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## RULES

MADE UNDER

THE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE 1955  
(No. 36 of 1955).

UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE 1955 THE FOLLOWING RULES HAVE BEEN MADE:—

### 1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be "The Guyana Society for the Blind".

### 2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be:—

- (1) To provide education, training, and employment for adult blind persons;
- (2) To assist, develop and extend the activities of agencies (public and private), institutions and associations for the blind as may be advantageous for the welfare of the blind in Guyana;
- (3) To co-operate with other institutions, associations, or with Governmental Agencies having objects similar in whole or in part to those of the Society;
- (4) To do all such other acts and things as are incidental to the attainment of the objects of the Society, and generally to promote the best interests of the blind of Guyana.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Any blind person of twenty-one years of age who is a resident of Guyana shall, upon application, be registered as a member of the Society with full voting rights, without the payment of any fee, and shall remain a member as long as he or she is resident in Guyana subject to subsection (3) hereunder.
- (2) Any person may, upon application in the first instance, and subject to the payment of a \$2.00 annual membership fee, become and remain a member of the Society with full voting rights. Every person enrolled under this provision shall only be entitled to the rights of membership if membership fees have been fully paid for the current calendar year.

- (3) Any member who, in the opinion of the Board of Management, (who shall be the sole and final authority), has been guilty of conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Society, shall, upon a three quarters vote of the members of the Board present and voting at a Board Meeting, have his or her name removed from the roll of membership forthwith and the name of the person so removed shall not be restored to the roll **except upon** a three quarters vote of the members of the Board present and voting at a subsequent Board Meeting. No rebate of fees shall be paid to any person expelled under this provision.
- (4) Membership fees shall be paid upon a calendar year basis.
- (5) The Board of Management may elect persons as Honorary Members of the Society. Such members shall not have voting rights.

#### **4. PATRON AND VICE-PATRONS**

The Board of Management shall nominate a Patron and one or more Vice-Patrons of the Society.

#### **5. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- (1) The business of the Society shall be managed by a Board of Management consisting of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Committee of not more than twelve members.
- (2) The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and not more than ten Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. The Board of Management shall contain at least two blind persons. Elected members of the Board shall be members of the Society and shall not be paid officers of the Society.
- (3) The Secretary of the Society shall be the **Executive Officer** appointed by the Board if such an officer has been appointed. If no Executive Officer is appointed the Secretary shall be elected in the same manner as other executive members of the Board. Only a Secretary who has been elected shall have a vote at Board Meetings.
- (4) One member of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister for the time being charged with the responsibility for matters affecting the blind, and one member by the Minister for the time being charged with the responsibility for education.
- (5) The tenure of office of all Board Members shall commence at the termination of the Annual General Meeting at which the Board Members are elected and shall continue until the termination of the next Annual Meeting.

- (6) The Board of Management shall meet at such intervals as it may fix by agreement but at least once in every three months. Members of the Board shall be notified by the Secretary of all meetings at least five days in advance.
- (7) Seven voting members shall form a quorum at any Board Meeting, and all matters shall be decided by a majority vote of members present and voting except as otherwise provided.
- (8) In the event of a member of the Board dying or resigning prior to the expiration of his or her term of office, the vacancy so created may be filled by the Board except in the case of appointed members who may be replaced by the appropriate Ministry. The person so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the person he replaced.
- (9) The Board may engage or authorise the engagement of an Executive Officer to be responsible to the Board for the day to day operation of the activities of the Society and/or such officers, servants, agents and employees of the Society as it may think fit.
- (10) The Board shall publish an Annual Report and an Audited Annual Financial Statement prior to each Annual General Meeting giving an account of all financial and other activities during the fiscal year just finished. All members of the Society shall be supplied with a copy of this Report and Statement at least seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (11) The Board shall have the power to add to their number by co-opting members of the Society or the General Public for special duties or for obtaining specialist advice on any matter under their attention. Such co-opted persons shall not have a vote at Board Meeting.
- (12) The Board of Management may appoint Sub-Committees for such purposes and with such power as may be deemed necessary. The president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer shall be ex officio members of all sub-committees. The quorum for sub-committees shall be four.

