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**CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS’
ASSOCIATION**

(2015)

ARTICLE I: NAME

1.1 The name of the Association shall be "The South African School Psychologists’ Association” and abbreviated to “SASPA”.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

2.1 The SASPA recognises the paucity of child mental health services in South Africa and was formed to unite all psychologists engaged in the delivery of comprehensive psychological services to children, adolescents and families within a school environment. Psychologists working in schools can have far reaching benefits through early intervention and by improving the accessibility and cost-effectiveness of mental health services for many families that would not otherwise have access to such services.

ARTICLE III: AIMS

3.1 The major aims of this Association are to:

- 3.1.1 Serve the mental health and educational needs of children and their families;
- 3.1.2 Strive to improve the mental health of children and adolescents;
- 3.1.3 Encourage research in child and adolescent mental health;
- 3.1.4 Initiate and promote collaboration with allied organizations and agencies that will enhance the mental health and educational competence of children in a diverse society;
- 3.1.5 Promote partnership among psychologists working with or within a school environment;
- 3.1.6 Provide a forum to exchange professional ideas and discuss the complex aspects of working with or within a school environment;

- 3.1.7 Provide opportunities for the professional development of psychologists interested in working with or within a school environment;
- 3.1.8 Advocate for and advance the status of psychologists working with or within a school;
- 3.1.9 Empower psychologists working with or within schools to uphold high professional standards and engage in practice that reflects the full range of their expertise;
- 3.1.10 Act as a vehicle for all psychologists working with or within schools to actively engage with policy makers regarding the profession and to improve policies that will meet the changing and diverse practice needs of its members more effectively.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The Association shall consist of members, honorary members, and student members.
- 4.2 Membership shall be open to all clinical, counselling and educational psychologists (registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa) and whose interests meet the objectives of the Association and whose work promises to further the objectives of the Association.
- 4.3 Non-psychologists (Paediatrician's, child psychiatrists, social workers and HPCSA-registered counsellors) may apply for affiliate membership, which membership may be granted at the discretion of the executive committee.
- 4.4 Student Membership: students and intern psychologist's not otherwise eligible for membership and in training at recognised training institutions as workers in the Child Guidance field shall have the right to apply for Student Membership of the Association.
- 4.5 Any member or student member in good standing may resign at any time and the resignation shall be accepted without question. Notice of resignation must be sent to the Secretary in writing before it comes into force.
- 4.6 Membership of the Association does not confer professional status on any individual.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The SASPA shall be administered by an executive committee (SASPA EXCO) in line with the purpose and principles established.
- 5.2 An EXCO member can resign upon one month's written notice being given and accepted by the EXCO.
- 5.3 The SASPA EXCO shall comprise only of persons nominated and selected by the outgoing EXCO.
- 5.4 The EXCO shall consist of representatives from the following: clinical, counselling and educational psychology.
- 5.5 The EXCO shall consist of up to, but not more than, fifteen members; including:
- 5.5.1 a chairperson;
 - 5.5.2 the immediate past-chairperson;
 - 5.5.3 a secretary;
 - 5.5.4 a treasurer;
 - 5.5.5 elected members;
 - 5.5.6 Any additional portfolios that have been created in terms of 5.6 below.
- 5.6 The EXCO decides on the allocation of portfolios to its elected members. Members can change portfolio positions within EXCO at the discretion of the EXCO when there is good reason to do so.
- 5.7 SASPA EXCO members will serve for one five-year term of office. Additional terms, motivated for by EXCO and endorsed by members, may be added if deemed necessary to preserve institutional memory and promote continuity.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

- 6.1 The EXCO will meet at least twice a year.
- 6.2 All meetings of the EXCO shall be private and only be reported by written permission of the Executive Committee.
- 6.3 There shall be a General Meeting at least every second year of the Association, which shall be held on a date to be fixed by the EXCO.
- 6.4 The General Meeting shall be open to all members and guests.

