

THE RULES CONSTITUTION OF THE FIJI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Established by the Fiji Medical and Dental Practitioners Act 2010 (Cap. 255) Section 41 & 42
(Update for latest update)

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 1986, and incorporating amendments to Rules
5,7,8,13,19,20,29,34,35,42 & 43, adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting, 02.03.2002

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Article I. Title and Office

1. The name of the Association shall be the FIJI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – hereinafter referred to as the “FMA”
2. The FMA operates in accordance with the principles set forth in the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Cap. 255), which governs the registration, regulation, and conduct of medical professionals in Fiji.
3. The registered office of the Association shall be at Suva or such other places as may be decided upon by the Executive Council subject to the approval of the annual or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association.
4. The official email address for the FMA shall be fmavuniwais@gmail.com. Secondary communication via postal mail currently registered as postal address shall be General Post Office Box 1116 Suva or any other address as may be decided by the FMA Executive Council from time to time and notified to every member within 21 days.

Article II. Objectives

The objects of the Association (according to the act) be as follows:

- (a) to maintain and improve the standards of conduct and competence of the medical profession in Fiji;
- (b) to promote the welfare and to preserve and maintain the integrity and status of the medical profession;
- (c) to represent the views, interests and wishes of the medical profession;
- (d) to represent, protect and assist members of the medical profession in Fiji as regards to the conditions of practice and otherwise;
- (e) to represent, protect and assist members of the medical profession in Fiji as regards to the conditions of employment with the Government;
- (f) to settle points of practice and to provide means for the amicable settlement of professional differences;
- (g) to protect and assist the public and the medical profession in all matters touching, ancillary or incidental to medical practice;

(h) to assist needy members and former members of the Association or their relatives and the relatives of deceased members;

(i) to cultivate a generous professional spirit among medical practitioners by encouraging meetings of members of the Association and persons connected with matters of medical interest;

(j) generally, to promote excellence in medical practice in any manner which the Association thinks fit in the interests of the profession and of the country.

Additionally

(a) To acquire, hold, develop or dispose of property of all kinds, whether real or personal, and to derive capital from income therefrom, for all or any of the foregoing objects.

(b) To raise or borrow money for all or any of the foregoing objects in such manner and upon such security as may from time to time be determined by the Fiji Medical Association.

(c) To invest and deal with moneys of the Fiji Medical Association not immediately required in such manner as may from time to time be determined by the Fiji Medical Association.

(d) To pay the whole or any part of the expenses incurred by members in attending meetings of the Fiji Medical Association or of any committee appointed by the said Association.

(e) To pay costs and other payments incidental to or connected with the discharge of any function of the Fiji Medical Association.

Article III. Membership

Section 3.01 Ordinary members

Ordinary members are open to any person registered with a valid Part 1 or Part II registration with the Fiji Medical Council (FMC) Register in accordance with the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act 2010 (Cap. 255).

Such a person should apply to the FMC in the form prescribed in the schedule. When it has been duly confirmed by the Registrar of the FMC that the applicant is eligible for membership, he/she shall be required to pay subscription at the

full rate, commencing from the date on which he/she became a member, and on commencements of regular payments via salary deductions or payment of the pro rata subscription for the remainder of the current financial year shall be entitled to full privileges of membership. Final decision on membership will be determined by the FMA Executive Committee (FMA ExCom).

Section 3.02 Life Members

Any ordinary member who has been a financial member in good standing for a continuous period of 30 years shall be registered as a life member of the association, and thereafter shall not be liable to pay annual subscription but shall be eligible for all rights and privileges of ordinary membership.

Section 3.03 Fellowship

An ordinary member who has rendered singular and outstanding service to the Fiji Medical Association, or to the advancement of medical practice research, or education may be recommended by the FMA ExCom to the Annual General Meeting to become a fellow of the Association. If the recommendation is endorsed by eighty percent of the voting members present, the member shall become a fellow of the Association.

Section 3.04 Annual Subscriptions

1. The annual subscription for each ensuring year shall be fixed at the Annual General meeting of the association in that section of the agenda which is allocated to the presentation of the budget for the forth coming year and any change thus made shall be effective from October 1st of that year until Sept 30th of the next calendar year.
2. Ordinary members shall pay the full annual subscription rate in such manner as is prescribed by FMA ExCom from time to time.
3. Ordinary members not engaged in any remunerative occupation and not registered as Life members shall be liable to pay a reduced annual subscription at a rate not more than fifty percent of the normal subscription for ordinary members.

