

# **International Yoga Teachers' Association (N.Z.) Inc.**

## **Rules**

Revised 2009  
(Reprinted 2009)

[www.iyta.org.nz](http://www.iyta.org.nz)



*Inspiring Unity through  
Yoga*

# **RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOGA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (N.Z.) INCORPORATED**

## **BACKGROUND**

A. An association known as the International Yoga Teachers' Association was established with its headquarters at Sydney in Australia approximately thirty five years ago.

B. A self-governing, autonomous and financially independent association was incorporated in New Zealand in 1978, with similar purposes and objectives to the international association. This association took as its legal name the International Yoga Teachers' Association (N.Z.) Incorporated ('**IYTA**') and Rules were drawn up and approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in New Zealand. These Rules were amended and approved in 1997.

C. IYTA now wishes to take a companion name, and also wishes to further amend its Rules to take into account current practice of the IYTA, to incorporate new objects and to comply with requirements of the Charities Act 2005.

## **1. NAMES**

**1.1** The legal name of the association shall be:

**THE INTERNATIONAL YOGA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (N.Z.) INCORPORATED ('IYTA').**

**1.2** The companion name of the Association shall be Yoga Aotearoa ('**YA**').

**1.3** The association shall be known (for general purposes) as International Yoga Teachers' Association (N.Z.) Inc.-Yoga Aotearoa (the '**Association**').

**1.4** The name IYTA shall continue to be used for the purposes of teacher training and study courses run by the Association, and for legal purposes.

**1.5** The Association shall consist of the following four chartered branches:

Auckland and the Upper North Island

Wellington and the Lower North Island  
Canterbury-Tasman  
Southland-Otago  
(‘**Chartered Branches**’).

There may be sub-branches under these Chartered Branches. The number of Chartered Branches may be increased by a majority decision of all Members.

## **2. REGISTERED OFFICE**

The Registered Office of the Association shall be in such place in New Zealand as the National Executive Council of the Association (the ‘**Executive**’) may from time to time appoint. Notice of any change in the situation of the registered office shall be given to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

## **3. OBJECTS**

**3.1** The objects (purposes) of the Association extend to individual members, teacher education and the wider community and are listed below.

### **3.1.1 Individual Members**

*Aim 1: We aim to provide Members with a sense of belonging.*

Why is this important? It is important for all Members to feel included and connected as a community.

We will:

- listen to all Members;
- provide ongoing support to all Members through our activities; and
- establish and maintain networks to encourage communication amongst Members.

*Aim 2: We aim to support the integration of yoga into everyday living.*

Why is this important? It is important to help people to improve their quality of life.

We will: provide a wide range of opportunities to fit the different needs and abilities of Members. These include:

- Introduction to Yoga courses;
- Yoga Study course;
- Conventions;
- Workshops facilitated through local branches, groups and the national organisation including teacher workshop days and workshops for all Members ; and
- Classes in the community facilitated by Teaching Members.

*Aim 3: We aim to encourage Members who aspire to the self-realising purpose of yoga.*

Why is this important? It is important to support those people who aspire to achieve the ‘realisation of the true self’ principal purpose of yogic practice or living.

We will:

- continue to provide education courses, and in particular a post-graduate advanced studies in yoga diploma course; and
- encourage and support members to seek learning from sources outside of our organisation.

### **3.1.2 Teacher Education**

*Aim 4: We aim to provide quality, accessible, broad yoga teacher education courses.*

Why is this important? It is important to:

- provide the community with yoga teachers of a high standard of knowledge and understanding, with the ability to teach Yoga in its wider sense;
- ensure our Teaching Diploma and Diploma in Advanced Yoga Studies courses are highly regarded;
- give our yoga teachers a sense of belonging to a supportive, ethical and professional organisation; and
- provide further opportunities for teachers to extend their knowledge and understandings.

We will:

- implement Teaching Diploma and Post Graduate teacher courses which are clearly outlined and subject to regular

review and revision in response to student and tutor evaluations;

- engage teachers, tutors and administrators who are enthusiastic, positive, committed and knowledgeable; and pay them accordingly; and
- provide opportunities for teachers to receive on-going professional development.

### **3.1.2 The Wider Community**

*Aim 5: We aim to reach out to the community: local, national and international.*

Why is this important?

