

# Combat Robotics New Zealand Constitution/Rules

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## The Society

### 1. NAME

The name of the society will be '**Combat Robotics New Zealand Incorporated**'; in this constitution called "the Society".

### 2. PRINCIPLES

*The Society is committed to:*

- 2.1. Promoting creativity and competition in the sport of Combat Robotics.
- 2.2. Encouraging learning and the sharing of knowledge and skills, in the S.T.E.A.M fields.
- 2.3. Fostering a community of creative, friendly and cooperative people.

### 3. OBJECTS

*The object of the Society is to enable members to create and compete with Combat Robots. In particular the Society will:*

- 3.1. Host regular meetings and competitions within the Society.
- 3.2. Provide resources to support robot creation and combat, such as (without limitation) software development tools, build tutorials and reference materials, parts lists, competition spaces and arenas.

- 3.3. Encourage the sharing of information about best practice for drivers and builders to other members and the wider community.
- 3.4. Take opportunities to promote the sport locally and nationwide.
- 3.5. Consolidate and make accessible event photos and videos for the wider community to enjoy.
- 3.6. Carry out other activities consistent with the objects of the Society.

#### **4. POWERS**

*The Society will have the following powers:*

- 4.1. To use its funds as the Executive Committee thinks necessary or proper in payment of its costs and expenses, including the employment and dismissal of counsel, solicitors, agents, officers and staff, according to principles of good employment and the Employment Relations Act 2000 or any subsequent enactments.
- 4.2. To purchase, take on, lease or in exchange or hire or otherwise, acquire any real or personal property and any rights or privileges which the Executive Committee thinks necessary or proper for the purpose of attaining the objects of the Society and to sell, exchange, let, bailor lease, with or without option of purchase or, in any other manner, dispose of such property, rights or privileges.
- 4.3. To invest surplus funds in any way permitted by law for the investment of incorporated society funds and upon such terms as the Executive Committee thinks fit.
- 4.4. To borrow or raise money from time to time with or without security and upon such terms as to priority or otherwise as the Executive Committee thinks fit.
- 4.5. To carry on any business.
- 4.6. To do all things as may from time to time be necessary or desirable to give effect to and attain the objects of the Society.

## Membership

### 5. MEMBERSHIP OF SOCIETY

- 5.1. Any person who agrees with the objects and conditions of the Society may, subject to the Executive Committee's approval, become a member of the Society by application in writing and upon payment of the membership subscription set from time to time by a General Meeting of the society
- 5.2. Conditions shall be posted online and Members take full responsibility for familiarity with and understanding of all conditions.
- 5.3. Conditions may be changed from time to time at a General Meeting of the Society.
- 5.4. A register of members of the Society will be maintained by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908 and subsequent enactments.
- 5.5. Any person may resign membership of the Society by giving oral or written notice to the Secretary. The Secretary will maintain a record of any resignation.
- 5.6. If a current subscription has not been paid by a member, membership will cease three (3) months after a subscription has lapsed.

### 6. MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

*Membership in the Society shall consist of a specific membership level:*

- 6.1. **Full Member:** Any person, 18 years or older, that is a financial member of the Society is entitled to hold any office and enjoy the privileges of the Society.
- 6.2. **Full Junior Member:** Any person, under the age of 18, that is a financial member of the Society is entitled to enjoy the privileges of the Society.
- 6.3. **Affiliate (Casual) Member:** Persons other than Full Members that are interested in promoting the Society or participating in events or services promoted by the Society, but do not wish to commit to membership fees, may become an Affiliate Member.

### 7. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

*The procedure for expulsion of members will be as follows:*

- 7.1. Any person or organization may make a complaint to the Executive Committee that the conduct of a member of the Society is or has been injurious to the character of the Society. Every such complaint will be in writing and addressed to the Secretary.

