

**CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS OF**  
**THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SPINAL CORD ASSOCIATION**

1. The association shall be called the Southern African Spinal Cord Association.
2. The object of the association shall be the study of all problems concerning traumatic and non-traumatic afflictions of the spinal cord and more particularly the advancement in medical and surgical treatment as well as the rehabilitation and social re-integration of the paralyzed.

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

3. The officers of the association shall consist of a President, a Chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary.
4. The President and the Chairperson must be medically qualified and shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election. One Vice-chairperson must be medically qualified and the other from a para-medical discipline and shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. It is envisioned that the vice-chairman (medical) will step up to the chairman position after 2 years and then follow the term with 2 years as past chairperson.
5. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall hold office for four years and shall be eligible for re-election and be from any of the disciplines.
6. Any person elected under Articles 4 to 5 may resign his/her office by notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, and such resignation shall take effect at the following meeting of the Executive committee. His/her place may be filled by the committee until the next Ordinary General meeting.
7. The Chairperson, Vice-chairpersons, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the executive committee of the association and shall conduct the business of the Association and make arrangements for the Biennial and any extraordinary meeting of the association. The Executive committee shall nominate candidates for the election to membership of the association.

## MEMBERSHIP

8. The association shall consists of Honorary, Ordinary and Associate members.
9. Persons of distinction in science, medicine and public life who have contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation of spinal cord disabled shall be eligible for Honorary membership on the nomination to the executive committee. Honorary members shall have the rights of ordinary members of the association, excluding that of voting. They shall be exempted from payment of annual subscription.
10. Only those persons who have given proof of interest and activity in research or treatment and rehabilitation of spinal cord afflictions will be eligible for election as ordinary members. These include biomedical engineers, medical practitioners, occupational therapists, orthotists, physiotherapists, professional nurses, psychologists, social workers and speech therapists.
11. The names of candidates for ordinary membership shall be submitted in writing to the executive committee for approval.
12. Each ordinary member shall pay an annual subscription which shall be determined by the biennial general meeting of the members of the association.
13. The biennial general meeting has the authority to discontinue membership of those who do not pay their dues and for other offences.
14. There shall be a category of associate membership. Persons showing interest and activity in spinal cord disability shall be eligible for associate membership. The procedure of their election shall be the same as that of ordinary members.
15. Each associate member shall pay an annual subscription which shall be determined by the biennial general meeting of the members of the association.
16. They shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the association and have full privileges of membership, with the exception of voting.

## MEETING OF MEMBERS

17. The association shall meet at least every two years. The meeting shall be called the biennial general meeting.
18. The date of each meeting shall be circulated to all members by the honorary secretary at least twelve weeks in advance. Extraordinary general meetings may be held if so desired as decided by the executive committee.
19. To constitute a quorum at any general meeting, there shall be present at least 20% of ordinary members.
20. If any member wishes to put up for discussion at the biennial general meeting any matters affecting the policy or the constitution of the association, he/she should give notice of such a proposal to the Honorary secretary at least six weeks before the day of the meeting.
21. The biennial general meeting shall consist of:
  - (a) A business part, in which reports and accounts of the executive committee shall be received and any action of the committee confirmed or dealt with otherwise, reports of sub-committees of the association be considered, and officers of the association are elected. A resolution put to vote at the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless otherwise decided by the meeting in exceptional instances.
  - (b) A scientific part, in which opportunities shall be given to ordinary members to read papers and show cases or specimens.
22. Any amendments to the constitution require a two-third majority of members present at any given Biennial general meeting.

Changed and adopted at the Biennial General Meeting on 3 October 2014 held at the CSIR conference centre Pretoria