1. It is important that we fulfil our vision in its widest sense.

We will:

- share our understanding of Yoga as a transformative path to health, well-being and Oneness by:
  - providing informal opportunities for being with others in Yoga;
  - radiating goodwill;
  - providing learning opportunities for all;
  - listening and responding to the needs of the wider community;
  - bringing Yoga into education, health, workplaces and prisons; and
  - marketing Yoga and the Association events through existing and new channels; and
- be open and inclusive of teachers and learners from all recognized Yoga pathways.

2. It is important for our organisation that we are open to new insights: that we learn from, respect and share with others who are committed to Yoga.

We will:

- consider any opportunity offered to bring these insights to our Members.

*Aim 6: We aim to expand our organisation.*

Why is this important?

1. It is important to actively seek and include those who wish to become a part of our Yoga community.

We will:

- actively market the benefits of Association membership to new and existing Members through its website, publications and by supporting Members' on-going training and teaching activities;
- develop, maintain and implement a marketing strategy encompassing national, branch and group initiatives; and
- re-establish past relationships and establish new relationships, including reciprocity of our teaching qualifications where possible, with other Yoga organisations nationally and internationally.

2. It is important to ensure that each graduate teacher from our Teacher Training Diploma and Diploma in Advanced Yoga Studies courses is nurtured and valued. The insights and passions of these people provide the organisation with energy and momentum.

We will:

- ensure graduates can maintain links with each other by:
  - holding seminars, workshops and conventions; and
  - encouraging use of our Web Site forum facility; and
- encourage branches and groups to actively involve graduates to:
  - mentor them where needed; and
  - encourage them to share their learning experiences.

**3.2** The objects of the Association include doing such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects, such as:

(a) To purchase, sell, lease, transfer, take or lease or otherwise acquire or dispose of any real or personal property and rights or privileges which the Association may think necessary or convenient for the purpose of its business;

(b) The holding, investment and management of all funds raised for the above objects;

(c) To protect in any lawful way the interests of the Members of the Association; and

(d) To maintain a register of professionally qualified Yoga teachers who meet the Association's standards.

**3.3** In construction of the foregoing objects, the construction of any clause shall not be limited or restricted by reference to any one or more of the other clauses. The aims and objects are limited in scope to within New Zealand.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

**4.1** Membership of the Association is open to anyone who is willing to support the objects of the Association, including (but not limited to) Yoga teachers, Yoga students and all those with an interest in Yoga.

**4.2** Members of the Association ('**Members**') shall consist of five categories:

(a) **Teaching Members: Members** who are currently instructing Yoga and have:

(i) had such number of hours teaching experience as determined by the Executive from time to time, spread over a minimum of 40 weeks;

(ii) a love of teaching Yoga;

(iii) an ability to speak clearly on Yoga matters;

(iv) a reasonable knowledge of Yoga philosophy in general;

(v) an understanding of the principal Sanskrit terminology of Yoga;

(vi) a reasonable knowledge of anatomy, physiology and Yoga psychology;

(vii) a proper understanding of the nature of the wider aspects of conventional Yoga (as per the eight limbs codified by the yogi Patanjali in about 250 BC); and

(ix) either an IYTA Teaching Diploma, or another recognised teaching qualification approved by the Executive and successfully completed to the satisfaction of the Executive ('**Teaching Members**').

(b) **Non Teaching Members:** Any person who has an interest in Yoga, and is willing to support the objects of the Association, including (but not limited to) students of Yoga ('**Non Teaching Members**').

(c) **Life Members:** Members who are Teaching Members with teaching experience of at least twenty years who have, to the satisfaction of the Executive, rendered long, active and valuable service to the Association other than in their capacity as teachers to Yoga students (**'Life Members'**).

(d) **Fellow Members,** who are Teaching Members with teaching experience of at least five years who have, to the satisfaction of the Executive, rendered valuable service to the Association other than in their capacity as teachers to Yoga students (**'Fellow Members'**).

## **5. ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

### **5.1 Teaching Members**

Application to be a Teaching Member must be made on the official application form of the Association and delivered to the Membership Secretary. The Executive shall be responsible for vetting all applications for membership and their decision shall be final. The Secretary shall notify all applicants of the Executive's decision in writing.

### **5.2 Non Teaching Members**

Application to be a Non Teaching Member of the Association must be made on the official application form of the Association and be delivered to the Membership Secretary.