- 7.2. If the Executive Committee considers that there is sufficient substance in the complaint, it may invite the member to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee and to offer a written and/or oral explanation of the member's conduct.
- 7.3. The Executive Committee will give the member at least fourteen (14) days written notice of the meeting. The notice will:
  - 7.3.1. Sufficiently inform the member of the complaint so that the member can offer an explanation of the member's conduct; and
  - 7.3.2. Inform the member that if the Executive Committee is not satisfied with the member's explanation the Executive Committee may expel the member from the Society.
- 7.4. If in the meeting the Executive Committee decides to expel the member from the Society the member will cease to be a member of the Society.
- 7.5. A member expelled by the Executive Committee may within fourteen (14) days give written notice of appeal to the Secretary. The Secretary will then call a Special General Meeting to take place within twenty eight (28) days of receipt of the notice of appeal. If that meeting passes a resolution rescinding the expulsion, the member will be reinstated immediately.

## Management

### 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1. The Executive Committee will be composed of a minimum of six (6) full members consisting of the offices of:

**President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

and no fewer than three (3) and a maximum of six (6) other full members

8.2. No individual member may hold more than 2 of the specified offices at the same time.

8.3. The Executive Committee will have the power to fill any places vacant following the Annual General Meeting, or any vacancy that arises in the Executive or among its named officers until the next Society Meeting.

8.4. Elected members of the Executive Committee will retire at each Annual General Meeting, but will be eligible for re-election at the same and subsequent meetings. Newly elected Executive Committee members will take office immediately upon their election.

8.5. A member may only serve for three consecutive terms as an office bearer on the executive committee unless there are insufficient people to meet the required minimum of members for the executive.

8.6. Nominations for elected positions on the Executive Committee, including office-bearers, may be by way of written nomination signed by a current member and endorsed with the consent of the nominee and given to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the day fixed for the Society Meeting. No nomination may be withdrawn after the date on which nominations close. If there are insufficient nominations to fill the vacant positions on the Executive Committee, oral nominations may be received at the Society Meeting, provided that no member will be elected who has not consented to being nominated. For the sake of nomination, electronic communication is considered written notice.

8.7. The procedure for meetings will be as follows:

8.7.1. A quorum will be at least three (3) or one third, whichever is greater, of its full executive committee.

8.7.2. If a member of the Executive Committee, including an office-bearer, does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings without leave of absence that member may, at the discretion and on decision of the Executive Committee, be removed from the Executive Committee.

- 8.7.3. All questions will if possible be decided by consensus. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached then a decision will be made by a majority vote by show of hands.
- 8.7.4. If the voting is tied, the President may exercise a casting vote.
- 8.7.5. Each meeting will be chaired by the President of the Society or, in their absence, by a person appointed by the Executive Committee.
- 8.8. The Executive Committee will meet at least four (4) times every year. Meetings may be held in person or by any other means of communicating as decided on by the Executive Committee from time to time. All members of the Executive Committee, including office-bearers, will be given at least (7) days notice of the meeting by the Secretary, verbally or in writing.
- 8.9. The Secretary will ensure that a minute record is maintained which is available to any member of the Society and which, for each meeting of the Executive Committee, records
  - 8.9.1. The names of those present;
  - 8.9.2. All decisions which are required by the constitution or by law to be made by the Society; and
  - 8.9.3. Any other matters discussed at the meeting.
- 8.10. The Executive Committee will at all times be bound by the decisions of the members at Society Meetings.

## **9. POWER TO DELEGATE**

- 9.1. The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint any committee and may delegate any of its powers and duties to any such committee or to any person. The committee or person may without confirmation by the Executive Committee exercise or perform the delegated powers or duties in the same way and with the same effect as the Executive Committee could itself have done.
- 9.2. Any committee or person to whom the Society has delegated powers or duties will be bound by the terms of the Society and any terms or conditions of the delegation set by the Executive Committee.
- 9.3. The Society will be able to revoke such delegation at will, and no such delegation will prevent the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty by the Executive Committee.
- 9.4. It will not be necessary for any person who is appointed to be a member of any such committee, or to whom such delegation is made, to be a member of the Society.



