

Constitution Rules

Introductory rules

The name of the society is the New Zealand Scottish Interest Group (in these **Rules** referred to as the '**Society**') of NZSG Incorporated.

Charitable status

The **Society** is not registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

Definitions

In these **Rules**, words have the meaning set down in the Act. If a term is not defined in the Act, then that term has the meaning given to it in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. In all other instances, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

'**Act**' means the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.

'**Annual General Meeting**' means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Society** held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the **Society's** activities and finances.

'**Convenor**' means the **Committee Member** responsible for, among other things, overseeing the governance and operations of the **Society** and chairing **General Meetings**.

'**Committee**' means the **Society's** governing body.

'**Committee Member**' means a member of the **Committee**, including the **Convenor**, **Secretary** and **Treasurer**.

'**Deputy Convenor**' means the **Committee Member** elected or appointed to deputise in the absence of the Convenor.

'**General Meeting**' means either an **Annual General Meeting** or a **Special General Meeting** of the **Society**.

'**Interested Member**' means a member who is interested in a matter (ie has a conflict of interest) for any of the reasons set out in section 62 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

'**Interests Register**' means the register of interests of Officers, including **Committee Members**, kept under these **Rules**.

‘Matter’ means—

1. the **Society’s** performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or
2. an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the **Society**.

‘Member’ means a person properly admitted to the **Society** who has not ceased to be a member of the **Society**.

‘Notice’ to Members includes any notice given by post, courier or email; and the failure for any reason of any Member to receive such Notice or information shall not invalidate any meeting or its proceedings or any election.

‘Register of Members’ means the register of **Members** kept under these **Rules**.

‘Rules’ means the rules in this document.

‘Secretary’ means the **Committee Member** responsible for, among other things, keeping the **Register of Members**, the **Register of Interests**, and recording the minutes of **General Meetings** and **Committee** meetings.

‘Special General Meeting’ means a meeting of the **Members**, other than an **Annual General Meeting**, called for a specific purpose or purposes.

‘Treasurer’ means the **Committee Member** responsible for, among other things, overseeing the finances of the **Society**.

‘Working Days’ are as defined in the Legislation Act 2019. Examples of days that are not **Working Days** include, but are not limited to, the following — a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Day, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, the Sovereign’s birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day.

Purposes

The **Society** is established and maintained exclusively for charitable purposes (including any purposes ancillary to those charitable purposes), namely

- To promote the study of family histories, whakapapa, genealogies and kindred subjects
- To advance education in the study of family histories, whakapapa, genealogies and kindred subjects.
- To provide assistance to people wishing to compile family histories from sources in New Zealand and overseas.
- To foster awareness of family links and knowledge of heritage.

Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the **Society**.

No **Interested Member** is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by the **Society** in respect of payments to, or on behalf of, the **Interested Member** of any income, benefit, or advantage.

Any payments made to an **Interested Member** must be for goods and services that advance the charitable purpose and must be reasonable and comparable to payments that would be made between unrelated parties.

Branch/Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

As a Branch or Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG), the **Society** agrees to comply with the terms of affiliation, as set out in the NZSG's Rules.

If the **Society** is unable to comply with these terms, it will follow the processes laid out by the NZSG to disaffiliate.

Act and Regulations

Nothing in this Constitution authorizes the **Society** to do anything which contravenes or is inconsistent with any legislation or associated regulations.

Power to borrow money

The **Society** does not have the power to borrow money.

Other powers

In addition to its statutory powers, the **Society** may (subject to exercising the care and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of others) for the purposes of carrying on any operation within the scope of its objects:

- use its funds to pay the costs and expenses to advance or carry out its objects,
- employ or contract with such people as may be appropriate, and
- invest in any investment.

Members

Types of members

The classes of membership and the method by which **Members** are admitted to different classes of membership are as follows:

- **Member:**

A **Member** is an individual admitted to membership under these **Rules** and who has not ceased to be a **Member**.

Life **Member:**

A Life **Member** is a person honoured for highly valued services to the **Society** elected as a Life **Member** by resolution of a **General Meeting** passed by a simple majority of those **Members** present and voting. A Life **Member** shall have all the rights and privileges of a **Member** and shall be subject to all the same duties as a **Member** except those of paying subscriptions.

Becoming a member: consent

Every applicant for membership must consent in writing to becoming a **Member**.

