

Greater Richmond Marathi Mandal Constitution

Preamble

With the goal of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Maharashtra and of uniting the people of Marathi origin we the Marathi loving people of Greater Richmond Metropolitan area do hereby constitute The Greater Richmond Marathi Mandal and bequeath to ourselves the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article One

This organization shall be known as the Greater Richmond Marathi Mandal (hereinafter referred as GRMM or the Association).

Article Two

An Executive Committee (EC) duly elected by GRMM members as described in Article 7 shall manage all the business and affairs of GRMM as per Constitution and Bylaws.

Article Three

Section I: The objective of GRMM shall be to promote literary, educational, cultural and charitable activities related to preserving and promoting the heritage of Maharashtra .

Section II: To create opportunities for and nurture inter-cultural exchange.

Section III: To collectively help and be of service to members of GRMM and of the local community.

Section IV: GRMM shall be a non-political organization.

Section V: No part of the earning of GRMM shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to the EC, GRMM members or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose of GRMM.

Section VI: Any member wishing to participate in the activities of GRMM shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, age, race, national origin, color, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs or the state of handicap.

Article Four

Section I: Any person, who subscribes to the objectives of GRMM and pays annual dues, as decided by EC, is entitled to be a member of GRMM. Every such member will have obligation to uphold the constitution and bylaws of GRMM.

Section II: The membership of GRMM shall consist of the following categories

1. Family Membership – Individual, his/her spouse, and children in the household. This membership shall entitle all members qualified in the foregoing list to participate in the Associations activities and enjoy all privileges except voting rights. Voting rights shall be limited to the individual and his/her spouse each having one vote.
2. Individual Membership - This membership shall entitle the individual to participate in the Associations activities and enjoy all privileges including one voting right. In addition to the Individual membership two discount categories of individual membership shall be allowed
 - a. Student members - full time student attending an accredited educational institution.
 - b. Senior Citizens - Individuals aged 65 or more
3. Dependent Parents and Visiting Parents of a member holding Family/Individual membership will be given all the membership benefits except voting rights for GRMM elections.

Section III: Annual dues for each membership category shall be decided by the EC

Article Five

Section I: The Executive Committee shall be comprised of following office bearers:

- a) President
- b) Program Director(Vice President)
- c) Treasurer
- d) Cultural Director
- e) Communication Director
- f) Technology Director
- g) Membership Director

Section II: Each year before end of September, the EC by majority vote shall appoint two Election Officers according to the provisions of the Bylaws. The EC will use all methods of communication at its disposal to make all GRMM members aware of the Election Officers. These officers will help conduct free and fair annual elections during the Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) held per Article 7. The term of these Election Officers will end after the AGBM.

Section III: The candidate for President must offer a panel of office-bearers to the Election Officers, containing the names suggested for each Office. The election officer will confirm with each member of the panel that the person intends to be part of the panel under the leadership of the Presidential hopeful. The election officers will then validate that the panel members comply with term-limits set forth in Section V of this article.

Section IV: These EC positions shall be elected by the members of GRMM, in an election with a secret ballot, at an Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of GRMM for a one-year term of office. The members will be voting for one of the several panels contesting. There will be no voting for individual positions on the Executive Committee.

Section V: All EC members shall be allowed to hold a particular office/position for one term only. However, they shall be allowed to hold another position on the EC for one more consecutive term. No member can serve more than two consecutive terms on the EC. An exception to these limits will be allowed in a situation where

- no new Presidential candidate comes up with a panel.

OR

- no new willing members ready to be part of the panel in spite of considerable efforts to motivate eligible members.

Section VI: The term of incoming EC shall begin on the day after elections and last for 2 years.

Section VII: If any vacancy arises on the EC through any cause, the EC may appoint any current member of GRMM to fill that vacancy by majority vote. This appointment should be communicated to all GRMM members within 30 days. The term of the appointed member will end with the term of the EC. The term limits described in Section V of this article will not be applicable to such appointed members.

