

Rules of Association

January 2013



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1. Name of Association

a) The name of the association is Missing School.

2. Definitions and Interpretation

- a) **Definitions.** The following definitions apply unless the context requires otherwise:
 - i. the Act means the ACT Associations Incorporation Act 1991;
 - ii. Authorised Officer means, in relation to an Organisation, any Secretary or Committee Member of an Organisation and any person acting in those offices.
 - iii. the Association means Missing School.
 - iv. Committee, Committee Members and Committee Member means the persons or person holding the position of Committee Member from time to time of Missing School.

v. the Chairperson means:

- A. in relation to the proceedings at a meeting of the Committee or General Meeting the person presiding at the meeting of the Committee or General Meeting in accordance with Rule 10(a); or
- B. otherwise than in relation to the proceedings referred to in paragraph (a), the person referred to in Rule 10(b)(i) or, if that person is unable to perform the function, the Vice-Chairperson;
- vi. **Financial year** means the 12 month period from 1 July to the 30 June, inclusive or such other date as the Committee Members determine.
- vii. General Meeting means meeting convened under Rule 18;
- viii. **Meeting of the Committee or Committee Meeting** means meeting referred to in Rule 14;
- ix. Member means Financial Member of Missing School
- x. Ordinary resolution means resolution other than a Special Resolution;
- xi. **Rules** means these Rules as altered varied or amended from time to time referred to in Rule 23;
- xii. the Secretary means the Secretary referred to in Rule 16;
- xiii. Special Resolution has the meaning given by Section 4-70 of the Act;
- xiv. the Treasurer means the Treasurer referred to in Rule 11.



b) Interpretation

Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation. The following Rules apply unless the context requires otherwise:

- i. The singular includes the plural and conversely.
- ii. A gender includes all genders.
- iii. If a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning.
- iv. A reference to legislation or to a provision of legislation includes a modification or re-enactment of it, a legislative provision substituted for it and a regulation or statutory instrument issued under it.
- v. A reference to a person, association, company, partnership or other entity includes any of them.

3. Objects of Association

- a) Missing School is an initiative for keeping seriously sick kids connected to their school.
- b) The objects of **Missing School** are to:
 - i. Achieve formal recognition of special needs, leading to embedded, coherent and sustainable practices to meaningfully connect kids to their school, peers and learning when they experience long absences associated with serious illness. This applies in equal measure to siblings of these kids.
 - ii. Support families whose kids miss school through circumstances associated with serious illness by sharing information, research, resources, strategies and helpful connections.
 - iii. Raise awareness and inform the efforts of educators, health providers, governments, and the community in keeping kids connected to school throughout absence associated with serious illness.
 - iv. Investigate best models and enabling technology for keeping kids connected to school throughout absence associated with serious illness.
 - v. Raise funds for research and initiatives aligned with mission and goals.

4. Qualifications for Membership of Association

- a) Membership of **Missing School** is open to natural persons interested in achieving the objects of the association.
- b) A person wishing to become a Member shall:



- i. apply for membership to the organisation in writing in such form as the organisation from time to time directs
- ii. pay the annual subscription and joining fee or fees set by the organisation from time to time.
- c) Membership is to be renewed annually.
- d) The Committee shall consider each application made under Rule 5(c) at a meeting of the Committee and shall at the meeting of the Committee or a subsequent meeting of the Committee accept or reject that application. Where an application is rejected, any fees transferred to the organisation by the applicant shall be returned to them.

5. Fees and Subscriptions

- a) The joining fee for Missing School is free.
- b) The annual membership fee is free.

6. Register of Members of Association

- a) The Secretary shall on behalf of Missing School keep and maintain the register of Members and that register shall be so kept and maintained by the Secretary of Missing School.
- b) The Secretary shall cause the name of a person that ceases to be a Member under Rule 8 to be deleted from the register of Members referred to in Sub-Rule(a).

7. Resignation of Members of Association

- a) A Member that delivers notice in writing of its resignation from **Missing School** to the Secretary or the Committee ceases on that delivery to be a Member.
- b) A person that ceases to be a Member under Sub-Rule (a) remains liable to pay to **Missing School** the amount of any subscription due and payable by that person to **Missing School** but unpaid at the date of that cessation.

