President may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.
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## **52. Election of ordinary members**

- (a) There may be a maximum of 9 ordinary members of the Committee (if any) at any one time.
  - (b) A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
  - (c) If the number of members nominated for the position of ordinary committee member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
  - (d) If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 53.
- 

## **53. Ballot**

- (a) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.
  - (b) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
  - (c) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
  - (d) The election must be by secret ballot.
  - (e) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to:
    - (1) each member present in person; and
    - (2) each proxy appointed by a member.
  - (f) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
  - (g) If the ballot is for more than one position:
    - (1) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
    - (2) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
  - (h) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule (g)(2) are not to be counted.
  - (i) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
-

- (j) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (k) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (j) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must:
  - (1) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subrules (d) to (j) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
  - (2) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

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#### **54. Term of office**

- (a) Subject to subrule (d) and rule 55, a committee member, excluding the Ambassador and Consul-General, holds office until the positions of the Committee are declared vacant at the next annual general meeting.
- (b) A committee member may be re-elected.
- (c) An individual cannot hold the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any of them, for more than 3 consecutive terms.

For example, if a person has held the office of President for 2 years, that person may not hold any of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer for more than one additional consecutive term. More than 3 terms may be held in any of these offices if they are not held consecutively.

- (d) A general meeting of the VCCC may:
  - (1) by special resolution remove a committee member from office; and
  - (2) elect an eligible member of the VCCC to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (e) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (d)(1) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the VCCC (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the VCCC.
- (f) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the VCCC or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.

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#### **55. Vacation of office**

- (a) A committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.
- (b) A person, not being the Ambassador or the Consul-General, ceases to be a committee member if he or she:

- (1) ceases to be a member of the VCCC; or
- (2) fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence under rule 66; or
- (3) otherwise ceases to be a committee member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

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## **56. Filling casual vacancies**

- (a) The Committee may appoint an eligible member of the VCCC to fill a position on the Committee that:
  - (1) has become vacant under rule 55; or
  - (2) was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (b) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (c) Rule 54 applies to any committee member appointed by the Committee under subrule (a) or (b).
- (d) The Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

## **Division 4 – Meetings of Committee**

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### **57. Meetings of Committee**

- (a) The Committee must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Committee.
- (b) The date, time and place of the first committee meeting must be determined by the members of the Committee as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the VCCC at which the members of the Committee were elected.
- (c) Special committee meetings may be convened by the President or by any 4 members of the Committee.

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### **58. Notice of meetings**

- (a) Notice of each committee meeting must be given to each committee member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (b) Notice may be given of more than one committee meeting at the same time.
- (c) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (d) If a special committee meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (e) The only business that may be conducted at the special committee meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

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## **59. Urgent meetings**

- (a) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 58 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- (b) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- (c) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

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## **60. Procedure and order of business**

- (a) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Committee must be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- (b) The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

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## **61. Use of technology**

- (a) A committee member who is not physically present at a committee meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that committee member and the committee members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (b) For the purposes of this Part, a committee member participating in a committee meeting as permitted under subrule (a) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

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## **62. Quorum**

- (a) No business may be conducted at a Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (b) The quorum for a committee meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 61) of at least 5 committee members holding office.
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a committee meeting:
  - (1) in the case of a special meeting – the meeting lapses;
  - (2) in any other case – the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment and notice of the time, date and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with rule 58.

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## **63. Voting**

- (a) On any question arising at a committee meeting, each committee member present at the meeting, not being the Ambassador or the Consul-General, has one vote.