Section 3.05 Arrears of Subscription

- i. A member whose subscription is not paid in full by June 30th of each year shall not be entitled to nominate or be nominated for any office in the association nor to vote in election for office bearers or on other resolutions of the Annual General Meeting.
- ii. Members whose subscriptions are more than 12 months in arrears shall cease to be members of the Association until the total sum has been paid.

Section 3.06 Cessation of Membership

- i. An ordinary member of the Association may tender in writing his resignation from the Association, and this shall be accepted provided subscriptions are paid in full until the date on which the notice of resignation was received.
- ii. If a member ceases to qualify for registration under Part 11 of the Medical Register, he/she shall cease to be member of the Association.
- iii. If any member is proved to the satisfaction of the FMA ExCom to have been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Association, his membership may be suspended or terminated by the FMA ExCom which shall initiate and carry out the disciplinary procedure.

Section 3.07 Disciplinary Procedure

1. The FMA ExCom upon receiving representation of any 2 members shall convene at not less than 21 days' notice in writing, a special meeting of the FMA ExCom at which the member accused of such conduct shall have the right to be heard in this defence. Such member shall receive at least 21 days' notice in writing of the time and place of such a meeting, together with a full text of the charges, which have been laid against him/her.

At such meeting, the FMA ExCom having given due consideration to all facts and evidence relevant to the case shall determine whether the member

accused is guilty of such conduct. If the accused is found guilty, the ExCom may;

- i. Deliver a warning or reprimand to the member concerned; or
 - ii. Suspend the member from the Association for a period not exceeding 3 months; or
 - iii. Expel such member from the Association.
2. Any member so suspended or expelled shall have the right to appeal to Extraordinary General Meeting. The decision of such meeting shall be final.
 3. Any member warned, suspended or expelled from the Association in accordance with Rule 9 (ii) who enters public dispute with the Fiji Medical Association, whether within a Court of Law or elsewhere, without having exercised his right of appeal as set out in Rule 9 (iv) above, shall be deemed to be guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
 4. Restitution of Privileges of Membership: any member suspended under Rule 9 (iii) (b) above shall automatically be restored to the full privileges of membership upon expiry of his term of suspension.

Any member expelled on the prescribed form after the lapse of not less than 12 months from the date of his expulsion.

Article IV. Constitution and government

1. The supreme authority of the association shall be vested in the Annual General Meeting and subject to that authority the Association shall be governed by the FMA ExCom.
2. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of September in every year at the day, hour and place determined by FMA ExCom.
3. Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by Council as follows:
 - i. On its own initiative for the consideration of important matters of general concern to members.

- ii. On the receipt of a petition signed by not less than thirty (30) members who are not in arrears with subscription.

Article V. Notice and Agenda of Annual General Meeting

The secretary on the instruction of the Council shall prepare an agenda of the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and shall make it known;

- i. By inserting a notice including such agenda in any two daily English newspapers circulated in Fiji not less than 21 days before the meeting is to take place, specifying the day, hour and place.
- ii. By dispatching by normal postal services, fax, and or email each ordinary member, life member and fellow of the association at his registered address, notice of the day, hour, place and agenda of such meeting.
- iii. The non-receipt of such notice by or accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting. Members temporarily or permanently absent from Fiji shall not be entitled to notice.

Article VI. Quorum

The quorum of an Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting of the association shall be 40 persons or 20 percent of the total membership whichever is the least.

Article VII. Voting

Voting will normally be show of hands provided that if 10 or more voting members at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting ask for voting by secret ballot such vote must be taken by secret ballot.

Article VIII. Business of the Annual General Meeting

1. The reading and adoption of minutes of the preceding general meetings and discussion of matters arising therefrom.
2. Presentation of report of the previous years' activities by the President.
3. Presentation of the audited annual accounts by the Treasurer
4. Presentation by the Treasurer of the budget of the Association for the ensuing year including projections of expenditure and proposals for membership fees of the Association for discussion and adoption.
5. Voting on any proposed amendments to Rules of the Association
6. Presentation of reports from the conveners of such standing committee of the Association as may currently be in exercise.
7. Consideration of remits from members regarding policies and actions taken by the Association
8. Other business
9. Declaration by the returning officer of the results of elections to Executive Council and two (2) Fiji Medical Association representatives on the Fiji Medical Council for the forthcoming year.

