

CONSTITUTION OF THE OXFORD AND REGION IYENGAR YOGA INSTITUTE

1. Title

The name of the society shall be The Oxford and Region Iyengar Yoga Institute, referred to in this constitution as “the Institute”.

2. Objects

- (a) (i) To advance in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire public education in the practice and philosophy of yoga in the tradition of Patanjali as interpreted by Yogacharya B. K. S. Iyengar.
 - (ii) To promote and advance for the public benefit the study and practice of Iyengar Yoga as a means of improving the mental, physical and spiritual health of the community.
 - (iii) To support financially and through personal service such other exclusively charitable purposes as the Institute may determine from time to time.
- (b) In furtherance of the above mentioned objects but not further or otherwise the Institute shall have the following powers:
- (i) To provide facilities for the instruction and training of the public in the principles of Iyengar Yoga.
 - (ii) To arrange and provide for the holding of demonstrations, meetings, lectures, classes and teacher training.
 - (iii) To promote research into the therapeutic effect of Iyengar Yoga and to publish the useful results of any such research.
 - (iv) To raise funds or borrow money and to invite and receive contributions from any person and persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise provided that the Institute shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for these charitable objects.
 - (v) To acquire by purchase or otherwise and (subject to the consents for the time being by law required) exchange, sell and charge freehold and leasehold land for occupation for the purposes of the Institute.

- (vi) To issue a newsletter or periodical publicizing its activities and to publish, issue, circulate gratuitously or otherwise papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents or films or recorded tapes.
- (vii) To maintain links with other Iyengar Yoga Institutes.
- (viii) To provide social, cultural and educational services as are appropriate to the above objects.
- (ix) To do all such things as are necessary for the attainment of the above objects.

3. Membership

- (a) A person who subscribes to the Institute an annual sum fixed in accordance with the provisions hereof shall be an ordinary member of the Institute and a Member of the Iyengar Yoga Association of the United Kingdom, further referred to as the IYA(UK), and shall be entitled to attend and vote at all general meetings of the Institute and the IYA(UK) so long as his or her current subscription due on the 1st of April of each year has been paid but a person whose subscription is more than six months in arrears shall cease to be a member.
- (b) The Executive Committee may in its discretion refuse to accept any person as a member of the Institute.

4. The Executive Committee

- (a) All members of the Executive Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM, except for the Institute Representative to the Executive Council of the IYA(UK). (See next clause).
- (b) The Institute Representative shall be elected for a three year term, but shall be eligible for re-election for a second term, after which time the Institute Representative shall be required to retire.
- (c) Any current member of the Institute shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee but must provide a proposer and seconder both of whom must be current Institute members.
- (d) The election of the Executive Committee shall be at the Annual General Meeting. If more than fifteen members are proposed provision will be made for a postal ballot.

- (e) The Executive Committee shall be constituted as a Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and up to twelve other members, including any other Honorary Officers deemed necessary.
- (f) The Honorary Officers shall be proposed and elected by the Executive Committee.
- (g) At least two members of the Executive Committee shall be certificated Iyengar yoga teachers and preferably at least one shall be a student of Iyengar yoga of at least two years standing.
- (h) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies and co-opt members to the committee provided that the total number of committee members shall not exceed fifteen. Co-opted members shall have a vote and may hold office.
- (i) The Executive Committee shall appoint such committees as it thinks fit whether standing or ad-hoc committees to which specific powers may be delegated. All acts and proceedings of any such committee shall be reported back to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

5. General Conditions relating to Committees

- (a) The quorum of the Executive Committee and Standing and other Committees shall be one half of the membership thereof or five members whichever is the smaller.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall hold meetings at least three times a year and not more than five months shall elapse between the date of the meeting and that of the next.
- (c) Standing Committees shall meet as often as the Executive Committee shall determine.
- (d) Standing Committees may co-opt additional members to attend their meeting for special purposes. Such additional members shall the right to vote.

6. Meetings of the Institute

- (a) In each year there shall be one Annual General Meeting of the Institute which shall be held not later than six months after the end of the financial year of the Institute and such other Extraordinary General Meetings as the Institute may determine.

