



BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONSTITUTION

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Table of Contents

1	Name	1
2	Objectives.....	1
3	Membership	1
	3.1 Full Members.....	1
	3.2 Life Members.....	2
	3.3 Honorary Life Members.....	2
	3.4 Visiting Members.....	2
	3.5 Affiliated Clubs and/or Associations.....	3
4	ADMINISTRATION.....	3
	4.1 Management Committee	3
	4.2 Executive Committee	3
	4.3 Duties of the Secretary & Treasurer	4
	4.4 Financial Year.....	5
	4.5 Banking.....	5
	4.6 Subscription Fees	5
	4.7 Voting Powers of the Executive Committee	5
5	MEETINGS AND NOTICES.....	5
6	RULES	6
7	QUORUM.....	6
8	MEMBERSHIP RULES	6
9	MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.....	6
10	AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION	7
11	SHOOTING REGULATIONS	8
12	DISSOLUTION OF THE BPSU	8

PREFACE

These Rules have been prepared to govern the shooting activities of the Black Powder Shooting Union (BPSU) of South Africa and the conduct of its members at events, which are either organised by it and/or held under its auspices.

They are based on local requirements and national and international norms for promoting safety, orderly conduct, fair competition and the proper adjudication of challenges and any disputes.

Responsibility for seeing that the Rules are obeyed lies with the Executive Committee of the BPSU and the Executive Committees of its Affiliated Clubs.

From time to time in the future circumstances will invariably make it necessary to modify these Rules and the Constitution and therefore members' suggestions for improvements or changes to the Rules should be submitted in writing to the Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee and adoption at a General Meeting of the BPSU in accordance with Sections 1.5 and 5 of the Constitution.

CONSTITUTION

1 Name

This body shall be named the Black Powder Shooting Union (BPSU) of South Africa and shall hereafter be referred to as the “BPSU” in this Constitution and its Rules.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the BPSU are to:

- 2.1 Develop an interest in the shooting of vintage firearms of the pre-1919 era and their replicas in the style and under the conditions of their original use;
- 2.2 Prevent the alteration and/or spoiling of the historical value of vintage arms and encourage the restoration thereof;
- 2.3 Research and disseminate information on vintage arms and the shooting thereof in the “Spirit of the Original”;
- 2.4 Authorise Provincial, National and International competitions for black powder arms in accordance with the rules of the BPSU, MLAIC and any other national and international authorities which it may from time to time deem fit to follow;
- 2.5 Establish criteria for the selection of national teams and administer the team selection procedure;
- 2.6 Liaise with and where desirable, affiliate to other bodies anywhere in the world that share a common interest in the recreational and competitive shooting of historical firearms.

3 Membership

This shall be open to persons in competitive and recreational shooting of classic arms. Membership shall be granted in the following categories;

3.1 Full Members

Eligibility: Any person over the age of 16 years who is a member of a properly constituted black powder shooting club or other properly constituted shooting club that accepts black powder shooters as full members and that is affiliated to the BPSU. Only members who are fully paid-up members of the South African Bisley Union (SABU) may hold BPSU membership.

Fees: An annual membership subscription fee to be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Junior members (<21 years) will pay 50% of the annual membership fee and veterans (>70) do not pay any membership fee. However, if a person >70 joins the BPSU for the first time, he/she will pay the full membership fee for the first year.

Members joining the BPSU for the first time after 30 June of any year, will hold temporary membership and pay 50% of the full BPSU membership fee, as well as 50% of the annual membership fee of SABU.

Entitlements:

- a) To have electronic access to the BPSU's Constitution and Rules.
- b) To participate in all competitions, team selection trials and other events organised by the BPSU.
- c) To receive an annual membership card, BPSU's newsletters and notices.
- d) To vote at Annual General and Extraordinary Meetings of the BPSU.
- e) To be covered by a Group Accident Policy, through SABU, which provides limited compensation for death, permanent disability, temporary total disability and medical expenses, and the BPSU's Public Liability Policy, also through SABU, whilst engaged in shooting activities of the BPSU, subject to all or any limitations, exclusions and exceptions imposed by the relevant insurer from time to time.
- f) To apply for and, if meeting all criteria, receive Dedicated Sportsman status issued by SABU.

3.2 Life Members

Eligibility: Full members of the BPSU over the age of seventy (70) years who had been a full member for at least one (1) year.

Fees: No BPSU membership fees will apply. However, the members are still responsible to pay their SABU fees.

Entitlements: As for Full Members.

3.3 Honorary Life Members

Eligibility: Any person who is a full member of the BPSU may propose another full member to be awarded honorary life membership on an Annual General Meeting of the BPSU. This proposal must be accompanied by a proper motivation with regards to distinguished service rendered to the BPSU. The proposal shall be voted on and will be approved by a majority vote of members present at the AGM or by proxy.