Article IX. Notice of Agenda of Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice and agenda of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given in the manner prescribed for the Annual General Meeting in rule No.13 above, except that 3 insertions of the notice of meeting shall be made in any two English language daily newspapers, the first of which shall be not less than 21 days before the date of the said Extraordinary General Meeting. Such notice shall show the agenda and business of the meeting, and discussions at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be limited to these matters contained in the agenda, and decisions reached thereon shall have the same validity as decisions reached by the Annual General Meeting.

Article X. Changes in rules of the Association

The Annual General Meeting of Extraordinary General Meeting called on conformity with Articles V to IX inclusive; shall be the only authority to rescind, alter or add to the Rules of the Association.

When any change in the Rules of the association is contemplated, the general nature of the change proposed shall be specifically stated on the notice and agenda of the meeting.

Article XI. Elections of the FMA

1. The election of members and office bearers of the FMA ExCom representatives to Fiji Medical Council shall be held annually to fill such vacancies as have occurred by resignation, death, or removal after the previous Annual General Meeting, or shall occur by expiry of term of office at the time of the Annual General Meeting for the current year.
2. Candidates must have been financial members of the Association for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to the date fixed for lodgement of nominations, which will normally be the first day for July each year.
3. Candidates may be nominated for only one of the following positions: President, Secretary, Treasurer and for seven positions for Council Members one of which shall be a medical practitioner in private practice. A valid nomination must be endorsed by
 - (i) the nominated person
 - (ii) two other voting members of the Association.
4. The treasurer of the Association shall prepare a list of members entitled to vote, which shall be available to the appointed Returning Officer and association members not later than the first day of May each year.
5. The election of office bearers and Council shall be conducted as set down here under by a Returning Officer or organization responsible for elections such as the Fiji Elections Office, who shall be appointed annually by the Council at least 3 months prior to the AGM each year. The Returning Officer shall be serving or retired Civil Servant who has served at least 5 years in an administrative post, who is not a member of the Association.

Section 11.01 Election by returning officer procedure

1. Notice of election and forms for nominations of candidates shall be printed and dispatched by normal postal services to each voting member of the Association not later than the third Monday of May. Such notice shall include:

- i. A list of the current serving members and office bearers of the Association, including their date and manner of appointment, date of expiry of term of office and eligibility for re-election.
 - ii. A form for nomination of candidates to fill vacancies as specified in Article XI
 - iii. A list of all serving members of the Fiji Medical Council, including their date of appointment, category of appointment and date of expiry of appointment.
 - iv. The name and official address of the Returning Officer.
2. Notices of election shall be published in any English language daily newspaper during the no less than a month before the elections.
 - i. Notice of election and nomination forms shall be dispatched in normal postal services or via email to each voting member.
3. The Returning Officer shall receive all completed forms and determine the validity of each nomination
4. The Returning Officer shall supply, on request to each nominated candidate, the names of other nominees, and shall accept withdrawal of nomination by any candidate up to the last day of nominations indicated by the Returning Officer.
5. The Returning Officer shall compile have printed a ballot paper for each position or office on which shall appear the names of all valid nominees together with the names of the respective nominating members, whose completed nomination forms reach the registered office of the Association no later than the last business day of June.
6. The returning officer shall dispatch by postal services or email to each voting member of the Association a copy of the ballot papers for each vacant position on the Executive Council of the association.
7. A voter identification card, printed in the identical and separable parts shall be posted to each member, together with the above ballot papers.
8. A valid vote shall be recorded by the voter placing a tick in the place indicated alongside the name of only one candidate for each of the following offices: President, Secretary, Treasurer and alongside the names of no more than seven candidates for the position of Council Member. The voter shall endorse both parts of the Voter Identification card with a name

of symbol of his own choosing and enclose one part in an envelope with his complete ballot papers and retain the other part in his own possession.