### **5.3 Life Members and Fellow Members**

Nominations for Life or Fellow membership must be made in writing signed by three Teaching Members and forwarded to the Secretary, who will present it to the Executive for due consideration. If the Executive supports the nomination then it will be placed on the Agenda for the next Annual General Meeting of the Association (**'AGM'**). Life Members will no longer be required to pay their annual subscription fees or renew their membership each year. Fellow Members may be granted a reduced annual subscription fee, to be decided by the Executive.

## **6. DISCIPLINE –COMPLAINTS**

**6.1** The Association shall form a Disciplinary Committee from the

Executive and may co-opt any other person whom they think may be able to assist them with the disciplinary process as required.

**6.2** Any disputes arising within the Association shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee who shall allow each party a full opportunity to state their case in writing.

**6.3** Any complaints against a member must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee who shall take evidence and allow full opportunity of defence to the Member concerned. If the charge is proved, the Disciplinary Committee may ask the member to resign and, failing compliance, may remove or suspend him/her from the membership list.

**6.4** Any such person shall have the right to appeal for a final determination to a special general meeting of the Members, due notice of motion having been given. The limit of time for lodging an appeal is two months.

## **7. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**7.1** A Member may at any time by giving notice in writing to the Secretary resign from the Association, but shall continue to be liable for any unpaid subscription or other monies that may be outstanding at that time.

**7.2** Termination of membership may also be due to any of the following:

- (a) Death of a Member;
- (b) A Member who has failed to pay their membership fee six months after the due date;
- (c) By expulsion due to a disciplinary action being upheld against a Member.

## **8. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

**8.1** All Members shall have voting and speaking rights.

**8.2** All Teaching Members shall abide by IYTA's Code of Ethics.

**8.3** Only IYTA Teaching Diploma graduates may use the letters IYTA (N.Z.) Dip after his/her name.

**8.4** Teaching Members are expected to maintain ongoing

professional development. They are asked to participate in IYTA or other yoga training (through yoga courses, workshops or seminars) designed to enhance and/or update their professional skills. The Executive may decide to make such ongoing training compulsory, if a majority of Teaching Members vote for it at an AGM.

**8.5** Teaching Members may have their names put on a teaching list on the Association's website, and may advertise their classes free of charge on the website.

**8.6** The Membership Secretary shall keep a special register of names and addresses of current Teaching Members.

## **9. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**9.1** On being accepted for membership, every Member shall pay an annual subscription fee, the amount to be set at each AGM. Payment is due at the beginning of the Association's financial year (1 April).

**9.2** Life Members are exempt from paying subscriptions.

**9.3** Fellow Members may pay a lesser subscription, as fixed by Members at each AGM.

**9.4** The Executive shall have the power to reduce or remit a subscription fee if in their opinion the circumstances warrant such action. For example, the Executive may decide to reduce fees for super annuitants who have been members of the Association for at least ten years.

**9.5** The subscription fees must be applied to charitable purposes within New Zealand.

## **10. THE EXECUTIVE**

**10.1** The Executive shall consist of:

**10.1.1** Voting Members, being:

(a) The National President, who shall be elected at each AGM ('**President**');

(b) Two Members nominated by each Chartered Branch of the Association (who may be members of a sub branch) and confirmed at the AGM (although if either of those Members cannot be present at any meeting a nominated Branch Committee Member(s) may attend and vote in place of the confirmed Member(s)); and

**10.1.2** Non Voting Members, being:

- (a) The Association's Newsletter Editor;
- (b) The Coordinator(s) of the Teacher Training Course (undergraduate);
- (c) The Coordinator(s) of the Post Graduate Teacher Training Course;
- (d) The Website Administrator;
- (e) The Marketing Coordinator;
- (f) The Resources Librarian; and
- (g) The Immediate Past President (in an ex officio role).

**10.1.3** A Non Voting Member may also be a Chartered Branch's nominee to the Executive.

**10.2** Should a new Chartered Branch be formed during the term of the Executive, that new Branch's nominated representative may be accepted as a member of the Executive by the Executive.

**10.3** At the first meeting of the new Executive, a Vice President, National Treasurer (**'Treasurer'**), Membership Secretary and Secretary shall be elected from the Voting and Non Voting Members of the Executive, except that the Executive, if it thinks fit, may appoint a non-voting office holder who is not a Member. These officers shall be elected for a minimum of one year, with right of renewal for a further term or terms, except that the Executive may agree to rotate some of the officers as it sees fit. Voting Members and Non Voting Members of the Executive may continue in office until their successors are duly elected.