Becoming a member: process

An applicant for membership must complete and sign an application form.

The **Committee** may accept or decline an application for membership. The **Committee** must advise the applicant of its decision (but is not required to provide reasons for that decision).

Obligations and rights

Every **Member** shall provide the **Society** with that **Member's** name and contact details (including postal address, telephone number(s), and any email address) and promptly advise the **Society** of any changes to those details.

Membership does not confer on any **Member** any right, title, or interest (legal or equitable) in the property of the **Society**.

Other obligations and rights

All **Members** (including **Committee Members**) shall promote the interests and purposes of the **Society** and shall do nothing to bring the **Society** into disrepute.

A **Member** is only entitled to exercise the rights of membership (including attending and voting at **General Meetings**, accessing or using the **Society's** premises, facilities, equipment and other property) if all subscriptions and any other fees have been paid to the **Society** by their respective due dates, but no **Member** or Life **Member** is liable for an obligation of the **Society** by reason only of being a **Member**.

The **Committee** may decide what access or use **Members** may have of or to any premises, facilities, equipment or other property owned, occupied or otherwise used by the **Society**, including any conditions of and fees for such access or use.

Subscriptions and fees

The annual subscription and any other fees for membership for the next current financial year shall be set by resolution of a **General Meeting** (at which it may also be decided whether payment can be made by periodic instalments).

Any Member failing to pay the annual subscription (including any periodic payment), any levy, or any capitation fees, within 3 calendar months of the date the same was due for payment shall be considered as unfinancial and shall (without being released from the obligation of payment) have no membership rights and shall not be entitled to participate in any Society activity or to access or use the Society's premises, facilities, equipment and other property until all the arrears are paid. If such arrears are not paid within 4 calendar months of the due date for payment of the subscription, any other fees, or levy the Committee may terminate the Member's membership (without being required to give prior notice to that Member).

Ceasing to be a member

A **Member** ceases to be a **Member**:

- the date of death of the **Member**, or
- the date of receipt of the notice of resignation by the **Secretary** (or any subsequent date stated in the notice of resignation), or
- the date of termination of membership under these **Rules**, or
- the date specified in a resolution of the **Committee**.

Obligations on resignation

A **Member** who resigns or whose membership is terminated under these **Rules**:

- remains liable to pay all subscriptions and other fees to the **Society's** next balance date,
- shall cease to hold himself or herself out as a **Member** of the **Society**, and
- shall return to the **Society** all material provided to **Members** by the **Society** (including any membership certificate, badges, handbooks and manuals).
- shall cease to be entitled to any of the rights of a **Society Member**.

Becoming a member again

Any former **Member** may apply for re-admission in the manner prescribed for new applicants, and may be re-admitted only by resolution of the **Committee**.

However, if a former **Member's** membership was terminated following a dispute resolution process, the applicant may be re-admitted only by a **General Meeting** on the recommendation of the **Committee**.

General meetings

Annual General Meetings

An **Annual General Meeting** shall be held once a year, within 60 days of the year-end balance date, on a date and at a location determined by the **Committee** and consistent with any requirements in the **Act**, and the **Rules** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply.

Annual General Meetings: business

The business of an **Annual General Meeting** shall be to:

- confirm the minutes of previous **Society Meeting(s)**,
- adopt the annual report on **Society** business,
- adopt the **Treasurer's** report on the finances of the **Society**, and the annual financial statements,
- set any subscriptions for the current financial year,
- consider any motions,
- consider any general business.

The Committee must, at each Annual General Meeting, present the following information:

- an annual report on the affairs of the **Society** during the most recently completed accounting period,
- the annual financial statements for that period, and
- notice of any disclosures of conflicts of interest made by **Committee Members** during that period (including a brief summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings may be called at any time by the **Committee** by resolution. The **Committee** must call a **Special General Meeting** if the **Secretary** receives a written request signed by at least 10 per cent of **Members**. Any resolution or written request must state the business that the **Special General Meeting** is to deal with.

The **Rules** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply to a **Special General Meeting**, and a **Special General Meeting** shall only consider and deal with the business specified in the **Committee's** resolution or the written request by **Members** for the Meeting.

Procedure

The **Committee** shall give all **Members** at least **10 Working Days'** Notice of any **General Meeting** and of the business to be conducted at that **General Meeting**.