9. The returning officer shall receive and open all envelopes and packages addressed to: The Returning Officer, Fiji Medical Association, which being postmarked no later than August 5th, have been placed in the Post Office box designated by August 10th.
10. The returning officer shall supervise and be responsible for the counting of all valid votes received for each office and shall declare the elected candidates securing the greatest number of votes. In the case of elections for the position (s) of Executive Council Member, the private medical practitioner securing the greatest number of votes shall be first declared elected and thereafter, the candidates securing the highest number of votes from among the remaining candidates shall be declared elected in order until all vacancies are filled.
11. The result of the election shall be communicated to the Executive Council via the Secretary of the FMA, who shall inform all candidates of the result. The result(s) of the elections shall be communicated to members by the Secretary along with the Notice and Agenda of the Annual General Meeting.
12. In the event of any position on the Executive Council not being filled by reason of an insufficient number of valid nominations, the Annual General Meeting is empowered to receive nominations from the floor and conduct a secret ballot among voting members present at the meeting.
13. Each candidate may, in the presence of the Returning Officer and one other person who is a member of the Retiring Council, examine the completed ballot papers, both valid and invalid for the office for which he was nominated, up until 7 days after the Annual General Meeting.
14. Each voting member of the association may examine the Voter Identification Cards which shall be kept apart from the ballot papers, to confirm that his own vote was received and included in the count, up until 7 days after the Annual General Meeting.
15. A member who, after such examining of ballot papers, considers that an irregularity in voting or counting of votes has occurred should communicate this in writing to the Secretary within 14 days of the Annual General Meeting. An examination of ballot papers by two assessors,

appointed by outgoing council members, who must be voting members of at least 2 years standing, who were not candidates for election shall be arranged by the Secretary and conducted in the presence of the complainant. If an irregularity is considered by the two assessors to have occurred such as would affect the outcome of the election, for any or all positions, the elections must be declared void, and new ballot held within one calendar month.

Article XII. Executive Council Powers

The Government of the Association and the conduct of its business in the periods between Annual General Meeting shall be vested in the FMA ExCom, which is the associations executive body.

The FMA ExCom shall have the sole power to form and dissolve branches, standing committees and special interest groups. Such branches, committees and groups shall determine their own constitution if such is deemed by council to be in accordance with the Act, these rules and the Code of Ethics of the association and shall operate their own banking account and financial affairs, provided that detailed accounts are presented at the end of each financial year for scrutiny by the Associations auditors.

Section 12.01 Composition of Council

The council shall consist of President, and Treasurer and seven other members. The election of members and office bearers of the Executive Council for 1986-87 shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of 1986 by secret ballot, by financial members present at the said Annual General Meeting. From 1987 and thereafter, the President, Secretary and Treasurer and FMA ExCom members shall be elected for a term of two years.

At the first Council Meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting, the Council shall appoint three of its members to be Vice President, Junior Vice President and Assistant Secretary for the ensuing 12- month period. The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Council for a period of 12 months immediately following the conclusion of his presidency.

Section 12.02 Voting and Quorum of Council

The Council shall normally meet monthly, but not less than 8 times in each 12month period between successive Annual General Meetings. Not less than 50 per centum of members of Council shall form a quorum.

Section 12.03 Vacancies of the FMA ExCom

In the event of the death, resignation or removal of any member of the Council between two successive Annual General Meetings or when during such period any member is to be unavoidably absent from Fiji for period of more than 3 months, the candidate who secured the next highest number of votes in the last election of office bearers shall fill the vacancy. If there was no such candidate the vacancy, shall be filled by a majority decision of the Council.

Section 12.04 Decisions of FMA ExCom

The decisions of Council shall be binding upon all members, providing such decisions are not contrary to the Rules or Code of Ethics of the Association.

Section 12.05 Grievance Procedure

In the event that any member considers a ruling or action of the Executive Council to be contrary to the Rules, or the Code of Ethics of the Association, he may enter into dispute by the following procedure;

1. He/She should set out in writing the full details of his complaint, and deliver this document to the President, Secretary and Vice President, who shall cause the grievance to be examined by the ExCom at its next subsequent meeting. The complainant shall be informed in writing of the outcome of the ExCom deliberations. The ExCom may, on its own initiative, or in response to a request by the complainant, arrange for the complainant to appear in person at a special meeting of the for further examination of his complaint.
2. In the event of the Executive Council rejecting all or any part of the complaint, the complainant shall have the right of appeal,
 - a. To the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association, or alternatively.
 - b. To an arbitrator agreed upon by both parties

3. Any member who enters into public dispute with the Fiji Medical Association, whether in a Court of Law or elsewhere, without first having submitted his complaint according to Rule 26 (1) and (2) shall be deemed to be guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

Section 12.06 Interpretation of Rules of Council

Between Annual General Meeting the Council shall, when necessary, interpret Rules and determine any point which the Rules do not adequately cover.

