

# **LAE GAME FISHING CLUB**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. NAME**

The name of the Club shall be the "LAE GAME FISHING CLUB". The short form shall be LGFC.

### **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) To develop and foster the best traditions of sportsmanship for the advancement of saltwater game fishing.
- (b) To provide facilities for the accurate weighing and recording of Members catches in Papua New Guinea and forwarding of application for Australian and World records claimed by Members.
- (c) to collect reliable data by systematic testing for grounds and observations of weather, tides, currents and movements of fish with a view of ascertaining the relation of same to the movements of game fish.
- (d) To award such certificates and trophies as may be allocated by this Constitution.
- (e) To affiliate or amalgamate with associations of similar objects or otherwise.
- (f) To purchase, transfer, sell, assign, mortgage, charge, lease, hire or exchange land, boats, gear and/or any other property in any manner allowed by law.
- (g) To pay out of Club funds all expenses of, and incidental to, the management of the Club, and the carrying out of its objects, including the payment of salaries to persons employed.
- (h) To promote social activities amongst its Members.
- (i) To do all such lawful acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the carrying out of Club aims and objectives.
- (j) To list suitable boats and boatmen for this type of fishing and to arrange hire charges for Members.
- (k) To follow Rules of International Game Fishing Association (IGFA).

### **3. THE CLUB YEAR**

- (a) The Club's financial and competition year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) The Club shall consist of the following classes of membership:
  - (i) Life Member
  - (ii) Full Member
  - (iii) Junior Member
  - (iv) Country Member
  - (v) Honorary Member
  - (vi) Visiting Member

as the case may be

- (b) Membership of the Club shall be open to all persons who are interested in the catching of game fish under IGFA Rules.
- (c) Membership numbers of the Club shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee at its discretion.

### **5. LIFE MEMBERS**

- (a) The Committee may recommend to the A.G.M. that a Member who has rendered special or extraordinary service to the Club be appointed a Life Member

- (b) A candidate for Life Membership shall be elected by a majority of three-quarters of the Members present at such A.G.M.
- (c) Life Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of full membership but shall not be required to pay a membership fee
- (d) Inactive Life Members shall confirm in writing to the Secretary thirty (30) days before the A.G.M. each year that they wish to remain on the Members Register, otherwise membership will lapse. The Secretary shall invite their reply in writing at least (40) days before the A.G.M. each year before this condition shall apply.

6. **FULL MEMBER**

Shall be a financial Member of either sex.

7. **JUNIOR MEMBERS**

Persons under the age of sixteen (16) years are eligible for Junior Membership. Junior Members have no voting power/rights and the Junior Membership fee shall be one half of the Full Membership fee.

8. **COUNTRY MEMBERS**

- (a) Any Full Member, or Junior Member, being financial Member of the Club who ceases to reside within 130 kms of Lae, may on written application to the Committee, be deemed to be an Country Member
- (b) Country Membership shall be open to all persons who live outside of 130 kms from Lae, should they so apply.
- (c) A Country Concession category shall be open to all persons who apply for Country membership and who already hold membership in any other official Fishing Club.
- (e) Each Country member shall retain all of the privileges accorded to full members, except that he/she shall not be eligible for office or to vote at meetings.

9. **HONORARY MEMBERS**

- (a) Honorary Members shall be any person not otherwise a Club Member appointed to Honorary Membership by the President and all Committee Members, and whose name is there upon entered on the register of Honorary Members
- (b) Honorary Membership shall continue for a period to be determined by the Committee, and such Honorary membership may be cancelled by the Committee at any time
- (c) Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of Full Members except that he/she shall not be entitled for office or have voting rights at meetings or be eligible for annual trophies, nor shall he/she have any claim on the assets of the Club.
- (d) Persons eligible for Honorary Memberships shall be persons who in the opinion of the Committee are able to further the aims and objects of the Club whilst not necessarily being game fishermen.

10. **VISITING MEMBERS**

Any person who shall be proved to be a member of a game fishing club conducted according to the Rules of the IGFA and approved by the Committee or by the President and one other member of the Committee may become a Visiting Member.