The **General Meeting** and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more **Members** do not receive the **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

All financial **Members** may attend, speak and vote at **General Meetings**:

- in person, or
- by a signed original written proxy (an email or copy not being acceptable) in favour of some individual entitled to be present at the meeting and received by, or handed to, the **Secretary** before the commencement of the **General Meeting**, or
- through the authorised representative of a body corporate as notified to the **Secretary**, and
- No other proxy voting shall be permitted.

No **General Meeting** may be held unless at least 10 eligible financial **Members** attend. This will constitute a quorum.

If, within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting – if convened upon request of **Members** – shall be dissolved; in any other case

it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the **Convenor** of the **Society**, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present those present in person or by proxy shall be deemed to constitute a sufficient quorum. Any decisions made when a quorum is not present are not valid.

- **General Meetings** may be held at one or more venues using any real-time audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication that gives each member a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- All **General Meetings** shall be chaired by the **Convenor**. If the **Convenor** is absent, the Deputy or Vice **Convenor** shall chair that meeting.
- Any person chairing a **General Meeting** has a deliberative and, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote
- Any person chairing a **General Meeting** may:
 - With the consent of that **General Meeting** adjourn the **General Meeting** from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
 - Direct that any person not entitled to be present at the Meeting, obstructing the business of the Meeting, behaving in a disorderly manner, being abusive, or failing to abide by the directions of the chairperson be removed from the Meeting, and
 - In the absence of a quorum or in the case of emergency, adjourn the Meeting or declare it closed.
- The **Committee** may put forward motions for the **Society** to vote on (**'Committee Motions'**), which shall be notified to Members with the notice of the **General Meeting**.
- Any **Member** may request that a motion be voted on (**'Member's Motion'**) at a **General Meeting**, by giving notice to the **Secretary** at least **5 working days** before that meeting. The **Member** may also provide information in support of the motion (**'Member's Information'**).

Minutes

Minutes must be kept by the **Secretary** of all **General Meetings**.

Committee

Composition

The **Committee** will consist of at least 4 members who are:

- **Members**; and

- natural persons; and
- not disqualified by these **Rules** or the **Act**.

The **Committee** will include:

- a **Convenor**,
 - a **Deputy Convenor**,
 - a **Secretary** and a **Treasurer**, who may be the same person,
- and
- have no fewer than 2 or more than 12 committee members.

The **Committee** will include at least three (3) NZSG members. If the number of members of the **Committee** is five (5) or less, the Committee will include fifty percent (50%) NZSG Members

Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every **Committee Member** must consent in writing to be a **Committee Member** and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Committee Member** by these **Rules** or the **Act**.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Committee Member**:

1. a person who is under 16 years of age,
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993,
4. a person who is disqualified from being a member of the **Committee** of a charitable entity under section 31(4)(b) of the Charities Act 2005,
5. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 1. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 2. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
 3. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,
 4. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
 5. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,

6. a person subject to:
 1. an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003; or
 2. a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009; or
 3. a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
7. a person who is otherwise disqualified from being a member of the **Committee** of a charitable entity under section 16 of the Charities Act 2005.

Election or appointment

The election of **Committee Members** shall be conducted as follows

1. **Committee Members** shall be elected during **Annual General Meetings**. However, if a vacancy in the position of any **Committee Member** occurs between **Annual General Meetings**, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the **Committee** (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Committee Member** by these **Rules** or the **Act**).
2. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Committee Member** by these **Rules** or the **Act**, shall be received by the **Secretary** at least 14 **Working Days** before the date of the **Annual General Meeting**. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the **Annual General Meeting**.
3. Votes shall be cast in such a manner as the person chairing the Meeting determines. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by the incoming **Committee** (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).
4. Two **Members** (who are not nominees) or non-**Members** appointed by the **Convenor** shall act as scrutineers for the counting of the votes and destruction of any voting papers.
5. The failure for any reason of any financial **Member** to receive such **Notice** shall not invalidate the election.
6. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by the incoming **Committee** (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).

Term

The Term of office for all **Committee Members** shall be 1 year, expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** In the year corresponding with the last year of each **Committee Member's** term of office.