8. Expulsion of Members of Association

- a) If the Committee considers that a Member should be expelled from membership of Missing School because his/her conduct is detrimental to the interests of the Association, the Committee shall communicate, either orally or in writing, to the Member:
 - i. notice of the proposed expulsion and of the time, date and place of the meeting of Committee at which the question of that expulsion will be decided; and
 - ii. particulars of that conduct,



- not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting of the Committee referred to in Sub-Rule (a)(i).
- b) At the meeting of Committee referred to in a notice communicated under Sub-Rule (a), the Committee may, having afforded the Member concerned a reasonable opportunity to be heard by, or to make representations in writing to, the Committee, expel or decline to expel that Member from membership of **Missing School** and shall, immediately after deciding whether or not so to expel that Member, communicate that decision in writing to that Member.
- c) Subject to Sub-Rule (e), a Member that is expelled under Sub-Rule (b) from membership of **Missing School** ceases to be a Member 14 days after the day on which the decision so to expel the Member is communicated to him/her under Sub-Rule (b).
- d) A Member that is expelled under Sub-Rule (b) from membership **Missing School** shall, if he/she wishes to appeal against that expulsion, give notice to the Secretary of his/her intention to do so within the period of 14 days referred to in Sub-Rule (c).
- e) When notice is given under Sub-Rule (d):
 - i. Missing School in a General Meeting may, after having afforded the Member that gave that notice a reasonable opportunity to be heard by, or to make representations in writing to, Missing School in the General Meeting, confirm or set aside the decision of the Committee to expel that Member; and
 - ii. the Member who gave that notice does not cease to be a Member unless and until the decision of the Committee to expel him/her is confirmed under this Sub-Rule.

9. Committee

- a) The affairs of **Missing School** shall be managed exclusively by a Committee consisting of:
 - i. a Chairperson;
 - ii. a Secretary;
 - iii. a Treasurer; and
 - iv. up to three other persons, who shall be appointed under Sub-Rule 9 (c)
- b) A person that is not a natural person cannot be a Committee Member of **Missing School**.
- c) Method of selection
 - Prior to the first Annual General Meeting of Missing School, the Committee members shall comprise those persons appointed by the founding committee of Missing School.
- d) Term of appointment



- i. Committee Members shall serve for a period of up to three years.
- ii. A Committee Member shall not be appointed to undertake more than three terms of service (up to nine years in total).
- iii. Notwithstanding Sub –Rule (d)(i) and (ii), a Committee Member's period of service may be determined under Rules 12 and 13.
- e) Election of Committee Members
 - i. Where a vacancy arises in the committee, whether due to conclusion of term of appointment or application of Rules 12 and 13, the vacancy shall be filled by election by the members of **Missing School**.
 - ii. Nominations of candidates for election to the Committee, either as office bearers or as ordinary committee members:
 - a. Must be made in writing and endorsed by two members of Missing School;
 - b. Require the nominee's written consent
 - c. Must be given to the Secretary of Missing School no less than seven days before the date fixed for the election, usually the Annual General Meeting.
 - iii. A ballot will only be required if there are more nominees than there are vacancies for the position, either office bearer or ordinary committee member.
 - iv. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held.
 - v. The Committee will direct the conduct of the ballot.

10. Chairperson

- a) Subject to this Rule, the Chairperson shall preside at all General Meetings and meetings of the Committee.
- b) In the event of the absence from:
 - i. a General Meeting of:
 - A. the Chairperson, the Treasurer shall preside; or
 - B. both the Chairperson and the Treasurer, a Committee Member or Financial Member elected by the other Members at the General Meeting shall preside at the General Meeting; or
 - ii. a meeting of the Committee of:
 - A. the Chairperson, the Treasurer shall preside; or
 - B. both the Chairperson and the Treasurer, a Committee Member elected by the Committee Members present shall preside at the Committee Meeting.



11. Treasurer

- a) Subject to Rule 9, a Committee Member shall only be asked to take up the office of Treasurer if the Committee deems that he/she has the financial competence to perform the role as outlined in (b).
- b) The Treasurer shall:
 - comply on behalf of Missing School with the Act in respect of the accounting records of the Association;
 - ii. whenever directed to do so by the Chairperson, submit to the Committee a report, balance sheet or financial statement in accordance with that direction;
 - iii. have custody of all securities, books and documents of a financial nature and accounting records of **Missing School**, including those referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii); and
 - iv. perform such other duties as are imposed by these Rules on the Treasurer.

12. Termination of Committee members

- a) If the Committee considers that a Committee Member's conduct is detrimental to the interests of the Association or that he/she has breached the values of the Association including any agreed Code of Conduct for Committee members, then the Chairman shall terminate the term of office of that Committee Member.
- b) The Committee shall communicate this decision in writing to the Committee Member within seven (7) days of the decision; however the decision shall take effect immediately.
- c) Where the Committee Member is also a Financial Member of **Missing School**, then the process to expel that person as a member shall be in accordance with Rule 8.

13. Casual Vacancies in Membership of the Committee

- a) A casual vacancy occurs in the office of a Committee Member and that office becomes vacant if the Committee Member:
 - i. dies;
 - ii. resigns by notice in writing delivered to the Chairperson or, if the Committee Member is the Chairperson, to the Vice-Chairperson;
 - iii. is permanently incapacitated by mental or physical ill-health; and
 - iv. is absent from more than:
 - A. three consecutive meetings of the Committee; or



- B. three meetings of the Committee in the same financial year, of which he or she has received notice without tendering an apology to the person presiding at each of those meetings.
- b) Casual vacancies will be filled in accordance with Rule 9 (e).
 - where the vacancy arises within three months of the date scheduled for the annual general meeting, the vacancy will be filled by election of a new committee member at the annual general meeting.
 - ii. where the vacancy arises outside this timeframe the Committee may call for nominations from the membership to fill the vacancy in accordance with Rule 9 (e) (ii). If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held and the Committee may call a special general meeting to hold the ballot.

14. Proceedings of the Committee

- a) The Committee shall meet together for the dispatch of business from time to time as they think fit and the Chairperson may at any time, and on the request of a Committee Member, shall, convene a meeting of the Committee.
- b) Every Committee Member has one vote.
- c) Reasonable notice must be given to every Committee Member of the place, date and hour of every meeting of the Committee. Where any Committee Member is for the time outside of the ACT, notice need only be given to that Committee Member if contact details have been given.
- d) A question arising at a meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes, but, if there is an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting of the Committee shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her vote.
- e) A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be three.
- f) No business may be transacted at a meeting of Committee where a quorum is not present.
- g) Subject to these Rules, the procedure to be followed at a meeting of the Committee shall be determined by the Committee Members present at the meeting of the Committee.
- h) A resolution of the Committee is passed where it is agreed by all the Committee Members present without dissent or where a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of it.
- i) A Committee member present a meeting of the Committee is presumed to have agreed to, and to have voted in favour of, a resolution of the Committee unless he or she expressly dissents from or votes against the resolution at the meeting.



- j) The Committee shall ensure that minutes are kept of all proceedings at meetings of the Committee.
- k) A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by all Committee Members then entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Committee, is as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Committee duly convened and held.
- Any such resolution may consist of several documents (including a document sent or received by facsimile machine, telex, computer or other electronic device that provides that document, or a copy of that document, to a person in a permanent form or image, including an electronic or magnetic form or image) in like form each signed or assented to by one or more Committee Members.
- m) A copy of any such resolution shall be entered in the minute book of Committee proceedings.

15. Responsibilities, Powers and Duties of the Committee

- a) The responsibilities of the Committee are to approve the specific objectives, work program and budget for the ensuing year.
- b) The business of **Missing School** shall be managed by and vested in the Committee who may exercise all such powers of the Association not required by these Rules to be exercised by the Association in General Meeting.
- c) The Committee shall have the management of the income, funds and property of Missing School and the management and superintendence of all other affairs and executive functions of the Association not otherwise herein provided for and no expenditure may be incurred or money paid by or on behalf of the Association otherwise than with the approval of the Committee.
- d) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint lawyers, bankers, secretaries and all such officers and servants of **Missing School** as it may consider necessary and shall regulate their duties, fix their salaries and other terms of employment.
- e) The Committee may appoint such advisory Committees or technical committees as it deems necessary and make Rules relating to the appointing and removal of Members of such Committees, the conduct of their meetings, the appointment and the duties of the Chairperson of such Committees and all other matters relating thereto.

16. Secretary

- a) The Committee shall ensure that a (Committee) Secretary is appointed.
- b) The Secretary shall:
 - i. co-ordinate the correspondence of **Missing School**;



- ii. keep full and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and of **Missing School**:
- iii. comply on behalf of **Missing School** with the Act in respect of the Rules of the Association;
- iv. have custody of all books, documents, records and registers of Missing School; and
- v. perform such other duties as are imposed by these Rules on the Secretary.

17. Indemnity

a) Every Committee Member (including the Chairperson and the Treasurer), Agent, Auditor, Chief Executive Officer, Secretary and other officer for the time being of the Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of **Missing School** against any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his or her favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him or her by a Court in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty, or breach of trust in connection with his or her responsibilities as an officer of **Missing School**.

