



The Constitution of Society of Zambezi Psychology [SZP]

Preamble

Society of Zambezi Psychology shall be to advance psychology as a science and profession and as a means of promoting health, education and human welfare by the encouragement of psychology in all its branches in the broadest and most liberal manner; by the establishment and maintenance of the highest standards of professional ethics and conduct of the members of the Society; by the increase and diffusion of psychological knowledge to the promotion of health, education and the public welfare.

ARTICLE 1 – TITLE

The title of the Association shall be:

“Society of Zambezi Psychology”, hereafter referred to as the

“Society of Zambezi Psychology”

The title abbreviation of the Association shall be:
hereafter referred to as “SZP”.

ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society shall be:

2-A To promote an awareness of, and interest in, the discipline and practice of psychology in Zimbabwe.

2-B To encourage interaction among those persons involved in all aspects of psychological services.

2-C To arrange for informed discussions of issues, practices, and approaches within the science of psychology.

2-D To develop an authoritative voice to speak to interest groups, and government, regarding social, mental health policy and relevant human management concerns.

2-E To represent the interests of Zimbabwean Psychologists at a regional or national level.

2-F To assist in the establishment of professional standards, continuous professional development, qualifications and ethical boundaries for psychologists in Zimbabwe.

2-G To lay the groundwork of the establishment of a clearinghouse for public information and services in psychology which are available to the citizens of Zimbabwe.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

Membership:

The Society shall consist of two classes of subscribers: Full members and Students members.

3-A Full Members must hold a Doctoral or Masters or a degree holder based on a programme of studies primarily psychological in content, or be holders of a Diploma in Systemic Counseling or mental health nursing.

3-B Student members must be engaged in academic pursuits in the field of psychology at a recognized institution of post-secondary education.

3-C Full Members are entitled to:

- i. exercise full voting rights
- ii. nominate and vote for any office in the Society
- iii. hold any office in the Society

3-D Student members are entitled to:

- i. membership on ad hoc committees

3-E An individual who has been approved for membership; has paid any required membership fee; and has agreed to abide by the Rules and Bylaws of the Society shall be a member of the Society.

3-F Membership fees shall be determined by the Executive subject to the approval of the membership and shall come due on December 1st of each year. An additional \$5.00 USD late fee shall be charged after February 1st of each year.

3-G Candidates for admission to member, or student status shall apply to the Secretary/Communications Officer.

3-H The Executive shall review the candidate's qualifications and, by majority vote, accept or reject the application. An individual whose application is rejected may appeal the decision to a general meeting of the Society.

3-I An individual may withdraw from the Society by sending a letter of resignation to the Secretary/Communications Officer and the resignation shall become effective upon its receipt by the Secretary/Communications Officer.

3-J An individual who has not paid the required membership fee within four (4) months after the date that such fees become due, shall lost membership privileges until fees are paid in full.

3-K No person shall be removed from office or from the Society unless opportunity is given to be heard in person and/or represented by counsel.

3-L At the discretion of the Executive, Honorary Members shall be persons recognized for services to the Society. Such member shall not have the entitlements of Sections 3(C), and 3(D) or the rights and privileges of membership in the Association.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

The following shall constitute the Officers of the Society: Coordinator; Founding Coordinator; Coordinator Vice-; Secretary/Communications Officer; and Treasurer.

4-A The above named Officers shall be elected at our Annual General Meeting for the following specified periods: Coordinator - 2 years; Past Coordinator - 2 years; Vice-Coordinator - 2 years; Secretary/Communications Officer - 2 years; Treasurer - 2 years.

4-B The business and affairs of the Society shall be managed by an Executive consisting of the Founding Coordinator, Coordinator, Vice-Coordinator, Secretary/Communications Officer, and Treasurer.

4-C The Coordinator shall:

- (a) preside at all General Meetings of the Society and of the Executive;
- (b) be charged with the general supervision of the affairs and operation of the Society.

4-D During the absence of the Coordinator, powers of the office may be exercised by the Vice- Coordinator.

4-E Three (3) members of the Executive shall form a quorum and questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the Executive present. The Executive shall meet from time to time as may be necessary.