Fees: No BPSU membership fees will apply, regardless of age. However, the member will still be responsible to pay their SABU fees. The recipient will also receive a certificate and personalised plaque to commemorate his/her honorary life membership.

Entitlements: As for Full Members.

3.4 Visiting Members

Eligibility:

- a) Members of foreign shooting teams and individual competitors.

- b) Visitors to affiliated clubs' shooting events, provided that the Range Officer has given permission for the visitor to participate.

Fees: To be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time. Visiting members will pay a nominal day fee for SABU and the BPSU to the club chairman / secretary, and the money will be transferred by the club or province to the BPSU, who in turn, will pay SABU.

Entitlements: To compete in events organised by the BPSU in accordance with its Rules and Regulations and subject to any entry fees as may be specified by the BPSU or Affiliated Clubs which are organising the event, as the case may be.

3.5 Affiliated Clubs and/or Associations

Eligibility: Any properly constituted South African shooting club or association that accepts and recognises shooters of historical firearms as full members in terms of its own constitution, provided it has been approved by the BPSU's Executive Committee.

Fees: Annual club fees as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.

Entitlements:

- a) To have electronic access to the BPSU's Constitution and Rules.
- b) To be permitted to indicate on the club's or association's letterhead that it is affiliated to the BPSU.
- c) Provided that a club in question has a minimum of ten (10) fully paid up black powder shooting members, to have a delegated representative serve on the Executive Committee of the BPSU.

Application for any category of membership shall be in written form to the BPSU.

4 ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Management Committee

The Management Committee shall be the administrative body of the BPSU. It shall be in charge of its property and financial affairs. It shall conduct the day-to-day business of the BPSU and perform such duties as specified in the Constitution. It shall report to the Executive Committee and be bound by its policy decisions.

The Management Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

4.2 Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

Management Committee

Affiliated Club Delegates: One person for each affiliated club having ten (10) or more fully paid up black powder shooting members at the time of election of office bearers at an Annual General Meeting.

Additional members: Co-opted as required by the Management Committee.

- b) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two years at a General Meeting of the BPSU.
- c) The Affiliated Clubs entitled thereto will nominate their delegated members after the Management Committee has been elected.
- d) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, co-opt additional members if it deems this to be necessary for the effective administration of the BPSU. Co-opted members of the Executive Committee do not have a vote.
- e) The Management Committee shall meet as regularly as is required to conduct the business of the BPSU.
- f) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.
- g) The Executive Committee is the policy formulating and ratification body of the BPSU. Any policy recommendation proposed by either the Management Committee or affiliated clubs requires to be formally ratified by the Executive Committee before it can be implemented.

4.3 Duties of the Secretary & Treasurer

- a) Subject to the direction of the Executive Committee, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the BPSU; to attend Annual General and Extraordinary Meetings of the BPSU and meetings of the Executive Committee; to record members attendance; to take minutes of the proceedings and to read all minutes of previous meetings which may be ordered to be read.
- b) Any such minutes of any such meetings of the Executive Committee of the BPSU, if signed by the Chairman at the next succeeding meeting, shall be receivable as evidence of matters stated in such minutes.
- c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of membership subscriptions and other amounts due to the BPSU.
- d) The Treasurer shall keep proper books of accounts of all sums of money received and expended by the BPSU and in the matters in which the receipt and expenditure took place and of assets and liabilities of the BPSU.
- e) The Treasurer is required to annually present an income and expenditure statement and balance sheet to the members of the BPSU for their inspection and approval at the first succeeding Annual General Meeting. Prior to this, the accounts of the BPSU shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure statements and balance sheet be ascertained by an accountant appointed by the Executive Committee.

- f) The treasurer shall submit an interim financial report (income and expenditure statement and balance sheet), together with supporting documentation, to the Management Committee within 30 days of the 30th June and 31st December. The Management Committee shall circulate the year-end financial statements to members together with the agenda for a succeeding AGM, for members to inspect, prior to this meeting.
- g) The positions of treasurer and secretary may be filled by the same person to facilitate ease of administration.

4.4 Financial Year

The financial year of the BPSU shall be from 1st January to the 31st December.

4.5 Banking

- a) The funds of the BPSU shall either be deposited in a bank or building society or be invested in a manner approved by the Executive Committee.
- b) Authorised expenditure from the general funds of the BPSU shall be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT), authorised by two persons being, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

4.6 Subscription Fees

The amount of full membership and club affiliation fees shall be determined and ratified by the Executive Committee BPSU.

4.7 Voting Powers of the Executive Committee

The Club nominated delegates shall have a single vote on the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie, the Chairman or, if he is not present at the particular meeting, the Vice Chairman, shall have a casting vote.

If the positions of Treasurer and Secretary are filled by the same person, he/she may cast only one vote.

5 MEETINGS AND NOTICES

- 5.1 An Annual General Meeting of the BPSU shall be held annually, preferably at the National Black Powder championships, with one month's prior notice of the meeting being given to all full members by the Secretary.
- 5.2 The purpose of the General Meeting shall be to:
 - a) Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any Extraordinary Meetings.
 - b) To receive the annual report of the Chairman that has been circulated to all full members at least 14 days before the AGM.

