



# CONSTITUTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **NAME**

1. The name of the association is the Educational Psychology Association of South Africa (“EPASSA”).

(In this document, “the association” shall mean the Educational Psychology Association of South Africa.)

## **MAIN PURPOSE**

2. The main purpose of the association is:

2.1 To promote, maintain and protect the honour and interests of Educational Psychology as a profession, and

2.2 To facilitate the provision of quality educational psychology services to the public by members of the association.

## **AIMS**

3. The association aims:

3.1 To provide a forum for educational psychologists to share ideas, to promote their work and to strive for contextually appropriate service delivery;

3.2 To address the significant challenges facing Educational Psychology and South African educational psychologists, including scope of practice issues;

3.3 To provide a strong voice to educational psychologists;

3.4 To respond to challenges effectively;

- 3.5 To establish common ground amongst educational psychologists swiftly;
- 3.6 To collaborate closely with and/or to influence other organisations that may act in ways to affect educational psychology;
- 3.7 To protect the profession and the public;
- 3.8 To promote, market and advance the interests of educational psychology and educational psychologists;
- 3.9 To maintain a good relationship between the association and other bodies;
- 3.10 To inform members of conferences and events related to the area of Educational Psychology;
- 3.11 To debate issues in mental health practices in South Africa;
- 3.12 To raise and collect funds by means of donations, contributions, the holding of events or by any other lawful means as may be determined by the Committee of the association;
- 3.13 To utilise and apply the funds of the association for the purpose of paying its lawful expenses; and
- 3.14 To promote the general interests of members.

## STATUS

- 4. The association shall only enter into contracts, undertake activities and use its income and property to promote its objectives in alignment with its aims.
- 5. No portion of the income or assets of the association shall be paid to any member of the Committee, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment in good faith to any person of reasonable compensation for services rendered and/or reimbursement of costs or expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the association.
- 6. In the event that the association is disbanded, dissolved or wound-up at any time, its assets, income and property remaining after payment of its liabilities shall vest in the Committee and shall be earmarked for the benefit of and transfer to any successor or other association deemed to have similar interests as the association.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

7. Any HPCSA-registered educational psychologist or intern educational psychologist who agrees with the aims of the association is eligible for full membership.
8. Non-psychologists and psychologists who are neither educational psychologists nor educational psychologists registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa may apply for affiliate membership, which membership may be granted at the discretion of the committee.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

9. Membership fees may be imposed by the committee within reason.

## **COMMITTEE**

10. The general control and direction of the policy and the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Committee of the Association.
11. The Committee shall consist of up to, but not more than, nine members; including:
  - 11.1 a chairperson;
  - 11.2 the immediate past-chairperson;
  - 11.3 a secretary;
  - 11.4 a treasurer;
  - 11.5 elected members; and
  - 11.6 no more than three co-opted members.
12. Members of the Committee shall be elected by the full members, by e-mail voting, web-based voting or popular vote.
13. Should there be a membership fee, only fully paid-up members may vote.
14. The members of the Committee shall retire after the expiry of a period of 3 (three) years in office and a new committee shall be elected.

15. Past office bearers may stand for re-election, providing that no person may hold the same position for more than two consecutive terms (i.e. six years in a row).
16. The Committee through its Treasurer shall keep and maintain true, correct and up to date records of finances and books.
17. The association`s annual financial statements shall be certified as correct by both the Chairperson and the Treasurer of the association, and a financial report will be presented annually by the Treasurer.
18. The association may not employ any deficit funding for any purpose.
19. The Chairperson shall co-ordinate all meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Committee will elect one of its members to co-ordinate the meeting.
20. The secretary will take minutes of meetings of the committee, although e-mail correspondences may also serve as a record.
21. A copy of the minutes shall be submitted to the Committee within thirty days of the date of the meeting.
22. The Chairperson, unless overruled by a majority of the elected committee members, may whenever he or she deems it necessary convene a meeting of the Committee upon giving such notice to the members of the Committee as may be practical in the circumstances.
23. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the chairperson may exercise an additional, decisive vote.
24. The Chairperson may adjourn any meeting on such terms as he or she considers necessary and may thereafter reconvene any such meeting again on such terms as he may consider necessary.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

25. The Committee of the association shall have the power to form such subcommittees as may be necessary to achieve the aims and objects of the association.
26. Each subcommittee shall include a member of the Committee.
27. Minutes shall be kept of each subcommittee meeting and shall be made available to the Committee within seven days following the sub-committee meeting.

## **ELECTION PROCEDURES**

28. Notification of elections shall be given by the secretary at least ten days before the election.
29. Nominations shall be duly proposed and seconded by two members of the association and accepted in writing by the nominee.
30. Only Full Members of the association may be nominated as candidates, and the proposer as well as the seconder must be Full Members of the Division.
31. Nomination forms must be lodged with the Secretary of the association at least five calendar days before the date of the election.
32. Nominated candidates will be given the opportunity by the secretary to present an introductory document or a policy statement, which the committee may in its discretion withhold should the policy statement contradict the terms of this Constitution.
33. A member of the Committee shall be disqualified from holding office in any of the following circumstances:
  - 33.1 If he or she absents himself from 4 (four) consecutive meetings of the Committee without apology or good cause;
  - 33.2 If he or she commits any act, which in the opinion of the Committee brings the association into discredit or disrepute.
  - 33.3 If he or she becomes of unsound mind, or is no longer able to fulfil his or her functions on the Committee for whatever reason.
34. The Chairperson and/or the Committee shall be obliged to resign from office if the association at a general meeting passes a resolution of no confidence in the Chairperson or Committee, as the case may be, which is voted for by 75% (seventy five percent) of those members of the association present at such meeting.

## **INDEMNITY**

35. No Committee member appointed shall be answerable or liable to make good any losses occasioned to or sustained by the association for any cause, save for any loss which arises from the dishonesty of the Committee member involved.
36. No Committee member shall be liable for any act of dishonesty committed by any other Committee members unless he/she was a party thereto.
37. Each Committee member shall, at all times, be deemed to have been indemnified out of the association assets against all claims and demands of any nature arising out of the exercise or purported exercise of any powers conferred upon him or her under this Constitution.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSITUTION**

38. The Constitution can only be changed by a two-thirds majority vote made by fully paid-up members at a general meeting, or a special meeting, or two-thirds majority electronic vote by members, and only if the proposed changes have been fully discussed. The proposed changes to the constitution must be in writing, signed and seconded by two members of the association, at least a month before the meeting, and the changes must appear on the agenda of the said meeting.