- (b) The Ambassador or the Consul-General have an advisory role on the committee only and are not entitled to a vote at any committee meeting,
  - (c) A motion is carried if a majority of committee members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
  - (d) Subrule (c) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
  - (e) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
  - (f) Voting by proxy at a committee meeting is not permitted.
- 

#### **64. Conflict of interest**

- (a) A committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Committee.
  - (b) The member:
    - (1) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
    - (2) must not vote on the matter.
  - (c) This rule does not apply to a material personal interest:
    - (1) that exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the VCCC is established; or
    - (2) that the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the VCCC.
- 

#### **65. Minutes of meeting**

- (a) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each committee meeting.
  - (b) The minutes must record the following:
    - (1) the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
    - (2) the business considered at the meeting;
    - (3) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
    - (4) any material personal interest disclosed under rule 64;
    - (5) the names of members granted a leave of absence for the meeting.
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**66. Leave of absence**

- (a) The Committee may grant a committee member leave of absence from committee meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (b) The Committee must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the committee member to seek the leave in advance.

## Part 6 – Financial Matters

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### 67. Source of funds

The funds of the VCCC may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, sponsorships, interest and any other sources approved by the Committee.

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### 68. Management of funds

- (a) The VCCC must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the VCCC is made and into which all of the VCCC's revenue is deposited.
  - (b) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the VCCC, the Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the VCCC.
  - (c) The Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the VCCC (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.
  - (d) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by the Treasurer and another committee member or, if the Treasurer is not able to sign, the President and another committee member.
  - (e) Any electronic funds transfer from an account held by the VCCC must be electronically approved by the Treasurer and another committee member or, if the Treasurer is not able to sign, the President and another committee member.
  - (f) All funds of the VCCC must be deposited into the financial account of the VCCC no later than 5 working days after receipt.
  - (g) With the approval of the Committee, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.
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### 69. Financial records

- (a) The VCCC must keep financial records that:
    - (1) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
    - (2) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
  - (b) The VCCC must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
  - (c) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control:
    - (1) the financial records for the current financial year; and
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- (2) any other financial records as authorised by the Committee.
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## **70. Financial statements**

- (a) For each financial year, the Committee must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the VCCC are met.
- (b) Without limiting subrule (a), those requirements include:
  - (1) the preparation of the financial statements;
  - (2) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
  - (3) the certification of the financial statements by the Committee;
  - (4) the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the VCCC;
  - (5) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.

## Part 7 – General Matters

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### 71. Common seal

- (a) The VCCC may have a common seal.
  - (b) If the VCCC has a common seal:
    - (1) the name of the VCCC must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
    - (2) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Committee and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two committee members;
    - (3) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.
- 

### 72. Registered address

The registered address of the VCCC is:

- (a) the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Committee; or
  - (b) if the Committee has not determined an address to be the registered address: the postal address of the Secretary.
- 

### 73. Notice requirements

- (a) Any notice required to be given to a member or a committee member under these Rules may be given:
    - (1) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
    - (2) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
    - (3) by email or facsimile transmission.
  - (b) Subrule (a) does not apply to notice given under rule 59.
  - (c) Any notice required to be given to the VCCC or the Committee may be given:
    - (1) by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; or
    - (2) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
    - (3) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
    - (4) if the Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances:
      - (A) by email to the email address of the VCCC or the Secretary; or
      - (B) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the VCCC.
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## 74. Custody and inspection of books and records

- (a) Members may on request inspect free of charge:
  - (1) the register of members;
  - (2) the minutes of general meetings;
  - (3) subject to subrule (b), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the VCCC, including minutes of Committee meetings.
- (b) The Committee may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the VCCC that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the VCCC.
- (c) The Committee must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (d) Subject to subrule (b), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the VCCC referred to in this rule and the VCCC may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (e) For purposes of this rule **relevant documents** means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the VCCC and includes the following:
  - (1) its membership records;
  - (2) its financial statements;
  - (3) its financial records;
  - (4) records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the VCCC.

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## 75. Winding up and cancellation

- (a) The VCCC may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (b) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the VCCC, the surplus assets of the VCCC must not be distributed to any members or former members of the VCCC.
- (c) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the VCCC and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.
- (d) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

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## 76. Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the VCCC.