

# **SA HIGH POWER RIFLE ASSOCIATION**

## **CONSTITUTION (V 1.1)**

### **Article 1 - Name**

1.1 The Association shall be called the SA High Power Rifle Association [abbreviated to SAHPRA], hereinafter referred to as the Association.

### **Article 2 - Objectives of the Association**

2.1 The objectives of the Association are:

- a) To promote and regulate the discipline of High Power Rifle (HPR) shooting in South Africa for the purposes of sport and recreation. The Association's shooting rules shall be based on the American National Rifle Association rules for HPR, but may be modified and simplified to suit South African circumstances.
- b) To facilitate the provision of training and advice to new HPR shooters.
- c) To organise, or cause to be organised, SAHPRA matches at local (club), provincial and national level.
- d) To establish contact with overseas HPR governing bodies, and to facilitate competitions between such bodies and the Association.

### **Article 3 - Membership**

3.1 Application for membership shall be open to any person over the age of 18 and of good standing who owns, or wishes to own, one or more rifles for participation in HPR shooting.

3.2 There shall be three classes of membership, Ordinary, Dedicated and Founder Dedicated,. At no time shall the number of Ordinary Members equal or exceed the number of Founder Dedicated and Dedicated Members, save that no membership shall be withdrawn in order to maintain that balance.

3.3 Ordinary Membership:

- a) Any person who has attended three or more Association shoots in a 12 month period as a visitor may apply for Ordinary Membership.
- b) Ordinary Members may attend Association shoots in their own capacity and have full rights, subject to Articles 7 and 12.
- c) Ordinary Members shall attend at least three of the Association shoots held in each calendar year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Failure to meet this obligation shall be cause for the Management Committee to consider cancelling the individual's membership of the Association in terms of Article 3.6.

### 3.4 Dedicated Membership

- a) Any Ordinary Member who has attended at least six of the Association shoots in a 12 month period (which may include those attended prior to obtaining Ordinary Membership) may apply for Dedicated Membership.
- b) Dedicated Members may attend Association shoots in their own capacity and have full rights, subject to Articles 7 and 12.
- c) The Association shall support any application by a Dedicated Member for a firearm licence for dedicated shorts shooting, and any application for membership of an Accredited Sports Shooting Organisation to which the Association is affiliated in terms of Article 4.
- d) Dedicated Members shall actively participate in HPR shooting by attending at least six of the Association shoots held in each calendar year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Failure to meet this obligation shall be cause for the Management Committee to consider converting the member's status to that of Ordinary Member.

### 3.5 Founder Dedicated Membership:

- a) Those person already actively participating in HPR shooting in South Africa prior to the formal establishment of the Association and who attended, or had good cause for their absence from, the founding meeting at which this constitution was ratified shall be known as Founder Members.
- b) Founder Members shall actively participate in HPR shooting by attending at least six of the Association shoots held in each calendar year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Failure to meet this obligation shall be cause for the Management Committee to convert the member's status to that of Ordinary Member.

### 3.6 Revocation of Membership

- a) Any member who did not attend the minimum number of Association shoots in the preceding year, as laid down in Article 3.3, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association. However, the committee shall consider any representations made as to exceptional circumstances.
- b) Any member who is more than three months overdue in paying any annual fees shall have his/her membership suspended until all outstanding fees have been paid. During such suspension the member shall not be permitted to attend any Association shoots.
- c) Any member who is more than six months overdue in paying any annual fees shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association.
- e) Any member may resign at any time by so informing the committee in writing.
- d) Any member convicted of a criminal offence under the Firearms Control Act (Act 64 of 2000) shall have his/her membership terminated, but may reapply after a minimum period of five years from the date of conviction. Such termination of membership shall not be applied in cases where an Administrative Fine is imposed in terms of the Firearms Control Act (FCA).

g) In the case of a Dedicated Member resigning, or having his/her membership terminated or reduced to that of an Ordinary Member, the committee shall inform any Accredited Association to which the Association is affiliated in terms of Article 6.

#### **Article 4 - Discipline**

4.1 At all times whilst on the shooting range members shall obey all commands of the range officer on duty, and shall abide by the safety rules laid down in the Association's shooting rules.

4.2 No member shall by word or deed do anything that is liable or calculated to bring the Association and/or HPR shooting into disrepute.

4.3 Any alleged disciplinary offence shall be investigated by the Management Committee, or by a delegated disciplinary committee set up for that purpose. The member concerned shall have the right to attend any hearing into his/her alleged offence and may be accompanied by an advisor. A member found guilty of an offence may be subjected to a period of suspension from Association shoots, or in extreme cases to removal of membership. Removal of membership must be approved by the Management Committee, and the member concerned shall have the right of appeal.