- c) To receive and consider the financial statements of the BPSU which have been approved by the Executive Committee and circulated to all Full Members at least 14 days before the AGM.
- d) To debate any duly proposed and seconded motions which are put forward in writing by full members of the BPSU and circulated to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- e) To consider any business of which due notice has been given by the Secretary.
- f) To, every second year, reconstitute the Management Committee of the Executive Committee by nomination and election and the full Executive Committee by acceptance of the affiliated clubs' nominated delegates.

5.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the BPSU may either be called at any time by the Executive Committee or at the request of ten (10) members of the BPSU for the purpose of addressing any urgent matters. Notice of such a meeting must be circulated by the Secretary at least one week before it is to be held. At such meetings, only the matters for which the meeting has been called shall be discussed.

6 RULES

6.1 Rules to promote safety, to regulate competitions, to select individuals and teams to represent the BPSU and for any other matters the BPSU may wish to regulate, shall be adopted and/or amended by the Executive Committee of the BPSU.

7 QUORUM

7.1 At any Executive Committee Meeting of the BPSU a quorum shall consist of either the Chairman or, if he is not available to attend the meeting then the Vice Chairman, and any three members of the Committee.

7.2 At any General Meeting of the BPSU a quorum shall consist of twenty percent of the total of full members of the BPSU present in person or represented by proxy.

8 MEMBERSHIP RULES

8.1 Any full member of any Affiliated Club, which fails to pay the annual subscription fee within one month of the due date (1st January) and has been notified of this fact by the Treasurer, shall cease to be a member.

8.2 Any member may terminate their membership by giving notice in writing. Upon resignation of a member, any subscription or part thereof already paid will not be refunded.

9 MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

9.1 Any full member or Affiliated Club who, by an act or omission, contravenes or violates the Constitution, Rules or Regulations of the BPSU, or causes any harm, prejudice or injury to the objects, good order or reputation of the BPSU or any of its Office Bearers or members shall be guilty of misconduct.

- 9.2 Any instance of suspected misconduct on the part of a full member or of an Affiliated Club may be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee in writing by any interested party.
- 9.3 If the Executive Committee is of the opinion that the allegations are made in good faith, an extract from the documents received from the complainant must be sent to the accused person along with a letter in which he is invited, if he so desires, to furnish a written explanation within a stipulated period of 21 days. In such letter the accused person must be warned that such an explanation may be used as evidence against him in an enquiry.
- 9.4 Whenever by a two-third majority vote of its members, the Executive Committee is of the opinion that the accused person is guilty of misconduct as defined above, the Executive Committee shall have power:
- a) To issue a written reprimand to such member or club;
 - b) To suspend all or some entitlements and privileges of membership of such member or club for a period not exceeding 6 months in cases where in the opinion of the Executive Committee his conduct was not sufficiently serious to justify expulsion. A member or club who has been suspended shall neither be entitled to the refund of any fee or subscription paid, nor be excused from paying any fee or subscription otherwise due by him.
 - c) To terminate the membership or affiliation of such member or club, as the case may be. Such member or club shall not be entitled to any refund of any fee or subscription paid.
- 9.5 A member or club who has been suspended or expelled shall have the right to appeal against his suspension or expulsion to the members of the BPSU at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Such appeal shall be lodged in writing within 30 days of receipt of the notification of the expulsion with the Chairman or Secretary, who shall take immediate steps to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. At this meeting the case against the member shall be put by one member of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Executive Committee. The member shall be given the opportunity to defend himself, including to be represented by a person of his choice, to cross-examine and to call witnesses. Reversal of the Executive Committee's decision will require two-thirds majority of the members present. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 10.1 A proposed amendment to the Constitution, formally endorsed by at least five members and accompanied by a statement outlining the reason(s) for the amendment must be submitted to the Secretary to arrive at least 60 days before a General Meeting.
- 10.2 The proposed amendment shall then be sent to each member of the BPSU by the Secretary to arrive not less than 30 days before a General Meeting.
- 10.3 The proposed amendment will be put to the vote at a General Meeting and shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members present providing that they constitute a quorum. Proxy votes may be submitted in respect of amendments to be constituted.

11 SHOOTING REGULATIONS

11.1 All shooting meetings of the BPSU shall be run in accordance with the appropriate regulations for the firearm used, as set out in the Shooting Regulations of the BPSU.

11.2 All shooters shall comply not only with the letter of the Shooting Regulations, but also with the spirit of sportsmanship in which they are written.

12 DISSOLUTION OF THE BPSU

In the event of the BPSU being dissolved, a General Meeting shall decide on the disposal of its assets. If a General Meeting is not practical, the Executive Committee shall make this decision without personal liability attaching to any of its members or the Committee as a whole.