

**The Constitution of  
THE GOLDEN SHEARS WORLD COUNCIL  
General Laws**

**NAME**

1. The name shall be 'GOLDEN SHEARS WORLD COUNCIL (hereinafter called 'the Council').

**OBJECTS AND POWERS**

2. The Objects and Powers of the Council are:-
  - a) "To promote and encourage interest in wool and in the art and skill of blade (hand) and machine shearing and wool handling."
  - b) To promote and encourage contests, competitions, championships and displays.
  - c) To consult, liaise and seek the support and recognition of each respective national wool industry authority or organisation and also international wool industry bodies.
  - d) To promote, encourage and decide upon the frequency and venue of Golden Shears World Shearing and Wool handling Championships.
  - e) To promote, encourage and consider the affiliation to the Council of any one Society or Association, representing each country, established for or carrying out objects conducive to the aims of the Council.
  - f) To encourage active participation in overseas shearing competitions conducted by members of the Council.
  - g) To consider, establish and adopt rules and regulations relating to the minimum standards of Golden Shears Competitions conducted by members of the Council.
  - h) To become and remain an independent Council managed and operated by the members.
  - i) To recognise, encourage, support and maintain the independence and integrity of each Member of the Council to operate its own national activities.
  - j) To create a system of communication between each Member of the Council for the orderly and regular discussion and dissemination of information relevant to and incidental to the objects of the Council.
  - k) To invest any moneys of the Council not required for immediate use in such investments and in such manner as may seem desirable with power from time to time to vary such investments.
  - l) To accept any gift, funds or assets whether subject to a special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects or purposes of the Council.

- m) To take such steps from time to time as the Council may deem expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Council whether by way of donations, subscriptions, or otherwise.
- n) To print and publish such newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, or other documents as the Council may think desirable for the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Council.
- o) To make application or hold, register, transfer and assign all or any licences, permits, authorities or such other agreements that are incidental to or conducive to carrying out all or any of the above objects.
- p) To do all or any things that are incidental to or conducive to carrying out all or any of the above objects.
- q) To make by-laws or regulations for the carrying out of any of the above objects.
- r) To take an active responsibility to encourage the development of an official shearing organisation in all countries where shearing is pursued and where such an organisation does not exist.
- s) The World Council to also maintain an up to date database of appropriate contacts.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Foundation Membership**

- 3. The Foundation Members of the Council are:-
  - a) Golden Shears International Shearing Championships Society Incorporated (New Zealand)
  - b) Royal Bath & West of England Society (England)
  - c) Euroa Shearing Association Incorporated (Australia)

### **Membership**

- 4. Members of the Council shall be:-
  - a) The Foundation Members.
  - b) Any one Society or Association or their equivalent representing that particular country, having similar aims and objects to those of the Council and having the following qualifications:-
    - i) To have run shearing competitions in its own country of a standard acceptable to the Council.
    - ii) To be acceptable to the Council as representing a country and of a kind likely to advance the aims and objects of the Council.

- iii) If elected, by two thirds majority of the existing Members of the Council, two representatives will be invited to join the Council meeting immediately, with full Membership rights, and be required to pay the full annual subscription at the close of the meeting.
5. Applications for membership of the World Council to be received in writing by the Secretary of the Council four months prior to each General World Council meeting and to include a supportive nomination by a Member of Council. This would give members time to evaluate the application beforehand.
- 6.a) All Members shall have the full rights of the Golden Shears logo.
- b) **Probationary Membership**
- As a means of encouraging other wool producing countries to aspire to full Membership of the World Council, applications for probationary Membership will be considered. Applications for probationary Membership of the World Council to be received in writing by the Secretary of the Council and recommended by the Executive Committee, if deemed appropriate. Probationary Members if elected, by two thirds majority of the existing Members of the Council, will be eligible to nominate one observer, without voting rights, to join the Council meeting immediately and be required to pay 50% of the full annual subscription at the close of the meeting.
- c) Probationary Membership shall apply for the world championship when the application is accepted by the council. Probationary membership shall cease four months prior to the next world championship.

### **Honorary Membership**

7. The Council may bestow Honorary Membership upon any person, Organisation, Society, Association or their equivalent in any particular country. No voting rights shall attach to such Membership, but it shall carry with it such other rights as the Council may by resolution decide in each case.

### **Termination of Membership**

8. The procedure for termination of Membership shall be as follows:-
- a) Any Member may resign from the Council by sending written notice accordingly to the Secretary.
  - b) Any Member may be suspended from Membership by the vote of two thirds majority of the Members of the Council.