Removal

Where a complaint is made about the actions or inaction of a **Committee Member** (and not in the **Committee Member's** capacity as a Member of the **Society**) the following steps shall be taken:

- The **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint, must be advised of all details of the complaint.
- The **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint, must be given adequate time to prepare a response.
- The complainant and the **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint, must be given an adequate opportunity to be heard, either in writing or at an oral hearing by the **Committee** (excluding the **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint) if it considers that an oral hearing is required,.
- Any oral hearing shall be held by the **Committee** (excluding the **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint), and/or any oral or written statement or submissions shall be considered by the **Committee** (excluding the **Committee Member** who is the subject of the complaint).

If the complaint is upheld the Committee Member may be removed from the Committee by a resolution of the Committee or of a General Meeting, in either case passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Cessation of Committee membership

A **Committee Member** shall be deemed to have ceased to be a **Committee Member** if that person ceases to be a **Member**.

Each **Committee Member** shall within 30 **Working Days** of submitting a resignation or ceasing to hold office, deliver to the **Secretary** all books, papers and other property of the **Society** held by such former **Committee Member**.

Functions

From the end of each **Annual General Meeting** until the end of the next, the **Society** shall be governed by the **Committee**, which shall be accountable to the **Members** for

the advancement of the **Society's** purposes and the implementation of resolutions approved by any **General Meeting**.

Officers' duties

At all times each **Committee Member**:

1. shall act in good faith and in what he or she believes to be the best interests of the **Society**,
2. must exercise all powers for a proper purpose,
3. must not act, or agree to the **Society** acting, in a manner that contravenes the **Act** or these **Rules**,
4. when exercising powers or performing duties as a **Committee Member**, must exercise the care and diligence that a reasonable person with the same responsibilities would exercise in the same circumstances taking into account, but without limitation, the nature of the **Society**, the nature of the decision, the position of the **Committee Member** and the nature of the responsibilities undertaken by him or her,
5. must not agree to the activities of the **Society** being carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society's** creditors, or cause or allow the activities of the **Society** to be carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society's** creditors, and
6. must not agree to the **Society** incurring an obligation unless he or she believes at that time on reasonable grounds that the **Society** will be able to perform the obligation when it is required to do so.

Committee Members are immune from liability in civil proceedings for good-faith actions or omissions when carrying out or intending to carry out their responsibilities or when performing or exercising or intending to perform or exercise their functions, duties, or powers.

Powers

Subject to these **Rules** and any resolution of any **General Meeting** the Committee may:

- exercise all the **Society's** powers, other than those required by the **Act** or by these **Rules** to be exercised by the **Society** in **General Meeting**, and
- enter into contracts on behalf of the **Society** or delegate such power to a **Committee Member**, sub-committee, employee, or other person.

Sub-committees

The **Committee** may appoint sub-committees consisting of such persons (whether or not **Members** of the **Society**) and for such purposes as it thinks fit. Unless otherwise resolved by the **Committee**:

- the quorum of every sub-committee is half the members of the sub-committee but not less than 2,
- no sub-committee shall have power to co-opt additional members,
- a sub-committee must not commit the **Society** to any financial expenditure without express authority, and
- a sub-committee must not further delegate any of its powers.

General issues

The **Committee** and any sub-committee may act by resolution approved in the course of a conference call using audio and/or audio-visual technology or through a written ballot conducted by email, electronic voting system, or post, and any such resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the next **Committee** meeting.

Other than as prescribed by the **Act** or these **Rules**, the **Committee** or any sub-committee may regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.

Subject to the **Act**, these **Rules** and the resolutions of **General Meetings**, the decisions of the **Committee** on the interpretation of these **Rules** and all matters dealt with by it in accordance with these **Rules** and on matters not provided for in these Rules shall be final and binding on all **Members**.

Conflicts of interest

An Officer or a member of the **Committee** and/or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** in respect of any matter being considered by the **Society**, must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest (including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified)—

1. to the **Committee** and or sub-committee; and
2. in an **Interests Register** kept by the **Committee**.

Disclosure must be made as soon as practicable after the member of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee becomes aware that they are interested in the matter.

A member of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** regarding a matter—

1. must not vote or take part in the decision of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee relating to the matter; and
2. must not sign any document relating to the entry into a transaction or the initiation of the matter; but
3. may take part in any discussion of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee relating to the matter and be present at the time of the decision of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee (unless the **Committee** and/or sub-committee decides otherwise).

However, a member of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee who is prevented from voting on a matter may still be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the matter is considered.