**10.4** Nominations for all appointments to the Voting Members of the Executive, except for the office of President, shall be made at the AGM and shall be seconded, upon which appointment shall be made of the number of persons or the person required receiving the majority of votes for such position or positions at the AGM. Nominations for President shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Association three months before the AGM to allow members to cast their vote for President.

No nominations or votes for President shall be accepted from the floor.

**10.5** Appointments shall be for one year, subject to any change in the personal circumstances of the officer which means he/she is unable

to continue in the role. If the President resigns, an Acting President shall be appointed by the Executive until the next AGM, or the Vice President shall act as the president of the Association until the next AGM.

**10.6** Any member of the Executive who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Executive without the approval of the Executive shall cease to be a member of the Executive. The Executive shall have the power to fill any vacancies occurring in its membership up until the next AGM.

## **11. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

**11.1** The Executive shall meet quarterly or at such lesser periods, by prior arrangement, where and when the Executive may decide, or as specially summoned by the President, Vice President or Secretary.

**11.2** The President shall be Chairperson of each meeting of the Executive. In the absence of the President or Vice President an Executive member shall chair the meeting.

**11.3** The quorum for a meeting of the Executive shall be five. In emergencies the numbers may be made up with a signed proxy vote.

**11.4** The Executive may meet via internet telephony, or by conference call (telephone) or in person, at the discretion of the Executive.

**11.5** All reasonable expenses of each member of the Executive to attend these meetings, including (but not limited to) travel expenses, shall be paid by the Association on the receipt of appropriate invoices by the Treasurer.

## **12. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE**

**12.1** The Executive shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To control and manage the office property, funds of the Association and any property or rights mentioned in Rule 22 of these Rules.

(b) To open such Bank Account or Accounts as may be required from time to time under the control of the Treasurer and to authorise up to four of its Members to withdraw funds from the accounts with

the proviso that all withdrawal documents shall be signed by any two of them. However, with the permission of the Executive, the Treasurer may operate an internet account, in which case two signatures may not be required provided that the Treasurer shall obtain prior approval from one other Member of the Executive of any internet withdrawals. The Treasurer shall also provide a list of transactions to each meeting of the Executive for approval of expenditures. The Executive may from time to time invest and re-invest in such securities and upon such terms as it thinks fit, the whole or any part of the funds of the Association which are not required for their immediate business of the Association.

(c) To conduct and/or approve Teacher Training Courses, Study Courses, Introductory and Post Graduate Courses, seminars and workshops for Members, Yoga students and members of the public, and to stimulate participation in such courses, seminars and workshops.

(d) To appoint from its own members or otherwise sub-committees or special committees it may deem necessary.

(e) To replace any member who ceases to be a member of the Executive by co-opting another Member.

(f) To require all Teaching Members to undergo the stipulated professional development (continuing education training) every year in order to retain their Teaching Membership and listing on the website as Teaching Members, provided that such requirement is first approved by a majority vote of Teaching Members. This professional development shall be either a course run by a Chartered Branch or sub-branch of the Association, or run by another organisation (subject to the prior approval of the Executive). If this requirement is approved, a record of the training shall be kept by the Membership Secretary, and an annual certificate may be issued annually on completion of the training.

(g) To operate a website or websites for the benefit of Members and the wider community.

(h) To set up a professional register of Teaching Members, recording their current status, including (but not limited to) current workplace first aid, continuing professional development and adherence to the Association's Code of Ethics.

(i) To furnish an account by the Treasurer to each AGM of the receipts and disbursements and statement of the assets and liabilities of the Association. If the accounts are required to be audited by legislation governing charitable organisations, then they shall be audited by a qualified auditor appointed by the Executive, provided such auditor shall not be a member of the Executive.

**12.2** The decision of the Executive on all matters, questions and disputes shall be final and conclusive and subject only to an appeal to an AGM or a Special Meeting (pursuant to Rule 17) if the matter is urgent.

### **13. SOLICITOR**

At the AGM an Honorary Solicitor may be appointed.

### **14. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY**

It shall be the duty of the International Secretary, if one is appointed, to liaise with persons and bodies outside New Zealand for all or any purpose whatsoever that may be of interest to the Association.

### **15. EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER**

There shall be an editor of a newsletter for the Association, whose duties shall comprise the compiling and editing of information for a newsletter to be sent at regular intervals to Members.