ARTICLE VII: SUB-COMMITTEES

7.1 SASPA EXCO may form sub-committees as may best carry out the aims of the Association.

7.2 Each sub-committee shall include a member of the EXCO.

7.3 Minutes shall be kept of each sub-committee meeting and shall be made available to the EXCO within seven days following the sub-committee meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

8.1 The EXCO shall be responsible for the finances of the Association and the expenditure of funds in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

8.2 No portion of the income or assets of the Association shall be paid to any member of the EXCO, 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.

8.3 Membership fees may be imposed by the EXCO within reason.

8.4 The EXCO shall have the power to require members, student members and visitors, to pay a fee for attendance at any conference organized by the Association.

8.5 In furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Association, the EXCO may accept the affiliation of or co-operation with any other body with similar or related aims. Any such arrangement shall remain in force until the next General Meeting, when it may be confirmed, amended or annulled.

8.6 The Chairperson shall co-ordinate all meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the EXCO will elect one of its members to co-ordinate the meeting.

8.7 The Chairperson has the power on reasonable notice to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the EXCO where s/he believes it is necessary to do so.

8.8 The secretary will take minutes of meetings of the EXCO, although email correspondence may also serve as a record.

8.9 A copy of the minutes shall be submitted to the EXCO within thirty days of the date of the meeting.

8.10 Each member of the EXCO shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson may exercise an additional, decisive vote.

8.11 An EXCO quorum is two-thirds of its members.

- 8.12 SASPA EXCO may call on an EXCO member to resign by a two-thirds majority vote of the EXCO.
- 8.13 A member of the EXCO shall be disqualified from holding office in any of the following circumstances:
- 8.14 If he or she absents him or herself from four consecutive meetings of the EXCO without apology or good cause;
- 8.15 If he or she commits any act, which in the opinion of the EXCO brings the Association into discredit or disrepute;
- 8.16 If he or she becomes of unsound mind, or is no longer able to fulfil his or her functions on the EXCO for whatever reason.
- 8.17 The Chairperson and/or the EXCO shall be obliged to resign from office if the Association at a General Meeting passes a resolution of no confidence in the Chairperson and/or the EXCO, as the case may be, which is voted by two-thirds of those members of the Association present at such a meeting.

ARTICLE IX: TREASURY (FINANCIAL POLICY)

- 9.1 The Association shall only enter into contracts, undertake activities and use its income and property to promote its objectives in alignment with its aims.
- 9.2 The assets of the SASPA will be held in a dedicated account administered by the treasurer with the two other signatories to the account being the Chair and the Secretary.
- 9.3 The treasurer will be responsible for circulating a financial statement to the EXCO six weeks before the General Meeting and presenting the statement at the General Meeting. Each General Meeting will be requested to adopt a resolution adopting the financial statements.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 10.1 The Constitution may be amended with the approval of at least two-thirds of members present at a General Meeting, or Special Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice will be given. For General Meeting and Special Meeting purposes a two-thirds majority means all EXCO members.
- 10.2 The notice of any meeting to amend the Constitution must include the text of the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION OF THE SASPA

11.1 Should the SASPA evolve into another association, or should its life and functions be terminated at any time, any assets in its account will be donated to the most similar body existing in South Africa, as determined by the outgoing EXCO. Should there be no appropriate body its assets will be donated to an NGO or NPO most closely associated with the aims of the SASPA, as determined by the outgoing EXCO.

ARTICLE XII: INDEMNITY AND LIABILITY

12.1 The SASPA is a non-profit, voluntary association for the pursuance of our professional aims as above. The SASPA and its EXCO members cannot be held liable for acts of omission or commission in the pursuance of its aims.

ARTICLE XIII: ETHICS

13.1 Members of the SASPA are to be guided by the ethical code set out by the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

13.2 The SASPA Constitution also condemns any discrimination of racial, religious, sexual nature and recommends its members to conduct their professional life in conformity with this non-discriminatory principle.

END