Where 50 per cent or more of **Committee Members** are prevented from voting on a matter because they are interested in that matter, a **Special General Meeting** must be called to consider and determine the matter, unless all non-interested members agree otherwise, and where 50 per cent or more of the members of a sub-committee are prevented from voting on a matter because they are interested in that matter, the **Committee** shall consider and determine the matter.

Committee meetings

Frequency

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly at such times and places and in such manner (including by audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication) as it may determine and otherwise where and as convened by the Convenor or Secretary.

Procedure

The quorum for Committee meetings is at least two-thirds of the number of Committee Members.

Records

Register of Members

The **Secretary** shall keep an up-to-date **Register of Members**, recording for each **Member** their name, contact details, the date they became a **Member**, and any other information required.

Contents of Register of Members

The information contained in the **Register of Members** shall include each **Member's**:

- postal address
- phone number (landline and/or mobile)
- email address (if any)
- the date the **Member** became a **Member**,
- whether the **Member** is financial or unfinancial

Every **Member** shall promptly advise the **Secretary** of any change of their contact details.

Access to Register of Members

With reasonable notice and at reasonable times, the **Secretary** shall make the **Register of Members** available for inspection by **Members** and **Committee Members**. However, no access will be given to information on the **Register of Members** to **Members** or any other person, other than as required by law.

Interests Register

The **Secretary** shall maintain an up-to-date register of the interests disclosed by Officers.

Access to other information

A **Member** may at any time make a written request to the **Society** for information held by the **Society**.

The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.

The **Society** must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request:

1. provide the information, or
2. agree to provide the information within a specified period, or
3. agree to provide the information within a specified period if the **Member** pays a reasonable charge to the **Society** (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, or
4. refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

Without limiting the reasons for which the **Society** may refuse to provide the information, the **Society** may refuse to provide the information if:

1. withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, or
2. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial position of the **Society** or of any of its **Members**, or
3. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial or commercial position of any other person, whether or not that person supplied the information to the **Society**, or
4. withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, or
5. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, breach an enactment, or
6. the burden to the **Society** in responding to the request is substantially disproportionate to any benefit that the member (or any other person) will or may receive from the disclosure of the information, or
7. the request for the information is frivolous or vexatious.

If the **Society** requires the **Member** to pay a charge for the information, the **Member** may withdraw the request, and must be treated as having done so unless, **within 10 Working Days** after receiving notification of the charge, the **Member** informs the **Society** —

1. that the **Member** will pay the charge; or
2. that the **Member** considers the charge to be unreasonable.

Nothing in this **Rule** limits Information Privacy Principle 6 of the Privacy Act 2020.

Finances

Control and management

The funds and property of the **Society** shall be:

- controlled, invested and disposed of by the **Committee**, subject to these **Rules**, and
- devoted solely to the promotion of the objects and purposes of the **Society**.

Balance date

The **Society's** financial year shall commence on 1 April of each year and end on 31 March (the latter date being the **Society's** balance date).

Dispute resolution

Raising disputes

Any grievance by a **Member**, and any complaint by anyone, is to be lodged by the complainant with the **Secretary** in writing and must provide such details as are necessary to identify the details of the grievance or complaint. All **Members** (including the **Committee**) are obliged to cooperate to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly, and with minimum disruption to the **Society's** activities.

The complainant raising a grievance or complaint, and the **Committee**, must consider and discuss whether a grievance or complaint may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation or arbitration. Where mediation or arbitration is agreed on, the parties will sign a suitable mediation or arbitration agreement.

The resolution of all disputes must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with natural justice.

Investigating disputes

This rule concerns any grievances of members relating to their rights and interests as **Members**, and any complaints concerning the alleged conduct or discipline of members, collectively referred to as "disputes."

These disputes procedures are designed to enable and facilitate the fair, prompt and efficient resolution of grievances and complaints.

Rather than investigate and deal with any grievance or complaint, the **Committee** may:

- appoint a sub-committee to deal with the same, or
- refer the same to an external arbitrator, arbitral tribunal, or external visitor (or referee), so long as minimum standards of natural justice and the following requirements under this rule are satisfied,

The **Committee** or any such sub-committee or person considering any grievance or complaint is referred to hereafter as the "decision-maker".

