



**SEATTLE (TISI-TIM-TIV) SANGAM
CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION**



**THE CONSTITUTION
MEMORANDUM OF ARTICLES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
	PREAMBLE
1.	NAME OF ASSOCIATION
2.	INTERPRETATION
3.	OBJECTS OF THJR ASSOCIATION
4.	NOT FOR PROFIT STATEMENT
5.	STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION
6.	ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP
7.	NUMBER OF MRMBERS
8.	QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS
9.	AGE AND ELIGIBILITY
10.	SUBSCRIPTION
11.	APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP
12.	MEMBERSHIP REGISTER
13.	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
14.	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15.	EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
16.	COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT MEETING
17.	RIGHT TO VOTE
18.	CHAIRPERSON
19.	MEETING PROCEDURES
20.	QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT
21.	NOMINATIONS
22.	RESIGNATION AND/OR RETIREMENT
23.	DECISION BY MAJORITY VOTES
24.	DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
25.	LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS
26.	WINDING UP
27.	TRUE ACCOUNTS
28.	RESERVED FUND
29.	OPERATING OF ACCOUNTS
30.	EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS
31.	SERVICES OF NOTICES
32.	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

MEMORANDUM OF ARTICLES

PREAMBLE:

We, the members of this Association, in order to form a more perfect unity, establish democracy and justice, insure tranquility, provide for a common cause, promote cultural, educational and sporting activities; and secure blessings of our forefathers and stalwarts of Sangam to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for this Sangam Organization established in the United States of America and as named herein.

Article 1: NAME OF ASSOCIATION

1.0 The name of Title Association shall be:

SEATTLE (TISI, TIM, TIV} SANGAM

1.1 Short Title:

*Entire Association shall also be known as **SEATTLE SANGAM***

Article 2: INTERPRETATION-in these Articles:

Seattle Sangam- means an Association of Then India Sanmargya Ikya Sangam Incorporating TISI Sangam, TIM Sangam and TIV Sangam of Seattle incorporated under this constitution.

TIV - means Then India Sanmargya Vaalibar Sangam (youths)

TIM - means Then India Sanmargya Maathar Sangam(Females)

Council – means The Elected Board

Member - means a member whose membership is approved and who is at the time, in good standing with the Council of Management.

Subscribed Member - means a member who is current in payment of the current year's membership dues;

Financial member - means a member who is currently entered on the membership Register kept in the Association's Head Office and has paid current year's financial dues.

Head Office- means the Registered Office of the Association-
(A Non-Profit Organization Registered in the State of Washington).

Good Standing – any member who does not hold an investigation pending against him/her or had been discharged or penalized by Seattle Sangam within the preceding one year or is currently serving a penalty imposed by the organization.

Article 3: OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) To promote and sponsor Sports, ^{Education} and South Indian Religious [✓] and Cultural activities within the members of the South Indian Community settled in United States of America.
- b) To establish, maintain, assist and capitalize on South Indian Religious and Cultural facilities. Conduct regular classes for advancement of South Indian Religion and Culture within its membership.
- c) To receive, acquire and hold gifts, donations and bequests.
- d) To promote closer co-operation between this Association and other religious and cultural communities.

Article 4: NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATEMENT: This is NOT-FOR-PROFIT Organization.

Article 5: STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

This Association shall always be affirmative, action oriented and there shall be no discrimination within the ambit of these articles.

Article 6: (ADMINISTRATIV SETUP)

BOARD MEMBERS (Elected)

PRESIDENT - 1

VICE-PRESIDENT- Cultural -1

VICE PRESIDENT – SPORTS -1

SECRETARY- 1
(Asst. Secretary) - 1

TREASURER - 1
(Asst. Treasurer) – 1

COMMITTEE - (4)

TRUSTEES– 2 (Three Year Term)

TECHNICAL ADVISOR – 1 (BOARD (Appointed) -

Article 7: NUMBER OF MEMBERS

For the purpose of Registration, the number of members of the Association shall be declared to be unlimited.