- (b) Not less than 28 days written notice of the Annual General Meeting and 14 days written notice of any Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given to every member providing that the accidental failure to notify any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
- (c) A Special General Meeting of the Institute shall be called by the Executive Committee on not less than 14 days notice if so requested in writing by not less than 20 of the members of the Institute. The notice of requisition shall include the business to be discussed at the Special General Meeting and no other business shall be discussed.
- (d) At any General Meeting here shall be a quorum when three members including one of the Honorary Officers are present.
- (e) At any Annual General Meeting there shall be a quorum when a minimum of ten members including one of the Honorary Officers are present.
- (f) All motions shall be in writing signed by the proposer and seconder and shall be delivered to the Chairperson and read by him or her before any debate thereon shall take place.
- (g) Any matter shall be decided in the first place on a show of hands but the Chairperson may order a poll and must do so if it is required by more than five members.
- (h) The Executive Committee shall have power to make regulations enabling members unable to be present to vote by proxy or in writing.
- (i) The matters to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting shall include:
 - (i) To approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To elect members to the Executive Committee.
 - (iii) To receive and approve the balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the preceeding financial year.
 - (iv) To appoint an accountant to verify the accounts of the Institute for the following year.
 - (v) To receive the reports of the Executive Committee and Standing Committees on the previous year's work.

7. Functions of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall control and provide for the administration of the affairs of the Institute and in particular:

- (a) Formulate and give effect to the general policy of the Institute.
- (b) Give guidance to the Standing and other Committees and receive and consider reports from them
- (c) Fix the amount of the annual membership subscription
- (d) Generally act in the name of the Institute

8. Officers

- (a) The President of the Institute shall be Yogacharya B. K. S. Iyengar. The Executive Committee shall appoint a new President to fill any vacancy in the office of President.
- (b) The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the proper keeping of the Institute's accounts and shall have power to give receipts for all monies paid to him or her on the Institute's account and shall administer the funds of the Institute in accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary shall attend meeting of the Institute and the Executive Committee and shall keep an accurate record of business conducted at such meetings.
- (d) The Chairperson shall be the chairperson of any meeting at which he or she is present. In his or her absence the meeting shall be chaired by the vice-chair or shall elect a chairperson. The chairperson of any meetings shall have a casting vote.
- (e) Minutes of all meetings of the Institute and of the Executive Committee shall be kept in books provided for that purpose. At every meeting of the Institute or the Executive Committee the minutes of the last meeting of the Institute or the Executive Committee (as the case may be) shall be read out and if confirmed by the meeting shall be signed by the Chairperson.
- (f) The Executive Committee may appoint and pay such legal and financial advisors as shall from time to time be necessary for the carrying out of the work of the Institute.

- (g) The Executive Committee shall maintain such banking account or accounts in the name of the Institute as it thinks fit, into such of which as may be appropriate shall be paid all sums of cash for the time being belonging to the Institute (other than petty cash not exceeding £50.00 or such higher sum as shall be agreed at a General Meeting). Cheques shall be signed by two members of the Executive Committee at least one of whom shall be an office bearer.

- (h) All sums of cash at any time standing to the credit to the said banking accounts and not required for immediate working purposes shall be invested by the Executive committee for the Institute. Subject to any special trusts attached thereto any such sum may be invested in securities for the time being authorized by Law for the investment of trust funds or in such other investments (including the purchase of freehold or leasehold land) as the Executive Committee shall on the advise of it's financial advisers given at the time select: PROVIDED as follows:-
 - (i) Subject as herein after provided an investment shall be so made that of the total funds of the Institute then not less than one half shall be invested in securities for the time being authorized by Law for the investment of trust funds;

 - (ii) Subject to any special trusts attached thereto investments may with the consent of the Institute in general meeting be realized and the proceeds applied in the purchase of land and buildings for the use for the purposes of the Institute and the value of such land and buildings shall not be taken into account when valuing the funds of the Institute in accordance with proviso (i) above.

 - (iii) Subject to the aforesaid limitations investments may be transposed as the Executive Committee acting on the advice of it advisers see fit.

9. Accounts

- (a) The Institute's financial year shall end on the 31st of March in each year.

- (b) The Executive Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to

- (i) All sums of money received and expended by the Institute and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place.
- (ii) The assets and liabilities of the Institute.
- (c) The books of the account shall give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Institute.
- (d) The books of account shall be kept at such a place and shall be available for inspection by any member at such time as the Executive Committee shall decide.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

These clauses other than this clause may be altered or revoked and new rules not inconsistent with this rule may be made, altered and revoked by a majority of two thirds of the members of the Institute voting in General Meeting in person or by proxy PROVIDED:-

- (a) No amendment of clause 2, clause 11 or this clause shall be made without the written approval of the Court or the Charity Commissioners.
- (b) Any proposal to alter a clause must be communicated to the Chairperson in writing at least 21 days before the meeting at which the proposal is to be moved and the notice of requisition of such meeting shall include the text of such proposal. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Institute to cease to be a charity at law.

11. Dissolution

The Institute shall be dissolved in General Meeting on a proposal by the Executive Committee and by a majority of three quarters of the members present and voting in person or by proxy. Any assets remaining after satisfactory of any outstanding liabilities shall be donated to the "Light on Yoga Research Trust Bombay" for its charitable purposes or such other charitable body as the Executive Committee shall think fit.

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