#### **Article 5 - Visitors**

5.1 Visitors may attend Association shoots at the invitation of a member, or with the agreement of the shoot organisers. In the former case the member shall assume full responsibility for the conduct and safe firearm handling of his/her visitor. In the later case the organisers shall place the visitor under the supervision of a member.

5.2 Visitors shall sign an indemnity form absolving the Association, the shoot organisers and Association members from any claims with regard to injury and/or loss.

5.3 Visitors may use their own rifle/s, or those of any licence holder present on the range, with that licence holder's express permission and under the licence holder's direct supervision.

5.4 Children may attend shoots in the company of their parents. At all times they are to remain in the company of their parents, who are responsible for the safety and safe behaviour of their children.

#### **Article 6 - Affiliation and Accreditation**

6.1 The Association shall pursue affiliation to the American National Rifle Association and any other overseas bodies governing High Power Rifle competitive shooting.

6.2 The Association shall investigate the possibility of becoming affiliated to one or more Shooting Sport Organisations that concern themselves with any form of competitive rifle shooting and are Accredited in terms of the FCA and its Regulations.

6.3 As soon as circumstances permit, the Association shall apply for membership of the South African Shooting Sport Federation (SASSF), and shall apply for accreditation in its own right in terms of the FCA and its Regulations.

## **Article 7 - Management of the Association**

7.1 The management of the Association shall rest in the hands of an elected Management Committee of three:

- a) Chairman
- b) Vice Chairman
- c) Secretary/Treasurer

7.2 Only Founder and Dedicated Members shall be eligible for the posts of Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer, save that for five years from the ratification of this Constitution only Founder members shall be eligible.

7.3 The committee shall co-opt additional members for specific tasks such as Chief Range Officer, etc. In the event that an elected committee member leaves office during the year, for whatever reason, a replacement shall be co-opted. Only elected committee members, or co-opted replacements, shall have a vote in committee decisions.

7.4 Committee members shall not be liable in their personal capacity for committee decisions regarding Association affairs taken in good faith and in accordance with this Constitution.

## **Article 8 - Membership Fees**

8.1 The Association shall be run as a non-profit making entity. However, the committee shall annually present to the AGM their proposal for such annual and/or other fees as they believe are needed for the immediate and long term running and continued existence of the Association.

## **Article 9 - Annual General Meeting**

9.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held every year within the period of 11 to 13 months from the previous AGM. Written notice (which may be in electronic form) of the date, time and place of the meeting, together with an agenda, shall be sent or given to every paid-up member at least 3 weeks before the meeting.

9.2 The AGM shall only be held if a quorum is present. The quorum shall be 10% of the paid up members, or the management committee plus six other members, whichever is the larger. In the event that a quorum is not present the meeting shall be rescheduled four weeks hence and all members shall be advised in terms of 9.1. At the rescheduled meeting the quorum shall be the members present.

9.3 The business of the AGM shall be, as a minimum:

- a) To consider and accept or reject the Treasurer's statement of the financial affairs of the Association.
- b) To consider and accept or reject the Chairman's annual report.
- c) To consider and accept or reject the committee's proposal for any increase in fees.

d) To return a committee for the coming year. The previous committee shall not be returned to office en bloc; separate nominations and votes by secret ballot shall be conducted for each post.

9.4 All paid-up members present shall have an equal vote, subject to Article 12.

#### **Article 10 - Special General Meeting**

10.1 A Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be held at the written request of a proposer and seconder, supported by not less than 3 other members; provided that all concerned are paid-up members.

10.2 Notice of a SGM shall be issued in terms of Article 9.1, the quorum of Article 9.2 shall apply, and voting shall be in terms of Article 9.4.

#### **Article 11 - Disbandment**

11.1 In the event that the Association is disbanded the available assets, or the value thereof, shall be divided equally between all the paid-up members.

#### **Article 12 - Amendments to this Constitution**

12.1 Amendments to this constitution shall only be made by the vote of a two thirds majority of the paid-up members present at a duly constituted Annual or Special General Meeting.

12.2 Any proposed amendment shall have been proposed and seconded in writing, and placed on the agenda distributed with the notice calling the meeting.

12.3 Notwithstanding 12.1, for an initial period of five years from the date of ratification a simple majority of the Founder members present shall have the right to veto any amendment to this constitution.

#### **Article 13 - Ratification of this Constitution**

13.1 This Constitution was approved and accepted by a general meeting of the Founder members held at Pelindaba rifle range on 25th September 2005.