4-F Any vacancy occurring in any elected office may be filled by the Executive from amongst the membership, but any person so appointed to fill any vacant office shall retire from the office at the following Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.

4-G The Executive may, from amongst the Membership, appoint Officers other than Executive officers, as it may deem desirable, subject to notification to the membership at the next General Meeting.

4-H The Executive may appoint standing or other Committees as it deems desirable. All Committees shall be responsible to the Executive.

4-I The Secretary/Communications Officer shall act as Secretary at every meeting of the Society and the Executive. The Secretary/Communications Officer shall:

- (a) maintain and have custody of all records of the Society.
- (b) prepare the minutes of all meetings.
- (c) provide on-going information to the membership about the Society's activities.
- (d) carry out other duties as the Executive sees fit.

4-J The Treasurer shall act as Treasurer for the Society:

- i. keep full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall deposit all funds in the name of, and to the credit of the Society in such banks as the Executive may designate.
- ii. disburse the funds under the direction of the Executive Committee.
- iii. present at the Annual General Meeting a Financial Statement for the previous fiscal year.
- iv. carry out other duties as the Executive sees fit.

4-K No person shall hold more than one position on the Executive.

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ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

5-A The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in November/December of each year.

5-B General Meetings shall be called by the Executive and the Secretary/Communications Officer shall notify members at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such meeting.

5-C The Executive shall be required to call a General Meeting within sixty (60) days of receipt of a petition for such a meeting agreed upon by at least fifty (50%) percent of the voting members.

5-D The Executive may convene a special General Meeting of the Society at such time and place as the Executive shall determine.

5-E A quorum at any General Meeting of the Society shall consist of at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the voting members present on the register of attendance of that meeting.

5-F A majority vote shall decide every question at a General Meeting unless otherwise required by these bylaws and shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at the meeting.

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ARTICLE 6 – ELECTION

6-A An Electoral Officer shall be appointed by the Executive as required.

6-B The Electoral Officer shall preside over nomination and election procedures.

6-C All nominations shall be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

6-D Elections shall be by secret ballot.

6-E The names of all nominees shall be placed on the ballot. If a nominee does not receive a majority of the votes on a ballot count, then the name(s) with the fewest votes will be dropped from the next ballot.

6-F If two (2) nominees draw an equal number of votes, then a further ballot will be held.

6-G If a tie vote still occurs, then the name of a voting member drawn randomly from all voting members not running in the election will be required to cast the deciding vote.

6-H When only one (1) nomination is received, the candidate shall be declared elected.

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ARTICLE 7 - AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

7-A Any member of the Society may introduce a motion to adopt new bylaws or amendment to the constitution by sending a copy of the motion to the Secretary/Communications Officer. The Secretary/Communications Officer shall send notice of motion to amend the bylaws to members not later than fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the motion is to be introduced.

7-B If there should be any ambiguity or difference of opinion concerning the interpretation of any articles in the constitution or any matter not provided for in the Constitution, reference shall be made in writing to the Secretary/Communications Officer who shall refer the matter to the Executive. The decision of the Executive shall be binding.

7-C The Executive shall be authorized to conduct negotiations on behalf of the Association for the affiliation with other organizations, but no such affiliation shall be binding upon the Society unless it is ratified at a General Meeting.

7-D. Other organizations whose general purposes fall within the scope of the Preamble and Article 2 of these Bylaws may become affiliated with the Zambezi Psychological Society in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

7-E. Executive shall determine what privileges of the Association may be granted to organizations which affiliate with the Association under the provisions of this Article

7-F. In the event that Society members believe that the affiliation of an organization under this Article is no longer in the best interest of the Society, the Secretary of the Society shall be so notified, and thereafter the affiliation may be terminated by a two-thirds vote of members.

7-G. Executive may establish affiliation with national and international scientific and professional organizations by two-thirds vote of those present at a meeting, may elect such representatives thereto as are necessary and proper, may authorize the payment of appropriate fees for such affiliation, and by two-thirds vote of those present at a meeting, may terminate such affiliation when it is not in the interest of the Society.