The decision-maker:

- shall consider whether to investigate and deal with the grievance or complaint, and
- may decline to do so (for instance, if the decision-maker is satisfied that the complainant has insufficient interest in the matter or otherwise lacks standing to raise it; the matter is trivial or does not appear to disclose material misconduct or material; the matter raised appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; some damage to **Members'** interests may arise; or the conduct, incident, event or issue has already been investigated and dealt with by the **Society**).

Where the decision-maker decides to investigate and deal with a grievance, the following steps shall be taken:

- The complainant and the **Member**, or the **Society** which is the subject of the grievance, must be advised of all details of the grievance.
- The **Member**, or the **Society** which is the subject of the grievance, must be given an adequate time to prepare a response.
- The complainant and the **Member**, or the **Society** which is the subject of the grievance, must be given an adequate opportunity to be heard, either in writing or at an oral hearing if the decision-maker considers that an oral hearing is required.
- Any oral hearing shall be held by the decision-maker, and/or any written statement or submissions shall be considered by the decision-maker.

Where the decision-maker decides to investigate and deal with a complaint, the following steps shall be taken:

- The complainant and the **Member** complained against must be advised of all allegations concerning the **Member**, and all details of the complaint.
- The **Member** complained against must be given an adequate time to prepare a response.
- The **Member** complained against must be given an adequate opportunity to be heard, either in writing or at an oral hearing if the decision-maker considers that an oral hearing is required.
- Any oral hearing shall be held by the decision-maker, and/or any written statement or submissions shall be considered by the decision-maker.

A **Member** may not make a decision on or participate as a decision-maker in regards to a grievance or complaint, if 2 or more **Committee Members**, or the decision-maker, consider that there are reasonable grounds to infer that the person may not approach the grievance or complaint impartially, or without a predetermined view. Such a decision must take into account the context of the **Society** and the particular case, and may include consideration of facts known by the other **Members** about the decision-maker, so long as the decision is reasonably based on evidence that proves or disproves an inference that the decision-maker might not act impartially.

Resolving disputes

The decision-maker may:

- dismiss a grievance or complaint, or
- uphold a grievance and make such directions as the decision-maker thinks appropriate (with which the **Society** and **Members** shall comply),
- uphold a complaint and:
 - reprimand or admonish the **Member**, and/or
 - suspend the **Member** from membership for a specified period, or terminate the **Member's** membership, and/or

- order the complainant (if a **Member**) or the **Member** complained against, to meet any of the **Society's** reasonable costs in dealing with a complaint.

Winding up

Process

The **Secretary** shall give **Notice** to all **Members** of:

- the proposed motion to wind up the **Society** or remove it from the Register of Incorporated Societies and
- the **General Meeting** at which any such proposal is to be considered,
- the reasons for the proposal, and
- any recommendations from the **Committee** in respect to such notice of motion.

Any resolution to wind up the **Society** must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all **Members** present and voting.

Surplus assets

If the **Society** is wound up, or liquidated, no distribution shall be made to any **Member**, and if any property remains after the settlement of the **Society's** debts and liabilities, that property must be given or transferred to either:

- another organisation for a similar charitable purpose or purposes as defined in section 5(1) of the Charities Act 2005 or to a not-for-profit public library, museum or archive in the local area **or**,
- be held in trust by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists for a period of up to 3 years pending the formation of a new affiliated Branch in that area, or in the reformation of that affiliated Interest Group and at the end of that period, if not required for that purpose, be transferred to the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Incorporated.

Disaffiliation from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

If **the Society** wishes to disaffiliate from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, it must follow the process laid out in Rule 9 of the Rules of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists and any accompanying Policies and Procedures laid out by the Board of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Alterations to the Rules

Amending these Rules

The **Society** may amend, add to or replace these **Rules** at a **General Meeting** by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those **Members** present and voting.

Any proposed motion to amend or replace these **Rules** shall be signed by at least 5 per cent of eligible **Members** and given in writing to the **Secretary** at least **60 Working Days** before the **General Meeting** at which the motion is to be considered and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal.

At least **30 Working Days** before the **General Meeting** at which any amendment is to be considered the **Secretary** shall give to all **Members** notice of the proposed motion, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations the **Committee** has.

Other

Bylaws

The **Committee** from time to time may make and amend bylaws, and policies for the conduct and control of **Society** activities and codes of conduct applicable to **Members**, but no such bylaws, policies or codes of conduct applicable to **Members** shall be inconsistent with the **Act**, regulations made under the **Act**, or these **Rules**.