### **Representatives of Members**

9. Each Member of the Council shall have the following rights:-
- a) To appoint such person or persons as it thinks fit, to act as its Representatives on the Council and may appoint or remove such person or persons at such time or times as it thinks fit, by notice in writing to the Secretary of the Council.
  - b) Members shall be entitled to appoint two persons as their Representatives.

## **Voting and Representation at Council Meetings**

10. Each Representative of a fully paid up Member of the Council shall have the following voting rights:-
  - a) At all meetings of the Council the Chairman (or acting Chairman) shall preside.
  - b) Non Constitutional matters shall be decided by a majority of votes.
  - c) Each Representative or proxy shall be entitled to one vote.
  - d) Should any Representative be unable to be present at any meeting of the Council then the Member shall have the right to appoint a proxy on that members behalf. Application for the proxy vote must be in writing and delivered to the chairman prior to the council meeting.
  - e) In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
  - f) Matters and decisions between Council Meetings may be decided by electronic voting or any other communicating system, as determined by the Executive.
  - g) Members must pay all outstanding fees owed to Golden Shears World Council at least three months prior to the general meeting held at each world championship. Only under extreme circumstances unpaid fees can be paid later than the three months timeframe and must be approved by the executive. Failure to pay outstanding fees may result in the member country being prohibited from membership on the council meeting and all voting rights and ultimately their membership on council suspended.

## **MANAGEMENT**

### **Executive Committee**

11. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary as elected at each Golden Shears World Council Meeting.
12. The powers and duties of the Executive Committee shall be:-
  - a) To deal with administration and day to day running of Council affairs.
  - b) To act on any matters arising in connection with the aims and objects of the Council and make recommendations to the Council.
  - c) To facilitate communication links between Council Members.
  - d) To interpret any rules set by the Council and act to resolve any disputes arising from them.
13. No Member of the Council or of the Executive Committee shall make public or press statements purporting to be made on behalf of the Council or the Executive without the prior authority of the Chairman.

## HEADQUARTERS AND SECRETARIAT

14. The Council Headquarters and Secretariat shall be as agreed by the World Council.

### MEETINGS

15. **World Council**

- a) A General Meeting shall be held at each World Championships.
- b) A Special Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time or by request from 50% of Council Members.
- c) The quorum for Council Meetings shall be two thirds of the existing Members of the Council based on the number of votes of the Members.
- d) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary shall be elected by majority vote of the Council at the General Meeting.
- e) Three months notice in writing shall be given by the Secretary of any Meeting of the Council. Remits for consideration, together with background and observations to be circulated prior to the meeting.
- f) A meeting of Council Members, competitors, Sponsors, Judges and other interested parties shall be held at each World Championships to seek feedback for Council decisions on rules, venues etc.
- g) The World Competitors to be entitled to elect three representatives with voting rights to attend the World Council Meeting. Representatives to consist of one shearer representative from each hemisphere and one woolhandling representative from either hemisphere.

16. **Executive Committee**

- a) Meetings may be held:-
  - i) At the discretion of the Chairman
  - ii) The quorum for the Executive shall be two thirds of the existing Members of the Executive.
- b) It shall not be necessary for the Executive Committee to hold meetings. Matters for discussion may be circulated to Members and a motion or memorandum affixed to the Minute Book purporting to have been signed for the purpose of becoming an entry therein shall be deemed to be an entry accordingly and any such entry may consist of several documents in the like form or to the same effect each signed by or on behalf of one or more Members.
- c) In cases of urgency the Chairman and/or Secretary may, as he/they think fit, choose any means to advise Members of the Executive Committee of matters for decision and the recording of decisions of Members of the Executive Committee as entered in the Minute Book shall be deemed as binding as if a meeting had been held.

- d) The Chairman and/or Secretariat shall forthwith implement all decisions of the Executive Committee