Article XIII. Officers of the Association

All officers and members of the FMA ExCom must be paid financial members of the Association.

Section 13.01 Duties of the President

a. The President shall be elected in accordance with Article IX and his term of office shall be 2 years. He shall be eligible for re-election only insofar as his total continuous term of office shall not exceed four (4) years.

b. The President, or in his absence one Vice President shall preside at all Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings and Council Meetings and shall be responsible for the proper conduct of business. He shall sign the minute of each meeting after they are approved.

c. With the assistance of the Secretary and Treasurer, he shall superintend the general administration of the affairs of the Association and shall endeavour to secure the observance of the Association Rules by all concerned.

d. He shall, in conjunction with the Treasurer operate the Associations bank accounts on behalf of the Association.

e. He shall be the official spokesman for the Association in any matter where a public pronouncement of policy is deemed proper and necessary by the FMA ExCom.

f. He shall be responsible for ensuring that resolutions passed by the Annual General Meetings or Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association are implemented by Council provided always that such resolutions are in keeping with the Act, these Rules and the code of Ethics of the Association.

g. The President is, ex-officio, a member of all committees, subcommittees and task forces of the Association, but shall not be convener or chairperson of the same unless appointed by the Executive Council.

Section 13.02 Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall be appointed annually by the Council in accordance with Article XII and shall serve for one year. In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice President shall deputize for him until such time as the President returns or the Council acts in pursuance of the provisions of Article XIII. In the absence of the President and the Senior Vice President, the Vice President, shall deputize as above.

Section 13.03 Duties of Secretary and Assistant Secretary

i. The secretary shall be elected in accordance with Article XII and shall serve for 2 years.

The Secretary shall in conjunction with the FMA Secretariat, conduct the business of the Association in accordance with Rules, and shall carry out all instructions given to him by the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings and by the Council at its meetings.

ii. He shall keep minutes of the General Meetings and Council Meetings and shall assist the President in the preparation of his report for submission to the Annual General Meeting and any other reports necessary for Extraordinary General Meetings.

iii. He shall receive on behalf of the President and Council the official correspondence of the Association and shall maintain a file and register of letters received.

iv. He shall reply to the official correspondence of the Association in accordance with the Rules and Constitution of the Association and in accordance with the decisions made by the Association at its Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings and of the Council at its meetings. He shall maintain a register and a file of copies of all such correspondence

v. He shall in conjunction with the Treasurer operate the bank account of the Association.

Section 13.04 Duties of the Treasurer

i. The Treasurer shall be elected in accordance with Rules 19-21 for a period of 2 years.

ii. He shall be responsible for the safety of all cash and properties belonging to the Association and shall keep full and accurate accounts of all transactions conducted in the name of the Association.

iii. He shall prepare a financial statement of accounts for audit and for presentation to Annual General Meeting.

iv. He shall prepare a budget of projected expenditure for each 12-month period immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Association including an estimate of the Annual membership subscription which needs to be levied for the same period.

v. He shall in conjunction with the Secretary or President operate the bank accounts of the Association.

vi. He shall deposit in the bank appointed by the Council all monies received except that he shall be permitted to retain not more than \$50 for incidental expenses.

vii. The Treasurers duties commence from the time of his election and terminate after presentation of financial statements at the Annual General Meeting 2 years later.

Article XIV. FMA Finances

Section 14.01 Use of Funds

The funds of the Association shall be used solely for:

a. The payment of expenses of the administration of the Association including audit of the accounts of the funds of the Association.

b. The prosecution of defence of any legal proceedings to which the Association or any member is a party, when prosecution or defence is

undertaken for the purpose of securing or protecting any rights of the Association as such or any rights arising out of the professional relations of any member with his employer.

c. Expenses authorised and incurred on Association business by officers and members of the Association.

d. The erection of any building or the purchase or lease of any building or land required for purpose of the Association and for the rent, upkeep and furnishing thereof.

e. The organization of any professional meeting, reception or excursion.

f. The purchase of books, newspaper and other literature and the upkeep of a reading room for the use of members.

g. The editing, printing and publication and circulation of any book, periodical bulletin or printed literature for the advance of the lawful objects of the Association.

h. The provision of social and welfare amenities for its members and dependants of deceased members.

i. Any other objects not covered by Rule 33(a) – (b) but deemed essential and beneficial to the Association as approved by the FMA ExCom.