11. **NOTICE OF ELECTION**

The Secretary shall upon election of each new Member send written notice thereof together with a copy of the Club Constitution, By-laws and fishing Rules to such Members.

12. **LIST OF MEMBERS**

The Club shall maintain a list of names and addresses of all Members and the dates of payment of annual subscription.

13. **MEMBERS IN ARRERS**

- (a) Any member who is arrears for more than one month in the payment of his/her subscription shall be considered to have relinquished his/her membership of the Club
- (b) Persons so deemed may reapply for membership and such applications shall be dealt with as a new Member's application.

14. **RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS**

Upon retirement, a Member shall forfeit all rights in and claims upon the Club and its assets.

15. **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Any person duly qualified for membership in accordance with these Rules may make application in the prescribed manner to be admitted to membership of the Club
- (b) Application shall be made to the Secretary in the form set out in the schedule to these Rules.
- (c) All such applications must be accompanied by such nomination fee and subscription fee as may be required by these Rules
- (d) No applicant who is admitted for membership shall be entitled to a refund of such nomination fee or subscription fee, but any applicant whose nomination fee or subscription fee, but any applicant whose nomination is rejected shall have returned to him the amount paid by him.
- (e) All applicants for membership must be nominated and seconded by financial full Members of the Club.

16. **ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Every such application shall be dealt with by the Committee at its next meeting and the election to membership shall be decided by a majority vote with a minimum of four (4) Committee Members present.

17. **SUBSCRIPTION**

The annual subscription fee and nomination fee shall be as set out in the By-laws.

18. **PAYMENTS OF FEES**

- (a) All subscriptions shall be payable within one month of start of the Club year.
- (b) Any member elected one (1) month prior to the end of the Financial Year shall be deemed to have paid his/her subscription for the ensuring financial year.

19. **EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

- (a) Every Member on joining the Club undertakes to comply with the Constitution, Rules and By-laws and any refusal or neglect to do so or any conduct on his/her part which is in the opinion of the Committee unworthy of a member shall render the Member liable to expulsion. Provided however that no Member shall be expelled or other disciplinary action taken unless notice of such intended action shall have been given by the Secretary in writing by registered post and addressed to the last known postal address of the Member at least seven (7) clear days before such meeting. Provided that no such Member shall be expelled unless the majority of the Committee then present and voting in favour of the expulsion shall be at least in the proportion of two to one. In lieu of expelling any Member the Committee shall have the power to direct that the annual subscription of any Member for the next ensuring year shall be refused by the Treasurer, and the Member whose subscription shall have been so refused shall cease to be a Member from the end of the then current year.
- (b) The foregoing provisions shall not read as limiting in any manner the power of the Committee in respect of punishment of an offending Member but the Committee

shall have full power to deal with the case by way of temporary suspension or otherwise as they in their absolute discretion think fit.

20. **COMMITTEE**

- (a) The Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Weighmaster, Publicity Officer/Tournament Director and six (6) Members, one of whom shall be the immediate Past-President in accordance with the Clause 26 if he is a resident of Lae
- (b) The Club Officers shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Weighmaster, Publicity Officer/Tournament Director. The Committee may at its discretion appoint Committee Members to carry out the duties of the Secretary, Treasurer, Weighmaster and Publicity Officer/Tournament Director.

21. **DUTIES OF PRESIDENT**

- (a) The President shall act as chairman at all meetings excepting in his/her absence a chairman may be appointed from the Office Bearers, Committee or any other Member
- (b) The duties of the Vice-President shall be to assume the duties of the President should the President be unavailable at any time.

22. **DUTIES OF SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence, convene all meetings in accordance with the Constitution, maintain the Members register, maintain minutes of all meetings and other such duties directed by the Committee.

23. **DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall maintain Club accounts and prepare Club accounts for audit at the end of the financial year. To issue receipts of all monies received and such other duties as directed by the Committee.

24. **DUTIES OF THE WEIGHMASTER**

The Weighmaster shall be responsible for the weighing of fish, recording of catches, purchase, safe-keeping and maintenance of weighing scales.