Article 8: QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS

The qualifications for the membership in this association shall be:

Part I: BONAFIDE MEMBER

All persons 18 years or older and of South Indian Extraction or person (s) 18 years or older legally and fully adopted, at any age, through a USA court of law by any person of South Indian origin on either side of the parents who subscribe to all the objects of the Association and sign the declaration form, prescribed or to be prescribed from time to time by the Council, shall be eligible for membership of the Association.

Part II: HONORARY MEMBER

Honorary membership may be extended to all people regardless of nationality, color or creed who do not qualify in the BONAFIDE MEMBER per **CLASSIFICATION in Part I**, above and shall be entitled to limited privileges of the Association as described below.

LIMITED PRIVILEGES OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary members shall be formally accepted by the Board at its first Board Meeting after the date of receipt of the application. The privileges of such members shall be limited for the purposes of involvement and participation in Seattle Sangam activities up to and including no voting rights; no eligibility of filing nominations for any Administrative positions per Article 7; and as revised by the Board.

Part III: LIFE MEMBER

All persons who are approved by a Special or Annual General Meeting and who has either:

- a) Paid a onetime subscription as described in Article 10 – Part II; or
- b) Served the Sangam for at least 5 consecutive years and has shown, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, an exemplary and extraordinary support towards accrediting the Seattle Sangam, shall be bestowed the honor of Paid Life Member per part III section (a) or Honorary Life Member per part III section (b).

ARTICLE 9: AGE & ELIGIBILITY

ALL persons of the age of eighteen (18) years and over of South Indian Extraction on the paternal side who subscribe to all the objects of the Association and sign the declaration form prescribed or to be prescribed from time to time by the Council shall be eligible for membership of the Association provided that the wife of any member not of South Indian extraction may be eligible for membership of the Association.

Article 10: SUBSCRIPTION

Part I: The rate of subscription payable by the member shall be twenty dollars (US\$20.00) annually and may be changed by the council only through a majority vote at the Annual General Meeting or Extra Ordinary Special General Meeting.

Part II: Paid Life Membership shall be \$300 for individual and \$ 500.00 for couple and shall be exempt from annual membership.

Article 11: APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The Council may in its absolute discretion refuse any application for membership on a case-by-case basis.

Article 12: MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

Upon a person becoming a member and paying the requisite subscription, his Name shall be entered in the membership Database kept by the **Seattle Sangam** and such entry in the Database shall be conclusive evidence of the membership.

Article 13: DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Any member whose conduct is found to be detrimental to the interest of the Association may after proper investigation by the council be liable to disciplinary action wherein the member may be **either:**

- a) Suspended or removed from the membership register or
- b) disciplined at the absolute discretion of the council –

Provided that;

- at a meeting of the council such action is approved by 2/3 of the members present.
- any member facing disciplinary action shall, be given a 7 day notice in any written form and communicated properly and if no response is received in his/her defense, within the following 7 days, it shall be deemed that the member is guilty of the offense and shall immediately be suspended from the Association until the matter has been completely disposed of.

Article 14: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

There shall be an AGM of the Association held once every year on or before June 30th. For any reason if the AGM is postponed it should be held no later than July 31st of the same year. A 21 day Notice shall be given for the AGM and/or postponed AGM. The quorum for such meeting shall be 50% of the Registered Bonafide Members

Article 15: EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Association may be convened either by the express authority of the President or by a requisition signed by not less than 2/3 (66%) bonafide members of the Association. Time and place of such EOGM shall be determined by the President. Such meeting shall only be convened if in absolute discretion of the President, there is a genuine special business required to be dealt with. A 21 days notice shall be given for such EOGM. The quorum for such meeting shall be 66% of the Registered Bonafide Members

Article 16: COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

PART I: Council (Board) Meetings shall be conducted at least once a month or more frequently if needed. The quorum for these meetings shall be 33% of the Board members and a 7 day meeting notice shall be mandatory for such meetings. The Council shall determine acceptable means of communication for meeting notice for such meetings.

