



Polish Airmen's Association in the United Kingdom

Association Constitution and Regulations.

As amended further at AGM on 6th April 2019

Preamble

- 1 Following the dissolution of the Stowarzyszenie Lotników Polskich [*'SLP'*] members of its London Branch have decided to dissolve their London branch of the said association and to reconstitute themselves as follows.

Name

- 2 The organisation is to be known as Polish Airmen's Association in the United Kingdom. It may also use the abbreviations *PAAUK* or simply *PAA* where there is no risk of confusion. It may also style itself by the Polish equivalent as *Związek Lotników Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii* [*'ZLP'* or *'ZLP WB'*].

Aims and Objectives

- 3 PAA shall maintain the principles of SLP by acting in accordance with the motto of the Polish Air Force: "God, Honour and Country", even though fate has ruled that its members, having fought for the freedom and independence of their homeland, have remained in a foreign but hospitable land.
- 4 Members of PAA, wishing to maintain the comradely bonds of friendship and mindful of their record in fighting for the freedom of their homeland, agree to:
 - (a) maintain and cultivate the tradition of the Polish Air Force, especially among the youth, by organising events, circulating publications, whether of PAA or other approved publications, and collecting memorabilia;
 - (b) provide mutual aid and care of the sick and elderly Members by means of contact with the RAF Benevolent Fund;
 - (c) co-operate closely with the other organisations with similar aims.

Membership

5 Membership is open to individuals residing in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

6 Membership is extended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee to individuals whose candidature has been proposed and seconded by two existing Full Members.

All members are expected to behave in the best interests of the Association.

Any complaint against a member must be made to the Executive Committee and will be addressed without prejudice in a prompt and fair manner.

The Executive Committee reserve the right to suspend or expel any member who has

- (a) refused or neglected to comply with the Association's rules,
- (b) wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

7 Members' personal data will be treated in strictest confidence, and will only be used to:

- (a) administer membership records
- (b) fund raise and promote the interests of the Association
- (c) inform members of news, events, activities of the Association

Members' data will be stored securely and will never be shared with third parties unless you provide us with your explicit consent.

8 Membership categories are:

Full Membership: Qualifications for admission are:

- previous membership of SLP (see above);
- former members of the Polish Air Force who have not yet joined.
- Associate members of PAA of no less than TWO years uninterrupted standing who have satisfactorily demonstrated to the Executive Committee an active participation in the Association's activities.

Honorary Membership: Qualification for admission is by invitation of the Executive Committee. If a Full Member becomes admitted to Honorary Membership, he does not lose any rights of Full Membership; however, an Honorary Member does not acquire such rights.

Associate Membership: Qualification for admission is by demonstrating to the Executive Committee a clear and active interest in matters pertaining to the Polish Air Force and its traditions as demonstrated by, for example, family connections, academic study or employment.

9 Members' Voting Rights

- Only Full Members shall be entitled to vote.
- Voting shall be on the basis of a single vote per person.
- Voting shall be by a show of hands unless any single Member requests a secret ballot.

Governance

Annual General Meeting

- 10 The Annual General Meeting is the ruling body of the PAA. Meetings shall be held every twelve months and no later than three months after the previous year end.
- 11 Notification of the AGM must be sent to all Full and Associate Members by email or post no less than 21 days beforehand.
- 12 Quorum shall require the presence of at least five Full Members present at the meeting.
- 13 Business of the Annual General Meeting is to:
- Elect a chairman and secretary for its duration;
 - Receive reports of the previous year's activity from:
 - the Chairman,
 - the Treasurer
 - the Internal Review Committee.
 - Deal with matters arising;
 - Establish activities for the ensuing year;
 - Elect Officers of the Executive and Internal Review Committees.

Officers

- 14 The AGM shall elect from amongst its Full Members:

Executive Committee

- 15 The AGM shall elect a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 16 In addition, if required, the Executive Committee may co-opt onto the Executive Committee an additional three Full Members. The Executive Committee must not exceed seven in total.
- 17 Members of the Internal Review Committee shall not be on the Executive Committee.

Internal Review Committee

- 18 Shall consist of no less than three Full Members who are not already Officers of Executive Committee.

Term of office

- 19 All Officers shall resign and offer themselves for re-election on an annual basis.

Voting in Committees

- 20 Shall be by a simple majority vote and recorded by the Secretary in the minutes of the meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

- 21 Any two Full Members may give 21 days notice of an EGM to discuss and vote on a single resolution the text of which is to be circulated at the same time.
- 22 The meeting shall be quorate when five Full Members are present.
- 23 Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority vote.

Changes in the Association Constitution and Regulations

- 24 Any changes in the Association's Constitution and Regulations whether by addition or subtraction of any text contained herein shall require the passing of a Special Resolution.
- 25 Such a resolution shall require a majority of at least 70% of votes cast by Full Members present at a General Meeting.

Dissolution of PAA

- 26 In the event of the number of Full Members falling to five or less, an EGM must be held to pass a Special Resolution in favour of the dissolution of PAA.

Funding and Finance

- 27 PAA shall fund itself by:
- seeking funding from other organisations and the general public;
 - raising income from various activities but only in such a way that is consistent with its status as a members' association; any doubts shall be raised with the Internal Review Committee in the first instance;
 - determining the amount of membership dues.

Bank account.

- 28 PAA shall manage its funds through a bank account to be operated by the Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall ensure that there are always no less than three signatories on the account and that all bank movements shall be authorised by at least two signatories.

Internal Review

- 29 The Internal Review Committee shall inspect the association's finances no less than once a year and report on these in writing to the members at the AGM.

Membership dues.

- 30 Membership dues are paid by Full Members and Associate Members.
- 31 Dues are determined by the Annual General Meeting.
- 32 Dues must be paid within two months of the beginning of the year in which they fall due and before the AGM.

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