## 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- (1) The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all General Meetings of the Society and at all meetings of the Board. In the event of neither the President nor the Vice-President being present at a meeting, the meeting shall elect one of their number to be chairman at that meeting. During the election of Board members at the Annual General Meeting the Chairman shall retire from the chair and a returning officer,

other than a member of the current Board, elected by the meeting, shall preside until the elections are completed.

- (2) The President shall be ex-officio a member of all committees of the Society and of the Board. A standing chairman, elected for any committee, shall preside at all meetings of such committees. In the absence of the standing chairman the members present shall elect one of their member to be chairman.
- (3) The paid officers of the Society shall perform such duties as the Board may from time to time prescribe, subject to the provisions of these rules and the terms of their employment.
- (4) The Secretary shall prepare and keep up to date a Membership Roll of the Society listing the names and addresses of all members who are currently entitled to membership rights of the Society.

#### 7. AUDITORS

All accounts and other records relating to the finances of the Society shall be audited at least once in every year. The Balance Sheet and Financial Statement of the affairs of the Society for its Fiscal Year shall be accompanied by the Certificate of Audit and report of the Auditor or Auditors. The Auditor or Auditors shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Board which shall fix the remuneration to be paid to him or her or them.

#### 8. FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of the Society shall end on September 30.

#### 9. MEETINGS

- (1) An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at such a time and place as the Board may determine; provided that the Meeting shall be held within three months after the end of each Fiscal Year. Notice by advertisement in at least two local newspapers shall be given at least seven days in advance of the date of the meeting stating the time and place of the meeting.
- (2) Business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive and adopt the Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement of the Board, to elect officers (other than paid officers) and such members of the Board as may be necessary, for the ensuing year, and to discuss any motions presented at the meeting. Notice of all motions to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting must be submitted to the Secretary at least three weeks before the Annual General Meeting and the Secretary shall notify members of the Society of the deadline for submitting motions two weeks in advance of the deadline.

- (3) General Meetings of the Society may be held to discuss particular matters concerning the Society. Such meetings shall be convened on the decision of the Board of Management or upon written application made by at least ten members of the Society to the Board, which application shall set out in detail the nature of the business to be discussed. No business shall be transacted at General Meetings except that which has been listed on the notices to members of the Society summoning them to the Meeting.
- (4) Notice convening any meeting of the Society shall state the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the business, and shall be delivered or posted to each member of the Society at his registered address at least seven days before the date of the Meeting.
- (5) Twenty members shall form a quorum at all meetings of the Society. In the event of any meeting of the Society failing through the lack of a quorum the meeting shall be adjourned to the same day of the following week and any number of members then present shall constitute a quorum.
- (6) The Chairman of any Meeting of the Society, the Board, or any committee have an original, and, in the event of a tie, a casting vote.
- (7) All matters shall be decided at General Meetings by a majority vote of those present and voting.

## 10. SUBSIDIARY AND AUXILIARY ASSOCIATIONS

The Society may establish and support, or aid in the establishment and support of, associations or committees to provide local administration for services of the Society in appropriate areas.

## 11. FURTHER POWERS OF THE SOCIETY

- (1) The Society may seek paying members
- (2) The Society may, for the purpose of advancing its activities, raise and acquire funds by Government grants private subscriptions and donations, special efforts, and by any other lawful means within the powers of the Society.
- (3) The Society may invest, in such securities as the Board may from time to time determine, such monies of the Society as are not immediately required.

## 12. AMENDMENT OF RULES

The Society may at any time make, alter or revoke any rule as is deemed expedient; provided that:

- (1) no rule shall be altered or revoked, except on the request of the Board submitted to a General Meeting of the Society, seven days notice of which, stating the proposed new rule or alteration or revocation, has been given by circular signed by the Secretary for the time being of the Society and posted to each member of the Society at his registered address; or except at a General Meeting convened in pursuance of a requisition in writing addressed to the Board by not less than ten members; and
- (2) no new rule, nor any alteration or revocation of a rule, shall come into force or take effect until it has been approved by the Governor-General and published in the Official Gazette; and
- (3) no new rule, nor any alternation or revocation of a rule shall be deemed to have been approved by a General Meeting unless at least two thirds of the members of the Society present and voting shall declare in favour thereof.

Approved this 28th day of June, 1967.

D. J. G. ROSE,  
Governor General.