Section 14.02 Financial Transaction

a. No receipt for any money given to the Association shall be valid unless it is on the Associations official receipt form. There shall be one only book of receipts in use at any time, and no new book may be started until the current book is fully used or cancelled.

b. All monies collected on behalf of the Association by any person shall be a debt from him to the Association and may if necessary be recovered by legal action.

c. The books of account shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any financial member of the Association.

d. The Association shall operate sufficient bank accounts to meet its operational needs. The Bank Accounts shall bear the name Fiji Medical

Association. All monies received by the Association shall be deposited in these accounts.

e. The funds of the Association which are not required for current expenses, may on the direction of the Council, be invested by the Treasurer and Secretary or President in Government securities or in such other securities as the Council may recommend and which are approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Section 14.03 Financial Year

The financial year of the Association shall commence on first day of July of each year and terminate on the last day of June of the following year.

Section 14.04 Auditors

One or more auditors who must be a registered accountant but need not be members of the Association shall be appointed or elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 14.05 Audit of Accounts

The treasurer shall cause all the accounts of the Association to be audited as soon as possible after the closure of each financial year and at all other times when required by the Association or by law. All books and accounts of the Association will be examined and a certification as to their correctness or otherwise be given by the auditor. A report by the auditor will be made available to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 14.06 Copy of Auditors Report

A copy of the auditor's report of the Association funds shall be conspicuously placed at the office of the Association where it may be conveniently examined by any member.

Article XV. DISPUTES

In the event of a dispute arising between a member and his employer, the member concerned shall make this known to the Secretary who shall place the report before the Executive Council at its next meeting. The Council shall issue a directive to the President and/or Secretary to take such action as it deems necessary.

i. In matters where disputes arise concerning terms and conditions of employment for medical practitioners in government service, FMA ExCom shall present a statement of its views to the Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services and to the Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Commission, seeking opportunity for discussion and resolution of the dispute. If no satisfactory conclusion is reached in this way, the Council shall invoke the assistance of the Fiji Public Service Association and declare a dispute.

ii. Any matters relating to terms of medical practice, discipline within the professional ethics and competence, the Council shall communicate such dispute to the Fiji Medical Council for decision and action.

iii. In the event of any member being required by his employer to act in a manner not in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Association, the Council shall support the member in any way possible to uphold the ethical standards of the Association and at the same time to safeguard his employment.

Article XVI. RULES

i) A copy of these rules and the Code of Ethics shall be given free of charge to any member of the Association within 14 days of joining the Association.

ii) In the event of addition or amendments to the Rules being made at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with Section 18, a full text of such amendment or addition shall be made available to each member within 21 days of meeting.

Article XVII. Appointment to the Fiji Medical Council

The election of these representatives shall be by secret ballot in the manner prescribed for the election of Executive Council. The election for such vacancies as shall occur by expiry of the 2-year terms of appointment of serving representatives within the 12-month period before the next successive annual general meeting shall be conducted simultaneously with the election of the Executive Council.

1. Membership of the Fiji Medical Association to the Fiji Medical Council shall consist of:

- i. The President of the Fiji Medical Association
- ii. A registered specialist
- iii. Another medical practitioner

Section 17.01 Eligibility:

The representatives of the FMA to the Fiji Medical Council must:

- a. Have been registered under Part II of the Act for a period of not less than two (2) years
- b. In the case of the registered Specialist representative, have been registered as a specialist for a period of not less than two (2) years.
- c. In the event of a representative of the Fiji Medical Association ceasing to be a full member of the Association, he shall also cease to be a member of the Fiji Medical Council, and his place shall be filled by a nominee of the Executive Council until the next Annual Elections are held, when the vacancy shall be filled by election as specified in Rules 19-21 above.

Article XVIII. DISSOLUTION

43. The association shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of fifty percent plus one members of the Association obtained by means of a secret ballot held at a General Meeting of members.

44. In the event of the Association being dissolved, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Association shall be fully discharged and the remaining funds together

45. When the Association is dissolved, notice of the dissolution signed by the Secretary and seven voting members shall be sent by the Secretary to the Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services and to the Registrar General within fourteen days of the date of the meeting at which the dissolution was agreed to.

46. The Fiji Medical Association Constitution (1972) is hereby revoked to save that any person appointed or elected to any office under that Constitution shall be deemed to have been appointed or elected under these Rules and any funds and accounts established under these Rules shall be deemed to be in continuation of the corresponding funds and accounts established under the revoked Constitution.