25. **DUTIES OF THE PUBLICITY OFFICER/TOURNAMENT DIRECT**

- (a) The Publicity Officer/Tournament Director shall be responsible to ensure that the Club's Social, competition and tournament activities, and their corporate and personal sponsors receive due public exposure by the media and other means.
- (b) The Publicity Officer/Tournament Director shall ensure that the annual Calendar of competition is set in place early in the Club Year, and that such calendar be adhered to or updated as may be required from time to time. He shall lead the search for and retain the sponsors of formal competitions. He shall liaise and direct the format of competitions in conjunction with the Committee and the sponsors, retaining ultimate control by the Club's Committee at all times.  
He shall control administrative matters of Club competitions either by himself, or with the assistance of one or more deputies assigned by the Committee.

26. **DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

- (a) The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws and shall define the various duties of the several Officers as may be necessary, and who shall in all respects be subject to the control of the Committee.
- (b) The Committee may appoint sub-committees for specific purposes, or a Committee Member to be responsible for specific task, related to the management of the Club.
- (c) The Committee shall have the power to decide all disputes within the Club.

- (d) The Committee shall have the power to make and rescind By-Laws relating to the Rules of Fishing.

27. **COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF THE COMMITTEE**

If, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club called for that purpose and at which there is an attendance of at least forty (40) percent Members present, a Motion of No Confidence in the Committee be carried by a majority of Members then present, the Committee shall forthwith retire from office, but shall be eligible for re-election at a subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting to be called for that purpose by the retiring Secretary. At such Extraordinary General meeting the nomination and election of a new Committee shall take place and the election shall be conducted as nearly, as the circumstances permit, as in the manner prescribed in the case of the election of the Committee at an Annual General Meeting.

28. **ELECTIO OF OFFICERS**

- (a) The Club Officers and Committee shall be elected at the A.G.M. and shall hold office for the ensuring year or until such time as the next Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Officers and Committee shall retire immediately prior to the Election of Officers and Committee at the A.G.M. but shall be eligible for re-election.

29. **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

The immediate Past-President shall be an ex-officio member of the newly elected Committee as long as he remains a resident of Lae.

30. **VACANCY AMOUNG OFFICERS**

In the case of any casual vacancy in the office of President, Secretary/Treasurer or Committee Member the Committee may appoint one of themselves or some other Member to fill such vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

31. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) shall be held at such place as nominated by the Executive Committee.

- (a) Notice of the A.G.M. shall be posted at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of such meeting, and such notice be the only notice of meeting required.
- (b) At such meeting, the following business shall be conducted:
  - (i) President's Report
  - (ii) Treasurer's Report and passing of Annual Accounts
  - (iii) Election of President
  - (iv) Election of Vice-President
  - (v) Election of Secretary
  - (vi) Election of Weighmaster
  - (vii) Election of Treasurer
  - (viii) Election of Publicity Officer/Tournament Director
  - (ix) Election of six (6) other Committee Members
  - (x) Election of Auditor
  - (xi) Any other business of which notice shall have been given at least (14) days preceding such meeting.

32. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The Committee may at any tome and shall on the requisition of ten (10) financial Members convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

- (b) Such requisition shall be in writing and signed by ten (10) financial Members of the Club and shall state the specific purpose of such meeting and shall be addressed to the Secretary.
- (c) The Committee shall convene such meeting within one (1) month from the time of receipt of such requisition by the Secretary.
- (c) Members shall be given notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting stating the business appearing on the agenda, by post, to the address listed in the Members' Register, fourteen (14) days before the date such meeting.
- (e) No business of a formal nature shall be brought forward at any Extraordinary General Meeting other than that which is on the notice paper.