## Meetings

### 10. GENERAL MEETINGS

*"General Meeting" refers to both Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting, unless otherwise specified.*

- 10.1. The quorum for a General Meeting will be the greater of either six (6) full members or one third of the full members, present in person or by virtual presence where arranged prior to the meeting and approved by the Secretary.
- 10.2. At least fourteen (14) days written notification of each General Meeting will be given to members at the current address for such members recorded in the register of members. It will be the responsibility of members to keep the office of the Society informed of their contact details.
- 10.3. Notification of a General Meeting will specify the time, date and place of the meeting. Notification will also describe in a general way all the matters that will arise to be considered and specify what further and more detailed information on these matters is available from the Executive Committee. Full information will be provided concerning any proposed amendments to the constitution or any matter which is the business of a special General Meeting. Such information will be supplied to any member requesting it.
- 10.4. The General Meeting will be chaired by the current President of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President the meeting will elect a person to chair the meeting from among the members present.
- 10.5. A member may be represented at a General Meeting by a nominee appointed by notice in writing to the Secretary and received by the Secretary before the meeting. A member will have the right at any time to change, withdraw or revoke the appointment of the member's nominee by notice in writing to the Secretary.
- 10.6. All questions will if possible be decided by consensus. However, where a consensus decision cannot be reached on a matter, the decision will, unless otherwise specified in this constitution, be made by a majority vote.
- 10.7. Only current full members will be eligible to vote. Affiliate members will be eligible to attend meetings and speak.
- 10.8. Voting will be by a show of hands unless members indicate an alternative preference. If any member requests a secret ballot on any vote or election, a secret ballot will be held.
- 10.9. If voting is tied, the President may enter a casting vote.



## **11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 11.1. The Annual General Meeting will be held annually during the months of April, May or June.
- 11.2. The Annual General Meeting will carry out the following business:
  - 11.2.1. Receive the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any other General Meeting held since the last Annual General Meeting.
  - 11.2.2. Receive the Executive Committee's report on the activities of the Society over the last year and the proposed priorities and directions for the Society in the current year.
  - 11.2.3. Receive the balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure for the past year and the estimate of income and expenditure for the current year.
  - 11.2.4. Elect the officers and other ordinary members of the Executive Committee of the Society (see section 8.1).
  - 11.2.5. Appoint a qualified person to prepare the Society's accounts.
  - 11.2.6. Conduct any other business which may properly be brought before the meeting.

## **12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 12.1. Special General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or by a written request made by at least five (5) full members and delivered to the Secretary. Where the meeting has been called on the written request of five (5) full members it will be called within thirty (30) days of the delivery of that request to the Secretary.
- 12.2. A Special General Meeting will only consider business related to the reason for which it is called, as notified to the members.

## Money and Other Assets

### 13. USE OF MONEY AND OTHER ASSETS

- 13.1. The Society may only Use Money and Other Assets if:
  - 13.1.1. It is for a purpose of the Society;
  - 13.1.2. It is not for the sole personal or individual benefit of any Member; and
  - 13.1.3. That Use has been approved by either the Executive Committee or by majority vote of the Society.

### 14. MEMBERSHIP FEE

- 14.1. If any Member does not pay a Membership Fee by the date set by the Committee or the Society, the Secretary will give written notice that, unless the arrears are paid by a nominated date, the Membership will be terminated. After that date, the Member shall (without being released from the obligation of payment of any sums due to the Society) no longer have Full Membership rights and shall not be entitled to participate in the Executive Committee.

### 15. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 15.1. The financial year of the Society will be from 1 April to 31 March the following year.
- 15.2. At the first meeting of the Society and at the first meeting of the Executive Committee following each Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee will decide by resolution the following:
  - 15.2.1. How money will be received by the Society as Membership Fees?
  - 15.2.2. Who will be entitled to produce receipts?
  - 15.2.3. What bank accounts will operate for the ensuing year, including the purposes of and access to accounts?
  - 15.2.4. Who will be allowed to authorize the production of cheques and the names of cheque signatories;
  - 15.2.5. Who will be allowed to authorize the processing of direct bank transfers and the names of authorisers; and
  - 15.2.6. Policy concerning the investment of money by the Society, including what type of investment will be permitted.
- 15.3. The Treasurer will ensure that true and fair accounts are kept of all money received and expended.

- 15.4. The Executive Committee may arrange for the accounts of the Society for that financial year to be audited by a person appointed for that purpose.

## **General Procedures**

### **16. COMMON SEAL**

- 16.1. The Common Seal of the Society will be kept in the custody and control of the Secretary.
- 16.2. When required, the Common Seal will be affixed to any document following a resolution of the Society and will be signed by the Treasurer and one other person appointed by the Executive Committee.