Section IX: GRMM will have Board of Advisors with following responsibilities

1. Address any disputes arising out of but not limited to the following
 - a. Anti-discrimination clause – Article Three Section V of GRMM Constitution
 - b. Election Process – Article Five of GRMM Constitution
 - c. Finance - Section 5 of GRMM By-Laws
2. Provide independence of functioning to the Executive Committee within the framework of GRMM Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Be caretaker of GRMM in the event no Executive Committee is formed. In such cases Board of Advisors will have all powers bestowed to the Executive Committee as defined by this Constitution and approved By Laws of GRMM, until a new Executive Committee is in place.

Section X: The term of Board of Advisors will be minimum of 18 months and maximum of 24

months. The current Executive Committee is duty bound to form the Board of Advisors once the minimum term length of current Board of Advisors is exceeded; using a random drawing of 3 candidates selected from and witnessed by the eligible pool of candidates as described below with order of preference

1. Any past Presidents of GRMM that are willing to serve in Board of Advisors and are current member of GRMM
2. In case there are vacancies if we don't have sufficient candidates that meets above criteria, then any past EC members, that are current members of GRMM, can be eligible to be considered in the pool of candidates
3. In case there are vacancies if we don't have sufficient candidates that meet the above 2 criteria, then any current member of GRMM can be eligible to be part of the pool of candidates

Article Six

Section I: GRMM shall be a non-profit organization. No dividends or monetary profits shall be declared or paid to the EC or GRMM members thereof.

Section II: The association's income shall be derived from membership dues, fees for functions and events, and charitable donations and grants.

Section III: No monetary or physical assets of GRMM shall be distributable to GRMM members or other private persons. If the association is dissolved per Article 8, any remaining assets will be donated per Article 8.2.

Section IV: All GRMM members including EC members work as volunteers and cannot be compensated in any form for their time and effort for services rendered to, or duties performed on behalf of the association.

Section V: A non-EC member shall be appointed by the EC for auditing the GRMM accounts of the fiscal year and the results of this audit shall be published to all members by second Sunday of the month of January of the following year.

Article Seven

Section I: The General Body of the Association shall consist of all dues paying members and will have power over the EC or any other Committee of the Association.

Section II: An Annual General Body Meeting of the Association will be held in the month of October each year.

Section III: The following activities shall take place during the AGBM

- 1) The Election Officers shall conduct an election for the EC,

- 2) The outgoing President will deliver a “State of Association Report” and hand over the reins to the newly elected President and EC.
- 3) Any other special motions, such as motions to amend the constitution, shall be considered.

Section IV: A special General Body meeting may be called by a majority vote of the EC or by a written petition signed by 1/3rd of the dues paying members. In either case, the President shall inform the General body of the matter and call a General Body meeting within 30 days of receiving such notice.

Article Eight

Section I: If the Association ceases to function or the EC decides that the Association is no longer able to fulfill the objectives outlined in this constitution, then the association may be dissolved as follows

- 1) The EC shall circulate a notice of intent of dissolution to all members and call a Special General Body Meeting no earlier than 30 days from circulating such notice. The motion to dissolve must pass by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast. In case where unable to be present the members can also convey the intent by sending a written letter bearing their signature before the Special General Body Meeting to the Communication Director on the EC.
- 2) Upon dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, donate of all of the assets for charitable purposes to non-profit organizations.

Article Nine

Section I: This constitution may be amended as follows:

Any GRMM member, including EC members, may circulate a notice of intent to amend and a description of the proposed amendment to all members at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Body Meeting. In case where unable to be present the members can also mail in the vote by sending a written letter bearing their signature or email before the Annual General Body Meeting to the Communication Director on the EC. The motion to amend must pass by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast including the absentee votes.

Article Ten

Section I: Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities permitted to be carried on (a) by an Association exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law); or (b) by an Association, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)