33. **PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) At all General Meetings the chair shall be taken by the President, his/her absence an Office Bearer, Member of the Committee or some Member from the meeting chosen by a majority vote. Every financial Member shall have one (1) vote and in case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.
- (b) The quorum at a General Meeting shall be twenty (20) percent of the total number of financial full Members of the Club. In reckoning a quorum. Members present in person and Members who have voted in accordance with the following sub-clause shall be counted.
- (c) A Member absent from a General Meeting may vote thereat by forwarding to the Secretary, so as to reach him not later than the advertised starting time for such meeting, a written advise concerning how he/she desires to vote. Such vote must be marked VOTE on the outside of the envelope and must be submitted by the Secretary to the meeting in an unopened condition.
- (d) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless any Member requests a SECRET ballot.
- (e) In the event of there not being a quorum present at the General Meeting on the date notified, another meeting will be called no later than fourteen (14) days thereafter and the number of Members then present shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.

34. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- (a) Meetings of the Committee may be convened by any Officer or any two (2) committee Members not being Officers.
- (b) Five (5) Committee Members shall constitute a quorum
- (c) If votes be equal then the Chairman shall have two (2) votes.
- (d) Any member of the Committee who absents himself/herself from two (2) meetings consecutively without excuse, apology or permission shall automatically be deemed to have vacated his/her office on the Committee.
- (e) The Committee shall meet at least once a month.

35. **CLUB FUNDS**

The Club funds shall be kept by the Treasurer under the supervision of and in such a place and manner as shall be directed by the Committee. The Committee shall have power to expend the Club funds in such manner as they think fit in accordance with the Constitution and objects of the Club.

36. **CLUB ACCOUNTS**

- (a) The Club Accounts shall be made up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June in each year. The Committee shall cause to be prepared, audited and printed every year a statement of receipts and payments and a Balance Sheet made up to the date of the A.G.M. for acceptance. A copy of this Balance Sheet shall be posted to each Member together with the notice convening such meeting.

- (b) A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of the Club with such Bank or Banks by both the President and the Secretary, or alternatively by persons appointed by the Committee as acting in those positions in the event of a vacancy. All monies received for and on behalf of the Club must forthwith be paid into and credited to the said Account or Accounts. All disbursements for an on behalf of the Club must be made by cheque, which cheque shall be signed by any two (2) of either the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Weighmaster or alternatively by the persons appointed by the Committee as acting in those positions in the event of a vacancy.

37. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (a) The Committee may alter in whole or in part the Club Constitution provided that all Members are advised by post of such alteration. One (1) month shall be allowed for objections to be lodged. If no such objections are received the alternations shall be carried by the Committee resolution.
- (b) Objections must be in writing and sent to the Secretary and must state the exact nature of the objection.
- (c) If any objection is received the Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting under the Constitution.

38. **TRUSTEES**

- (a) The Property of the Club shall and will remain vested in two (2) trustees who shall be at an A.G.M. or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. The Trustees shall have such powers as the Committee may from time to time by resolution determine the Committee having the right to rescind all or any powers or to vary the same from time to time.
- (b) No Member shall have any vested right in or to the property of the Club or any part thereof such property being held for the purpose of the Club and not for the benefit of any Member thereof.

39. **RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS**

Every Member shall be bound by and submit to the Rules of the Club.

- (a) To fish under the Rules governing game fishing as laid down by the IGFA and adopted by the Game Fishing Association of Papua New Guinea GFAPNG.
- (b) Where anything in these Rules is held to conflict with Rules as laid down by the IGFA and the GFPNG the Rules of these Organisations shall be deemed to apply.
- (c) The Committee may from time to time make or repeal such By-Laws as it considers necessary for the proper management and conduct of the Club.

40. **DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the Club for cause whatever other than for the purposes of reconstruction or for the purpose of combining with, amalgamating or joining any other Clubs for objects altogether or in parts similar to those of this Club all the property of the Club after payment of its just debts and liabilities shall be paid or to some charitable Organisation or Organisations as the Committee immediately prior to such dissolution shall determine.

41. **APPOINTMENT OF WEIGHMASTERS**

The Committee may appoint, at its discretion, such Weighmasters at Lae or other places as it considers necessary.

42. **MEMBERS ADDRESSES**

Members shall advise the Secretary in writing of any change of address. All notices required by the Constitution shall be deemed to have been sent if addressed in accordance with that recorded in the Members Register at the time of posting.