### **16. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**16.1** An AGM shall be held every calendar year on or near the 31<sup>st</sup> July, or upon such other date and at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive. At the AGM the President's Report or the Executive's report, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statement shall be presented for acceptance; officers shall be elected for the ensuing one year; and any general business shall be transacted.

**16.2** The AGM may be internet based, provided sufficient notice has been given to Members of matters needing the approval of Members.

**16.3** The quorum for an AGM and special meetings shall be twelve

(including any Executive members).

**16.4** The mode of voting for any meetings shall be by the voice, ballot (including emailed replies) and/or show of hands at the discretion of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote, if there is an inequality of votes.

## **17. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the Association shall be convened whenever ten financial Members request a meeting in writing or when the Executive consider it necessary to do so. Any request shall contain full details of any business to be put to the meeting.

## **18. DECISION MAKING**

All decisions made at meetings shall be by a simple majority.

## **19. NOTICES**

Notice in writing of general or special meetings of the Association shall be posted or emailed to all Members at least 21 days before the date fixed for the meeting. Such notice shall contain an abstract of the business to be transacted. In the case of special meetings it shall distinctly state the purpose of such a meeting. Notices shall deem to have been properly given if forwarded to the last known postal or email address of a Member.

## **20. APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION OR ADDITION OR RESCISSION OF RULES OR FOR AFFILIATION TO ANOTHER ORGANISATION**

**20.1** Any proposal for affiliation with any other organisation, or for any alteration or addition or rescission of these Rules, shall be moved at a special meeting called for the purpose, or at an AGM of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Rule for calling special meetings. However, no amendment shall be permitted if it in any way affects the non-profit status of the Association or the winding up clause. Any such proposal shall require a majority of

two thirds of the financial Members present and voting in person at the meeting or voting by proxy or email.

**20.2** Any change in these Rules must be notified to the Charities Commission, but need not be approved in advance by the Commission.

**20.3** Any change in these Rules must be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and accepted by the Companies Office.

## **21. COMMON SEAL**

The Common Seal of the IYTA shall be in the custody of the Secretary. The Seal shall not be affixed to any document except by the authority of the President or Vice President and the Secretary, which officers shall affix their Signature to every document so sealed.

## **22. POWER TO DEAL IN REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**22.1** The Association shall have the power to purchase, take, lease or otherwise acquire any real or personal estate or any rights or privileges in connection with such estate and to hold, improve, manage develop, let on hire or otherwise lease, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of any such property rights or privileges.

**22.2** The Association shall have power to borrow such sums of money as it thinks fit and to secure the repayment of such money by the issue of Debentures or by mortgage or by charge upon the whole or any part of the property or assets of the Association.

**22.3** All funds of the Association shall be paid either to the Membership Secretary, the Treasurer or the Chartered Branch Treasurer (as appropriate) who shall, with all convenient speed, place the funds to the credit of the Association in a trading or savings bank to be named by the Executive.

## **23. WINDING UP**

**23.1** The Association may be voluntarily wound up in accordance with section 24 of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

**23.2** If any property remains after the winding up or dissolution of

the Association and the settlement of all the Association's debts and liabilities and expenses of winding up, that property must be given or transferred to another New Zealand yoga related or based organisation that is charitable under New Zealand law and has purposes and objects similar to those of the Association.

## **24. PRIVATE PROFIT**

**24.1** Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purpose of the Association within New Zealand.

**24.2** No Member, or anyone associated with a Member, is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by the Association in respect of payments to, or on behalf of, the Member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage.

**24.3** Any payments made to a Member or person associated with a Member, must be for goods or services that advance the charitable purpose of the Association and must be reasonable and relative to payments that would be made between unrelated parties.

**24.3** The Association shall not be conducted for the profit of its Members and no part of the income or assets of the Association shall enure to the benefit of any officer or Member, apart from reasonable salaries, honorariums, remuneration and expenses paid to Members or employees of the Association, as decided by the Executive.

## **25. FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Association shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April in any one year to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March in the following year, or such other period as the Association may from time to time determine.

INCORPORATED  
31 March 1978  
By the Registrar of  
Incorporated Societies

AMENDED  
24 June 1997  
By the Asst Registrar of  
Incorporated Societies  
Hamilton

AMENDED  
24 August 2009  
By the Registrar of Incorporated  
Societies

Please refer also to the Code of Ethics of the Association, which Teaching Members must abide by.



**Inspiring Unity through  
Yoga**