PART II: Any member not present for two consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason shall be deemed to have vacated the position of a Board Member. In such event, a new Board Member may be co-opted to serve on the council until the next general elections.

Article 17: RIGHT TO VOTE

Each member as described in article 2 shall have a single vote in all meetings of the Association except the President who shall in addition to his/her own vote, also have a casting vote of a tie.

Article 18: CHAIR PERSON

The President of the Association and in his absence a Vice President selected per simple majority vote by the members present shall preside as chairman at every AGM of the Association.

Article 19: MEETING PROCEDURES

All Seattle Sangam meetings shall be conducted as per the Articles and BYLAWS of this Constitution and if any particular aspect is silent under the said constitution, parliamentary procedures as prescribed in the "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be an acceptable alternative until such issue is addressed at a future General Meeting

Article 20: QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT (S)

PRESIDENT: No member shall be eligible to contest for election as a President unless he or she has been a bona-fide member of **Seattle Sangam** for at least three consecutive years and had served the association as a Board member for at least three years within the preceding five years prior to his or her nomination.

VICE PRESIDENT: No member shall be eligible to contest for election as a Vice President unless he or she has been a bona-fide member of **Seattle Sangam** for at least three consecutive years and had served the association as a Board member for at least two years within the preceding five years prior to his or her nomination.

Article 21: NOMINATIONS

- All nominations shall be in writing on the prescribed forms
- All nominations shall be received upon issue of notice convening the AGM or an EOGM and closing with the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the date of such meeting.
- Every candidate shall be nominated by a bonafide member and seconded by another bonafide member. The candidate must consent to the nomination on the prescribed form and all three members shall be physically present at such meeting.
- If there are insufficient nominations for any position, verbal nominations shall be permitted at the AGM or EOGM provided such verbal nomination shall be consented to by the candidate either verbally or in writing at such meeting.
- if only one candidate is nominated for a position, he or she shall be declared elected unopposed.
- if there are more than one nomination for any position, the election shall be held by secret ballot unless the chairman with the consent of the meeting shall decide otherwise. Scrutinizers shall be appointed by the chairman for the purpose.
- All ballot papers shall be numbered and stamped and used ballots shall be kept for records purpose for at least 12 months after the date of issue of the ballots.
- Proxy votes shall NOT be allowed.

Article 22: RESIGNATION AND/OR RETIREMENT

- a) Any Member of the Board may at any time retire or resign from the Board by giving notice in writing of his or her intention to do so.

- b) The Board may fill any vacant position arising from vacation, resignation, or death of its office bearers and members for a period of the unexpired term.

Article 23: DECISION BY MAJORITY VOTES

All matters before a meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of equal division the chairman shall have a casting vote.

Article 24: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A) THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall hold executive powers to run the activities and affairs of the association. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the Association unless another person is specifically appointed as chairperson per article 18.

B) VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of the President, and shall be subject to any restrictions or limitations given by the President.

C) SECRETARY

The Secretary shall

- keep records of the minutes of the Association signed by the President or chairman
- he shall call all meetings of the Association at least once in a month with at least 7 clear days' notice shall be given of any such meetings.
- handle all administration and operational matters of the Association

D) TREASURER

- shall keep accounts of all receipts and disbursements and a register of the members.
- shall collect all funds due, donations, contributions, and subscriptions from the members and others and shall deposit such money in any banks in the name of the Association.
- shall monitor records of all fixed Assets of the Association.
- present financial reports at every Council meeting and a audited report at the AGM

Article 25: LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS - The liability of the member is limited.

Article 26: WINDING UP

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains, after satisfactorily providing for all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall be presented for safe keep by at least 2 trustees declared by the president at the time of dissolution.