### **GOLDEN SHEARS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

17. The date and venue of the succeeding Golden Shears World Championships shall be decided at each General World Council Meeting.
18. Applications by any member country to hold the next Championship to be received in writing to the council four months prior to each World Council meeting to give Council members time to evaluate each application received.
- a) Under extreme circumstances with full approval from all the executive an application may accepted under the four month timeframe.
- b) An expression of interest notification to Council is not an official application to host a World Championship.
19. a) From 2012 the Golden Shears World Championships should be held ideally every three years but not less than two years after the conclusion of the previous Golden Shears World Championships – with the aim to hold every three years.
- b) As far as possible venues should alternate between hemispheres.
- c) The member country applying must be able to convince Council it has the expertise and facilities to host a world class event to a satisfactory standard.
20. a) The Council shall have the power to establish and adopt rules and regulations for World Championships.
- b) An honorary liaison officer shall be appointed by Golden Shears World Council Executive at each World Championship to liaise with the next host committee and ensure the correct interpretation and implementation of all Golden Shears International Shearing and Wool handling rules and all Golden Shears Regulations.
- c) Except in exceptional circumstances, no country shall be permitted to enter more than one team.
21. The sheep to be used for each World Championships shall be the best possible sheep for a fair competition recognising the need to use sheep representative of the country in which the event is held.
22. a) Golden Shears World Championships Challenge Trophies shall only be competed for at recognised events approved by the World Council, but the host Committee may accept or offer additional trophies and/or awards which have been approved by the World Council.
- b) Offers to provide a trophy or award by any interest outside World Council shall, before acceptance by the World Council and the host Committee, be referred to the World Council Member representing the Country of origin of the trophy or award at least 4 months prior to the World Championships at which it is intended that the trophy or award is to be presented.

- c) The World Council and the Host Committee shall clearly identify in all promotional material (press releases, entry forms, programmes etc.) those events which carry the World Championships Title, and those which are associated events.
- d) The World Council shall provide an Information Package and list of expectations to Host Committee, i.e. list of challenge trophies, guidelines for prize money, contact names and addresses etc.

### **FINANCE**

- 23. Membership of the Council and of the Executive Committee shall be honorary.
- 24. The annual subscription shall be reviewed and fixed by the Council at the General Meeting. All annual subscriptions are payable within the twelve month period following a World Championship. Any members wishing to pay up to five years subscription in advance may do so.
- 25. The host Country shall be entirely responsible for any expenditure incurred in the staging of the World Championships.
  - a) The host country staging a World Championship shall sign an indemnity form that excludes Golden Shears World Council from any debts, losses or legal claims from other parties that the host country may incur staging a Golden Shears World Championship.

### **OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL**

- 26 a) It shall be within the powers of the Council to create the Offices designated by the title of President, Vice-President, Patron, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary Treasurer or such other designation as the Council shall decide.
  - b) Nominations for the positions of Officers of the Council shall be made in writing to the Secretary no less than three months prior to an Official World Council Meeting.
  - c) Nominations can only be made by the individual organisation representing their country on the World Council.
  - d) Any person may be nominated for the positions even if not a current representative.
  - e) All such elected persons shall have full speaking rights but voting shall be restricted to appointed Country Representatives and the Chairman who will have a casting vote when required.

### **FUNDS**

- 27. All funds of the Council shall be paid to the Treasurer who shall forthwith place the same in the Council's banking account.
- 28. The Bankers of the Council shall be such Bank or Banks as the Executive Committee decide. Members of the Executive are the officials for banking purposes. The signature of any one such member of the Executive Committee and Secretary or Acting Secretary shall be sufficient.

29. No moneys shall be paid out except by cheque, signed as authorised by a Minute of the Executive Committee provided always that the Executive Committee may provide the Secretary with a petty cash account in which case the Secretary shall at all meetings of the Executive Committee furnish an itemised account of all moneys spent from such petty cash account.

### **DRUGS STATEMENT**

30. The Golden Shears World Council condemns the use of prohibited drugs and/or doping in the sport of Sheep Shearing and Wool Handling. Competitors will be required to undergo random testing when asked to do so.

### **WINDING UP**

31. The World Council may at any time be wound up on the resolution of a two third majority of the Members at a General Meeting of the Council or by electronic voting or any other communicating system as determined by the Executive. The termination of Council must not be earlier than thirty days after the date on which termination was passed.
32. In the event of such winding up the property of the Council shall, subject to the payment of its debts and liabilities and the costs and expenses of winding up, be held upon trust for such object or objects, as described under General Laws 2 a) and 2 b) and shall, if appropriate, be transferred to such person or organisation as shall be determined by resolution at such meetings as outlined under General Law 31.

### **CHANGE OF GENERAL LAWS**

33. The General Laws of the Council shall not be altered, added to or rescinded except upon the vote of two thirds majority of Members present at a General Meeting of the Council. Notice of any proposed alteration, addition or amendment shall be given in writing at least four calendar months before the meeting at which rules are proposed to be altered, added to or amended in the same manner as notice of any meeting may be given.

**This Constitution was presented and ratified at the meeting of the World Council held at Masterton on 1st March 1996. Approved amendments as agreed at Gorey on 4th June 1998, Bloemfontein on 22nd March 2000, Edinburgh on 19th June 2003, approved amendments (14/04/07) ratified at World Council 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 and amendments approved at Norway on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. Including amendments New Zealand 2012. Approved amendments at Council meeting Invercargill 2017.**