18. General Meetings including Annual General Meeting

- a) The Committee:
 - may at any time convene a General Meeting;
 - ii. shall convene annual General Meetings; and
 - iii. shall, within 30 days of:
 - A. receiving a request in writing to do so from not less than five Members, convene a special General Meeting for the purpose specified in that request; or
 - B. the Secretary receiving a notice under Rule 8(d), convene a special General Meeting for the purpose of dealing with the appeal to which that notice relates.
- b) The Members making a request referred to in sub-Rule 18(a)(iii)(A) shall:
 - i. state in that request the purpose for which the special General Meeting concerned is required; and
 - ii. sign that request.
- c) If a special General Meeting is not convened within the relevant period of 30 days referred to:



- i. in sub-Rule 18(a)(iii)(A), the Members who made the request concerned may themselves convene a special General Meeting as if they were the Committee; or
- ii. in sub-Rule 18(a)(iii)(B), the Member who gave the notice concerned may itself convene a special General Meeting as if it were the Committee.
- d) When a special General Meeting is convened under sub-Rule 18(c)(i) or (ii):
 - i. the Committee shall ensure that the Members or Member convening the special General Meeting are supplied free of charge with particulars of all Members; and
 - ii. **Missing School** shall pay the reasonable expense of convening and holding the special meeting.
- e) Subject to Sub-Rule (h), the Secretary shall give to all Members not less than 14 days' notice of a General Meeting of any motions to be moved at the General Meeting.
- f) A notice given under Sub-Rule (e) shall specify:
 - i. when and where the General Meeting concerned is to be held; and
 - ii. particulars of the business to be transacted at the General Meeting concerned and of the order in which that business is to be transacted.
- g) In the case of an Annual General Meeting, the order in which business is to be transacted is:
 - i. first, the consideration of the accounts and reports of the Committee including those of the Chairperson and the Treasurer;
 - ii. second, the election of Committee Members to replace outgoing Committee Members;
 - iii. third, the appointment of auditors to conduct an audit of the accounts of **Missing School** in accordance with the Act; and
 - iv. fourth, any other business requiring consideration by **Missing School** in a General Meeting.
- h) The Secretary shall give to all Members not less than 21 days' notice of a General Meeting at which a special resolution is to be proposed and of any other motions to be moved at that General Meeting.
- i) The Secretary may give a notice under Sub-Rule (e) or (h) by:
 - i. serving it on a Member personally or
 - ii. sending it by post to a Member at the address of the Member appearing in the register of Members;
 - iii. by sending it by any means, including a facsimile machine, telex, computer or other electronic device, that provides that document, or a copy of that document, to that person in a permanent form or image, including an electronic or magnetic form or image.



j) When a notice is sent by post under Sub-Rule (i)(ii), sending of the notice shall be deemed to be properly effected if the notice is sufficiently addressed and posted to the Member concerned by ordinary prepaid mail.

19. Quorum in Proceedings at General Meetings

- a) At a General Meeting 60% of the Members present in person or by proxy constitute a quorum.
- b) If within 45 minutes after the time specified for the holding of a General Meeting in a notice given under Rule 18(e) or (h):
 - i. as a result of a request or notice referred to in Rule 18(a)(iii) or as a result of action taken under Rule 18(c) a quorum is not present, the General Meeting lapses; or
 - ii. otherwise than as a result of a request, notice of action referred to in Sub-Rule (i), the General Meeting stands adjourned to the same time on the same day in the following week and to the same venue.
- c) If within 30 minutes of the time appointed by Sub-Rule (b)(ii) for the resumption of an adjourned General Meeting a quorum is not present, the Members who are present in person by proxy may nevertheless proceed with the business of that General Meeting as if a quorum were present.
- d) The Chairperson may, with the consent of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present, and shall, if so directed by such a General Meeting, adjourn that General Meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- e) There shall not be transacted at an adjourned General Meeting any business other than business left unfinished or on the agenda at the time when the General Meeting was adjourned.
- f) When a General Meeting is adjourned for a period of 30 days or more, the Secretary shall give notice under Rule 18 of the adjourned General Meeting as if that General Meeting were a fresh General Meeting.
- g) At a General Meeting:
 - i. an ordinary resolution put to the vote shall be decided by a majority of votes cast on a show of hands: and
 - ii. a special resolution put to the vote shall be decided in accordance with Section 4-70 of the Act.
- h) A declaration by the Chairperson at a General Meeting that a resolution has been passed as an ordinary resolution thereat shall be evidence of that fact unless, during the General Meeting at which the resolution is submitted, a poll is demanded in accordance with Sub-Rule (i).



- i) At a General Meeting, a poll may be demanded by the Chairperson at the General Meeting or by five or more Members present in person or by proxy and, if so demanded, shall be taken in such manner as the Chairperson directs.
- j) If a poll is demanded and taken under Sub-Rule (i) in respect of an ordinary resolution, a declaration by the Chairperson of the result of the poll is evidence of the matter so declared.
- k) A poll demanded under Sub-Rule (i) on the election of a person to preside over a General Meeting or on the question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith on that demand being made.