### **17. INDEMNITY**

- 17.1. No Officer or member of the Executive shall be liable for the acts or defaults of any other Officer or member of the Executive or any loss occasioned thereby, unless occasioned by their willful default or by their wilful acquiescence.
- 17.2. The Officers, Executive and each of its members shall be indemnified by the Society for all liabilities and costs incurred by them in the proper performance of the functions and duties, other than as a result of their wilful default.

### **18. ALTERATION OF RULES**

- 18.1. The rules of the Society may only be amended in any way by a 2/3 majority of eligible members personally present at any General Meeting, provided that no addition to or alteration of the objects clause (Section 3), the pecuniary profit clause (Section 10), the activities limited to New Zealand clause (section 17), or the winding up clause (Section 18) will be approved without the prior consent of the Department of Inland Revenue.

### **19. MEDIATION & ARBITRATION**

- 19.1. Any dispute arising out of or relating to this deed may be referred to mediation, a non-binding dispute resolution process in which an independent mediator facilitates negotiation between parties. Mediation may be initiated by either party writing to the other party and identifying the dispute which is being suggested for mediation. The other party will either agree to proceed with mediation or agree to attend a preliminary meeting with the mediator to discuss whether mediation would be helpful in the circumstances. The parties will agree on a suitable person to act as mediator or will ask the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc. to appoint a mediator. The mediation will be in accordance with the Mediation Protocol of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc.

For the sake of formalising the dispute, electronic communication is considered written notice.

- 19.2. The mediation shall be terminated by-
  - 19.2.1. The signing of a settlement agreement by the parties; or
  - 19.2.2. Notice to the parties by the mediator, after consultation with the parties, to the effect that further efforts at mediation are no longer justified; or
  - 19.2.3. Notice by one or more of the parties to the mediation to the effect that further efforts at mediation are no longer justified; or
  - 19.2.4. The expiry of sixty (60) working days from the mediator's appointment, unless the parties expressly consent to an extension of this period.
- 19.3. If the mediation should be terminated as provided in 19.2.2, 19.2.3, 19.2.4 any dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this constitution, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration in New Zealand in accordance with New Zealand law and the current Arbitration Protocol of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc. The arbitration shall be by one arbitrator to be agreed upon by the parties and If they should fail to agree within twenty-one (21) days, then to be appointed by the President of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc.

## Winding up

### 20. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS ASSETS

- 20.1. The Society may be wound up if at a General meeting of its members, it passes a resolution to wind up, and the resolution is confirmed at a subsequent general meeting called together for that purpose and held not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the resolution to be confirmed was passed.
- 20.2. Any surplus assets after the payment of all outstanding liabilities will be distributed among such community organizations in New Zealand that have similar objects to the Society and as the members will decide in a General Meeting. If the Society is unable to resolve any disagreement over the distribution of surplus assets then the provisions of Section 27 of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, or the relevant provisions of subsequent enactments, will apply.

## Definitions

### 21. DEFINITIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

21.1. In these Rules:

21.1.1. “Combat Robot” means a electro-mechanical device designed for physical combat with similar devices.

21.1.2. “Majority vote” means a vote made by more than half of the Members who are present at a Meeting and who are entitled to vote and voting at that Meeting upon a resolution put to that Meeting.

21.1.3. “Money or Other Assets” means any real or personal property or any interest therein, owned or controlled to any extent by the Society.

21.1.4. “Society Meeting” means any Annual General Meeting, or any Special General Meeting, but not a Committee Meeting.

21.1.5. “Use Money or Other Assets” means to use, handle, invest, transfer, give, apply, expend, dispose of, or in any other way deal with, Money or Other Assets.

21.1.6. “Written Notice” means communication by post, electronic means (including SMS text, email, Slack, Messenger and website posting), or advertisement in periodicals, or a combination of these methods.

21.1.7. It is assumed that

21.1.7.1. Where a masculine is used, the feminine is included

21.1.7.2. Where the singular is used, plural forms of the noun are also inferred

21.1.7.3. Headings are a matter of reference and not a part of the rules

21.2. Matters not covered in these rules shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee.