

Statute

1. Name of the Association

The name of the Association shall be “Maltese Paediatric Association”.

2. Objects of the Association

The objects of the Association are:

- a. To promote the improvement of the level of medical care offered to children in Malta and Gozo.
- b. To organise postgraduate educational activities, for example, lectures, symposia, journal clubs.
- c. To promote paediatric research, with special emphasis on the local Maltese setting.
- d. To participate in health education.
- e. To promote and maintain professional standards in the care of children.
- f. To organise social activities for members.

3. Property of the Association

- a. The Association is empowered to acquire, own, administer, alienate and otherwise dispose of under any title whatsoever any property of whatever nature as it deems fit. It may accept unrestricted contributions and assistance in any form from private persons, from the public authorities and from international bodies.
- b. All income and property of the Association from whatever source shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the Association. No part thereof can be transferred or paid to any member of the Association, whether past or present, except as remuneration for services actually rendered to the Association and commissioned by the Committee of the Association.
- c. All funds and property of the Association shall be subject to the control of the Committee.

4. Type of association

The Association is a non-profit organisation. It is not a trade union and shall not undertake any trade union activities. The Association shall not engage in any political activities and members who are politically active within a political party in Malta shall not be eligible for election to the Committee of the Association.

5. Affiliation to other organisations

The Association may affiliate to local and foreign organisations whose objects include the promotion of the welfare and care of children, or seek representation at the committee of such organisations. Affiliation to overseas paediatric societies or organisations shall only be sought after approval by a simple majority at a General Meeting of the Association.

6. Address of the Association

The address of the Association shall be situated at such address, as the Committee of the Association shall from time to time determine. The choice of the address and any change thereof shall be notified by the Committee to all members of the Association and to any organisation to which the Association is affiliated by such means as the Committee shall determine.

7. Membership in the Association

Membership in the Association shall be Ordinary, Associate, Overseas and Honorary.

8. Eligibility for membership

- a. Ordinary membership: All medical doctors residing in the Maltese Islands and whose name is listed on the Specialist Registers of Paediatrics or Neonatology are eligible for membership as “Ordinary members”.
- b. Associate membership: Associate membership may be granted to residents in the Maltese Islands who are:
 1. Registered medical doctors who are undergoing formal training in the Specialties of Paediatrics or Neonatology.

Or
 2. Obstetricians

Or
 3. Surgeons with special interest in paediatric surgery

Or
 4. Other workers in fields closely related to paediatrics as may be determined from time to time by the Committee, such as social workers, physiotherapists, geneticists, and molecular biologists.

- c. Overseas membership: Persons who would, but for the requirement of resident status in Malta, be eligible for Ordinary or Associate membership shall be eligible as “Overseas Members” of the Association.

- d. Honorary membership: Honorary membership may be granted by the Association to individuals who have done a special service to Maltese children, even though such individuals may not otherwise be eligible for membership of any type in the Association.

9. Procedure for membership

- a. Any person eligible for membership may apply to the Secretary of the Association for entry as a member of the Association. Application forms for membership shall be obtained from the Secretary.

- b. The secretary may require any applicant to provide any information, which the Committee shall in its absolute discretion require as necessary or useful to the General Meeting in considering the application.

- c. Applications from persons who have applied for membership in the Association shall be put forward for approval by secret ballot before a General Meeting of the Association. An Approval of “50% plus 1” of ordinary members present at the General Meeting and entitled to vote is required for the person to be admitted as member of the Association.

- d. The Secretary shall inform the applicant whether he/she has been accepted as member of the Association or otherwise, and if in the affirmative, of the class of membership to which he/she has been admitted.

- e. In approving or refusing an application for membership the General Meeting is not obliged to motivate its decision.

- f. The Committee of the Association shall keep register of members, which shall be available to viewing by the members of the Association on request to the Secretary.

10. Termination of Membership

Membership in the Association is terminated as follows and/or for the following reasons:

- a. By notice in writing of resignation submitted by the resigning member to the Secretary;
 - b. Failure to pay the membership fee after the lapse of six months from written notice having been given to the member by an official of the Committee of the Association;
 - c. The commission of a criminal offence or being struck off the Medical Register because of professional misconduct;
 - d. If the member shall for any reason cease to be eligible for membership in the Association;
 - e. Conduct of the Member, which is considered by the Committee as detrimental to the honour and interests of the medical profession or of the Association.
11. Termination of membership shall be determined by a resolution passed and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Committee who are present at the meeting. Before resolving on the issue the Committee shall give to the member who is involved the opportunity to make submissions to the Committee, either personally or through a representative.
12. Where the membership of a member is terminated the Secretary shall communicate to the member the decision of the Committee and the reason for termination of membership.
13. A member whose membership has been terminated for any reason not being his own resignation from membership shall have fourteen working days from notice of such decision within which to appeal from the said decision at the next general meeting of the Association.
14. Any member whose membership has been terminated shall forfeit any membership fee he had paid and shall not be entitled for any refund in respect of same.

15. Organs of the Association

The Association has two organs, namely:

- a. the Committee; and
- b. the General Meeting of the Members.

16. Composition of the Committee

The Committee shall be composed of five members who shall be elected by the General Meeting at an annual general meeting. The members of the Committee shall serve on the Committee for a period of two years and shall retire on the election of the new Committee by the General Meeting. Candidates for election to serve on the Committee shall be proposed and seconded by written consent of two Ordinary Members of the Association. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election. The election of the President shall be held separately from the election of the four other members of the Committee. If no nomination for President is received, the General Meeting shall elect the five committee members, who shall then elect the President from amongst themselves. In the case of casual vacancies, the members of the Committee shall be entitled to co-opt from the Ordinary members of the Association any such member to fill the casual vacancy.

17. The officials of the Committee shall be the following:

- a. the President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Committee and of the General Meeting.
- b. the Vice-President, who shall substitute the President in his capacity of Chairman of the Committee and General Meeting in the latter's absence due to absence from Malta or inability to attend at any meeting.
- c. the Secretary, who shall act as secretary to the Committee and to the General Meeting, and who shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Organs of the Association.
- d. The Treasurer, and
- e. a member.

18. Functions of the Committee

The functions of the Committee shall be the following:

- a. To formulate and implement policies, which are in conformity with the statute of the Association, not being inconsistent with any policy, if any, decided upon at a General Meeting of the Association and not being on a matter, which is reserved exclusively by the Statute to the General Meeting of the Association.
- b. To carry on the management and administration of the Association in accordance with the policies of the Association.
- c. To do any act which is specifically reserved to it by the Statute.
- d. To call the Annual General Meeting and any General Meeting of the Association.

19. Procedure of meetings of the Committee

- a. The committee shall, subject to the provisions of this Statute, regulate its own procedure.

- b. Following an election of the members to the Committee the President shall call a meeting of the Committee within one week from the election during which meeting the officials of the Association composing the Committee shall be elected.
- c. The quorum for any meeting of the Committee shall be three members present in person throughout the duration of all the meeting.
- d. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meetings shall have a casting vote.
- e. Meetings shall be called by the Secretary on request of the President or of at least two members of the Committee. Notice of any meeting of the Committee shall be given in writing at least seven days before the date of the meeting, unless all Committee members waive such notice. The Notice of the meeting shall be accompanied by an agenda, which shall specify all matters to be discussed and decided upon at the meeting.

20. The General Meeting of the Members

- a. The General Meeting shall be composed of all Ordinary members of the Association who are entitled to attend and vote thereat.
- b. The General Meeting of the Members shall hold two types of general meetings, namely:
 - i. the Annual General Meeting and
 - ii. the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- c. Only Ordinary members who have paid their initial and/or annual membership fee can attend and vote at general meetings of the Association.
- d. Associate members and honorary members may be invited by the Committee to attend and speak at any such meetings, but shall not be entitled to vote thereat.

21. The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be convened every year in the month of April by the Committee. The Secretary shall give written notice of such meeting to all Ordinary members of the Association, informing them of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting at least two weeks in advance.

22. The Agenda of the Annual General Meetings shall include:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the last annual general meeting and extraordinary general meeting, if any.
- b. An annual report, to be made by the President or Secretary as the Committee shall determine.
- c. A financial report, to be made by the Treasurer.
- d. Approval of any application for membership in the Association.

- e. Any appeal from a decision of the Committee terminating the membership of any member.
- f. Any matter which any ordinary member of the Association would like to have discussed at the annual general meeting and which he would have notified the Committee at least one month before the 1st April of the year in which the Annual General Meeting is to be held.
- g. The election of the President and of the members of the Committee, where the Committee in office will be retiring.
- h. Amendments to the Statute.
- i. Any other matter.

23. The Extraordinary General Meeting

Any general meeting of the members of the Association which is not an annual general meeting shall be an extraordinary general meeting.

- 24. Any extraordinary general meeting shall be called to discuss business of particular importance and may be requisitioned either by the Committee or by at least five ordinary members of the Association making such request to the Committee.
- 25. The Secretary shall give written notice of such meeting to all Ordinary members of the Association, informing them of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting at least seven days in advance. In any case the extraordinary general meeting shall not be held later than one month from any requisition having been made by the members of the Association as aforesaid. Should the Secretary fail to call the meeting the requisitioning members shall be entitled to call the meeting themselves in the same manner as the Secretary calls such meetings.

26. Procedure at general meetings

- a. A general meeting shall, subject to the provisions of the Statute, regulate its own procedure.
- b. The quorum for any general meeting shall be at least 50% of the members eligible to attend and vote present in person throughout the duration of all the meeting. If within 30 minutes from the appointed time, a quorum is not present, the meeting will be reconvened within a period of two weeks, when the quorum shall again be 50% of all paid-up ordinary members.
- c. Resolutions amending or altering the Statute or dissolving the Association require a two-thirds majority of ordinary members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. All other resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meetings shall have a casting vote.
- d. Voting shall ordinarily be by show of hands, with each ordinary member having one vote, unless such member requests that voting shall be made by secret vote.

- e. Election of the President and Committee members of the Association shall be by secret ballot. Ordinary members who are unable to be present during the Annual General Meeting may authorise in writing another ordinary member attending the AGM to vote for the new Committee of the Association on his/her behalf. Such written authorisation must reach the secretary of the Association before the commencement of the AGM. Only one proxy vote may be carried by each attending ordinary member.
- f. Meetings shall be called by the Secretary on request of the Committee or in the case of extraordinary general meetings also on request by ordinary members of the Association as aforesaid. Notice of any meeting shall be given in writing as aforesaid, unless all ordinary members entitled to attend and vote waive such notice. The Notice of the meeting shall in all cases be accompanied by an Agenda which shall specify all matters to be discussed and decided upon at the meeting.

27. Notices

All notices required to be given in accordance with this Statute shall be given by ordinary mail or by hand and shall in all cases be presumed to have been given within three days from posting. The absence of receipt of any notice by any Committee member or member who was entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate any meeting to which the notice referred.

28. Representation of the Association

The representation of the Association, whether in judicial matters or in extra-judicial matters shall vest in the President or in any other person appointed for the purpose by the Committee. Provided that any agreement purporting to bind the Association shall be entered into and executed on behalf of the Association by the President or Secretary and any other member of the Committee acting jointly or by any other person appointed for the purpose by the Committee. Cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange and any other instruments of credit may be signed by the President or Treasurer acting jointly with any other member of the Committee or by any other person appointed for the purpose by the Committee.

29. Dissolution of the Association

On dissolution of the Association the general meeting resolving the dissolution of the Association shall appoint a liquidator to wind up the assets of the Association. All the property of the Association shall on winding up be transferred to a charitable institution nominated by the General Meeting resolving the dissolution of the Association.
