



## **RULES ON RULES**

### **SECTION 1: OVERVIEW**

1.1 The Rules on Rules is a SMUSA Standing Order that regulates the interpretation and enforcement of the SMUSA Constitution and Standing Orders.

### **SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS**

2.1 This Standing Order adopts the definitions of terms found in Article 1.3 of the SMUSA Constitution.

### **SECTION 3: INTERPRETATION OF RULES**

3.1 In the interpretation of a provision in the Constitution/Standing Order, an interpretation that would promote the purpose or object underlying the Constitution/Standing Order (whether that purpose or object is expressly stated in the Constitution/Standing Order or not) is to be preferred to an interpretation that would not promote that purpose or object.

3.2 In the interpretation of a provision of the Constitution/Standing Order, if any material not forming part of the Constitution/Standing Order is capable of assisting in the ascertainment of the meaning of the provision, consideration may be given to that material —

- (a) to confirm that the meaning of the provision is the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the Constitution/Standing Order and the purpose or object underlying the Constitution/Standing Order; or
- (b) to ascertain the meaning of the provision when —
  - (i) the provision is ambiguous or obscure; or
  - (ii) the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the Constitution/Standing Order and the purpose or object underlying the Constitution/Standing Order leads to a result that is manifestly absurd or unreasonable.

3.3 Without limiting section 3.2, the material that may be considered in accordance with that subsection in the interpretation of a provision of the Constitution/Standing Order includes —

- (a) all matters not forming part of the Constitution/Standing Order that are set out in the document containing the text of the Constitution/Standing Order as produced by the Association;
- (b) any explanatory statement relating to the Constitution/Standing Order containing the provision;
- (c) the presentation made in a General or Council meeting by an Executive Committee Member on the occasion of the moving by that Executive Committee Member of a motion that the Constitution/Standing Order or amendments proposed to the Constitution/Standing Order containing the provision be adopted;
- (d) any relevant material in any official record of General or Council meetings; and
- (e) any document that is declared by the Constitution/Standing Order to be a relevant document for the purposes of this section.

#### **SECTION 4: ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**

4.1 The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible for enforcing the Constitution.

4.2 Where in the Constitution or any standing order, an Executive Committee member is empowered to exercise any power or perform any duty, the Executive Committee member may, in the absence of any provision to the contrary, with the approval of the President and by notification to the Council, depute any person by name subject to such conditions, exceptions and qualifications as the President may determine.

4.3 Thereupon or from the date specified by the President, the person so deputed has and may exercise that power and perform that duty.

4.4 The Executive Committee member may exercise any power or perform any duty conferred upon him or her by the Constitution or any standing order despite the delegation by the Executive Committee member of that power or duty.

#### **SECTION 5: TIME OF COMMENCEMENT**

5.1 The Constitution/Standing Order or a provision of the Constitution/Standing Order or any amendment made thereto comes into operation where a particular day for its coming into operation is specified by the Constitution/Standing Order or by a notification made to all Members or all Clubs and Societies or all Constituent Bodies by electronic mail (whichever applicable).

5.2 Where the Constitution/Standing Order or any amendment made thereto is to come into operation on a day specified by a notification made pursuant to section 5.1, the notification may

specify different days for different provisions or amendments to provisions of the Constitution/Standing Order to come into operation.

5.3 No Constitution/Standing Order or amendment made thereto shall come into operation unless

- (i) The notification made pursuant to section 5.1 has been made; and
- (ii) The Constitution/Standing Order to come into operation is published and made publicly accessible on the website of the Association on the date specified in the notification made pursuant to section 5.1.

## **SECTION 6: ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

6.1 The Order of Precedence for all rules shall be in descending order as follows:

- (i) Constitution of the Association
- (ii) Standing Orders and other rules of the Association made pursuant to Article 17 of the Constitution
- (iii) Constitution of Constituent Bodies/Standing Committees
- (iv) Standing Orders and other rules of the Constituent Body/Standing Committee made pursuant to its Constitution
- (v) Constitution of Clubs

## **SECTION 7: RESOLUTION OF INCONSISTENCIES**

7.1 The following inconsistencies shall be resolved by the Management Committee of the Constituent Body or Standing Committee

- (i) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Club and the Standing Orders/rules its governing Constituent Body/Standing Committee
- (ii) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Club and the Constitution of its governing Constituent Body/Standing Committee
- (iii) Inconsistencies between the Standing Orders/rules and Constitution of the Constituent Body/Standing Committee

7.2 The following inconsistencies shall be resolved by the Council

- (i) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Constituent Body/Standing Committee and the Standing Orders of the Association
- (ii) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Constituent Body/Standing Committee and the Constitution of the Association
- (iii) Inconsistencies between the Standing Orders and Constitution of the Association
- (iv) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Club and the Standing Orders of the Association
- (v) Inconsistencies between the Constitution of a Club and the Constitution of the Association

7.3 In resolving any inconsistencies, the Council shall apply the section 3 to interpret the provisions in question.

## **TIMELINE OF REVISIONS**

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**Proposed by:** Ong Ing Khim, Russell (SMUSA Honorary General Secretary)

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