Article 27: TRUE ACCOUNTS

True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and spent by the Association, and in the manner it was spent, in respect of which all such receipt and expenditure shall be part of records. A record of the property, assets and liabilities of the Association shall be updated on a quarterly basis and shall be available for Boards endorsement subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same, may be imposed in accordance with State or Federal regulations for the time being. The Association shall be open for inspection of by its members and its Accounts shall be audited. All enquiries in regards to such records shall be referred to the auditor in writing.

Article 28: RESERVE FUND

Any fund that has been collected, donated or accrued for any specific purpose shall be reserved, ear-marked and used for that purpose only unless otherwise decided by the council.

Article 29: OPERATIONS OF ACCOUNTS

All moneys, deposits, accounts and other security shall stand in the name of the Association. The Treasurer with President or in his absence, The Secretary shall withdraw moneys, draw interest or such securities and sign checks in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Council.

Article 30: EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

All deeds executed on behalf of the Association, in addition to being sealed with the seal of the Association, shall be signed by two members of the Council and counter signed by the Secretary or such other Officer as the Council may, from time to time, appoint.

Article 31: SERVICES OF NOTICES

Any notices required to be given by the Association to the members, or any of them, shall be deemed to be sufficiently given, provided it is through the US mail system, electronic mail, telephone or facsimile. For the purposes of this article, publication in newspapers and telecasts shall also suffice.

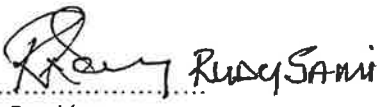
Article 32: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:


Amendment#	Details	Approved by AGM (date)
1.		
2.		

These articles and BYLAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION of the Seattle (TISI,TIM,TIV) Sangam has been approved under my hands with the express approval of the Annual General Meeting held at Kent Regional Library on June 28th,2015 and

As witness thereof are the seal and Signatures


.....
President - BAL RAM


.....
Vice President


.....
Treasurer
KAMESHWARAN PILLAI


.....
Technical Advisor
GYANESHWARAN PILLAI
.....
Secretary

Dated this 28th day of June 2015

Amendment 1 to Seattle Sangam Constitution

Part I: BONAFIDE MEMBER

All persons 18 years or older and of South Indian Extraction or person (s) 18 years or older legally and fully adopted, at any age, through a USA court of law by any person of South Indian origin on either side of the parents who subscribe to all the objects of the Association and sign the declaration form, prescribed or to be prescribed from time to time by the Council, shall be eligible for membership of the Association, provided that the following is applied:

The Bonafide member shall be approved by Seattle Sangam Board after whose membership subscription of the approved amount is paid in full and entered in Seattle Sangam Membership Register At least Ninety (90) clear days prior to the Seattle Sangam Annual General Meeting and who shall be eligible to take part at in the AGM.

Part II: HONORARY MEMBER

Honorary membership may be extended to all people regardless of nationality, color or creed who do not qualify in the BONAFIDE MEMBER per CLASSIFICATION in Part I, above and shall be entitled to limited privileges of the Association as described below.

LIMITED PRIVILEGES OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary members shall be formally accepted by the Board at its first Board Meeting after the date of receipt of the application. The privileges of such members shall be limited for the purposes of involvement and participation in Seattle Sangam activities up to and including NO voting rights; and NO eligibility of filing nominations for any administrative positions per Article 7; and as revised by the Board except that:

Any person over 18 years and who has paid a subscription as approved by the Seattle Sangam and has been in good standing as a member of Seattle Sangam, continuously for the preceding three (3) years shall be eligible to take part and vote at the AGM, and to be nominated to positions of any Working Committee. He/ She shall NOT be eligible for nomination to or holding any other positions on the Board of Seattle Sangam.




Karuneshwaran Pillay - PRESIDENT



Kamal Chetty - VICE PRESIDENT



Gyaneshwaran Pillai – TECHNICAL ADVISOR



Bal Ram – EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The above was unanimously adopted by the AGM as recorded in the minutes dated this 3rd Day of MARCH 2023 2024 xP