20. Minutes of Meetings of Association

- a) The Secretary shall cause proper minutes of all proceedings of all General Meetings and Committee Meetings to be taken and then to be entered within 30 days after the holding of each General Meeting or Committee Meeting, as the case requires, in a minute book kept for that purpose.
- b) That Chairperson shall ensure that the minutes taken of a General Meeting or Committee meeting under Sub-Rule (a) are checked and signed as correct by the Chairperson of the General Meeting or Committee Meeting to which those minutes relate or of the next succeeding General Meeting or meeting of the Committee, as the case requires.
- c) When minutes have been entered and signed as correct under this Rule, they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that:
 - i. the General Meeting or Committee Meeting to which they relate (in this Sub-Rule called *the meeting*) was duly convened and held;
 - ii. all proceedings recorded as having taken place at the meeting did in fact take place thereat; and
 - iii. all appointments or elections purporting to have been made at the meeting have been validly made.

21. Voting Rights of Members of Association

a) Subject to these Rules, each Member present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting is entitled to a deliberative vote.

22. Proxies of Members of Association

a) A Member (in this Rule called **the appointing Member**) may appoint in writing another Member who is a natural person to be the proxy of the appointing Member and to attend, and vote on behalf of the appointing Member at, any General Meeting.



23. Rules of Association

- a) **Missing School** may alter or rescind these Rules, or make Rules additional to these Rules, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Act.
- b) These Rules bind every Member of **Missing School** to the same extent as if every Member and the Association had signed and sealed these Rules and agreed to be bound by all their provisions.

24. Common Seal of Association

- a) **Missing School** shall have a common seal on which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.
- b) The common seal of **Missing School** shall not be used without the express authority of the Committee and every use of that common seal shall be recorded in the minute book referred to in Rule 20.
- c) The affixing of the common seal of **Missing School** shall be witnessed by any two of the Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- d) The common seal of **Missing School** shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary or of such other person as the Committee Members from time to time decide.

25. The Manner in which the Funds of the Association are to be Managed

- a) The assets and income of the organisation shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.
- b) The Committee shall have the power to manage the funds of **Missing School** and any two Committee Members may sign cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other documents for and on behalf of the Association.
- c) The Committee may delegate an authorised officer of the Association to disperse funds on behalf of the Association in accordance with:
 - (i) the financial delegations established from time to time by the Committee; and
 - (ii) the program of work for implementation approved by the Committee on a quarterly basis or as agreed by a meeting of the Committee.

26. Inspection of records and accounts

a) The financial affairs shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Act.



b) A Member may at any reasonable time inspect without charge the books, documents, records and securities of **Missing School** at any reasonable hour on a business day.

27. Finance Period and the Sources from which Funds of the Association are to be Derived

- a) The Financial year of **Missing School** shall terminate on the 30th day of June each year, or such other date as the Committee may determine.
- b) Funds required for the purpose of carrying out the Association's objects shall be provided by:
 - i. Member donations;
 - ii. Donations:
 - iii. Fund raising activities;
 - iv. Revenue generated by the services, programs and merchandise of the Association;
 - v. Donations from or funding agreements with Partners;
 - vi. Grants and awards.
- c) All funds must be deposited in the Association's bank account as soon as practicable.

28. Distribution of Surplus Property on Revocation of Endorsement as Deductible Gift Recipient and/or Winding-up of Association

- a) If the endorsement of **Missing School** as a deductible gift recipient is revoked, the following shall be transferred to another organisation to which income tax deductible gifts can be made any surplus:
 - i. gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the organisation;
 - ii. contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the principal purpose of the organisation; and
 - iii. money received by the organisation because of such gifts and contributions.
- b) If, on the winding-up of **Missing School**, any property of the Association remains after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities and the costs, charges and expenses of that winding-up, that property shall be distributed:



- to another Association incorporated under the Act, or organisation with similar purposes, which is not carried on for profit or gain of its individual members and to which income tax deductible gifts can be made;
- which incorporated Association or purposes, as the case requires shall be determined by resolution of the Members when authorising and directing the Committee pursuant to the Act to prepare a distribution plan for the distribution of the surplus property of the Association.
- c) The liabilities of members on winding up are limited to unpaid levies, subscriptions or any other fees legally imposed by **Missing School** and owing to **Missing School** at the date of such winding up.

29. Transfer or Transmittal of Members' Rights

a) Members' rights are not transferable or transmittable in any circumstance.