



Member of the World Cat Congress

New Zealand Cat Fancy Inc.

General Rules and Policies

Amendment Summary

08 Dec 2023

3.33 Deleting subpara c, renumbering subpara d. to c., deleting phrase 'face-to-face' and correcting a grammatical error. (Ref: 23-011.)

27 Jul 2022

3.3, 3.12, 3.33 Amended to add "scheduled" to EC meetings. (Ref: 22-007)

3.6 Amended regarding scheduling and frequency of EC meetings and resultant renumbering. (Ref: 22-008)

5.1 f. h. Amended to add "proposed motions" (Ref: 22-005 & 006.)

30 Nov 2021

5.1 c. and Appendix 1 Deleted as part of consolidating proxy information in the Constitution, and subsequent renumbering. (Ref: 21-037)

5.1 i. i Amended to read 'YES as written or with amendments'. Formerly para 5.1 j.i. (Ref: 27-038)

10 Sep 2021

2.18 Added that as part of their membership fee pet owners may belong to all breed sections they own. (Ref: 21-032.)

3.6 d. Added ruling about the confidentiality of meeting decisions. (Ref: 21-025.)

Amendment Process

0.1 Suggestions for minor amendments (minor errors or omissions which do not affect the intent) are welcome and may be submitted to the Secretary. These will usually be incorporated the next time the page is reissued.

0.2 Proposals for significant amendments should also be submitted to the Secretary but will require a process of assessment and approval prior to incorporation.

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1. General Rules and Policies

- 1.1 The General Rules and Policies cover all activities of the NZCF in conjunction with the constitution and the other governance documents.
- 1.2 These documents should be referred for information about the NZCF's rules, policies, and procedures.
- 1.3 These documents are updated regularly so it is important to refer to the current version. This will always be available on the NZCF website www.nzcf.com or a copy may be requested from the Secretary.
- 1.4 Proposed amendments for this document which alter the intent must be advised to the membership by having the proposed wording included in an agenda for an Executive Council meeting or AGM.

Privacy

- 1.5 Personal information held by the NZCF shall not be sold or given to a third party for any purpose except that the Secretary may, when requested, confirm whether a person is financial member of the NZCF and that the outcomes of disciplinary processes may be shared with other registries. Members may request a copy of their details and this must be done in writing to the NZCF Privacy Officer. Members may also request that incorrect information is corrected in the same manner.

Electronic Signatures

- 1.6 The NZCF's requirement for a signature is met by means of an electronic signature if:
 - a. the typed signature adequately identifies the signatory,
 - b. it clearly indicates the signatory's acceptance of the information in the document, and
 - c. the means of transmission is from the signatory's known email address.
- 1.7 Documents for which electronic signatures are not acceptable will be annotated.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership is open to any individual person or club as per the constitution clause 4 through to 4.7 by making an application, signing an agreement to abide by the constitution, rules and regulations and codes of ethics, and policies of the NZCF and paying the required membership fee.

Types of Members

2.2 Types of NZCF Membership:

- a. Ordinary
- b. Affiliate
- c. Associate
- d. Life and Honorary

Ordinary Members

2.3 There are different classes of ordinary members:

- a. **Full members** pay the full membership fee every year as set by the Executive Council each year. Every full member has the right to vote at meetings of the NZCF, part of the membership fee is a subscription to the NZCF journal (Flash Cats). To be a full member you must have your primary place of residence in New Zealand. Full members can belong to breed sections and take part in all activities of the NZCF.
- b. **Family members** pay the family member membership fee every year as set by the Executive Council each year for the additional family members. Every family membership application must include one (1) full membership per household all family applicants must be related to the full member ('related' as would be defined in any court of law in NZ). Lodgers, friends, living at the same address are not to be included. All family members are allowed to vote at NZCF meetings. All family members must be over the age of 16. Only one copy of the NZCF journal (Flash Cats) will be sent to the full member in the family membership household.
- c. **Junior members** pay the junior member membership fee every year as set by the Executive Council each year. Junior members cannot vote or hold a prefix or hold office as an official within the NZCF. All junior members must be under 16 years of age for the whole financial year.

Affiliate Members

2.4 Affiliate members pay the affiliate membership fee every year as set by the executive council each year. To be an affiliate member the following conditions must be met:

- a. Affiliate Membership may be granted to any club that applies to the NZCF and who is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. They must maintain their Incorporated Society status and have a constitution that is consistent with the NZCF constitution and its objectives and other rules.
- b. An affiliated club shall be one of the following types of club:
 - i. All Breeds (long and shorthair cat breeds as recognised by the NZCF).
 - ii. Specialist club that caters for either longhair breeds or shorthair breeds

or stated breeds or stated colours of pedigree cats, or any other NZCF section of domesticated cats.

- c. All applications for affiliate membership shall state the geographic area in which the activities of the applicant club are proposed to take place.
- d. Any affiliated club may hold a show or shows as covered by their constitution.

2.5 Affiliate members have voting rights, one (1) vote per club.

Associate Members

2.6 Associate members pay the associate member membership fee every year as set by the Executive Council each year. Also read 4.4 b) in the constitution.

Life Members

2.7 A life member is a person who is acknowledged as a longstanding member of the NZCF. A life member has all the rights and privileges of an ordinary member (including the right to vote), but does not have to pay membership fees.

Honorary Members

2.8 Honorary members are described in the constitution clause 4.6 but are allowed to hold office as an official of the NZCF and do not pay membership fees, subscriptions, or levies. Honorary members are appointed at the discretion of the Executive Council. Honorary membership is reviewed on a yearly basis or can be granted for a fixed amount of time.

Admission of Members

Ordinary Members

- 2.9 To become an ordinary member a person ('the Applicant') must:
- a. complete an application form, and send it with the applicable fee to the Secretary;
 - b. be a full or family or life member of a NZCF affiliated club; and
 - c. supply any other information the Executive Council requires in relationship to the application if requested.
- 2.10 The Executive Council may interview the Applicant when the membership coordinator asks the Executive Council to review a membership application. All other membership applications shall be approved by the membership coordinator.
- 2.11 The Executive Council shall have complete discretion when it decides whether or not to let the Applicant become an ordinary member when it has been asked to review a membership application. The Executive Council shall advise the Applicant of its decision, and that decision shall be final.

Life Members

- 2.12 An ordinary member may become a life member only if:
- a. the details in support describe the years of service, quality of performance, significant events, and contributions to and their achievements within the NZCF;
 - b. at a NZCF Executive Council Meeting a resolution is passed by a majority of the executive nominating that the recommended ordinary member's name be placed on the ballot paper for consideration as a life member; and
 - c. the process in clause 5.4 of the constitution has been followed and the majority (51%) or more of the members voting support the motion.

Affiliate Members

- 2.13 To become an affiliate member a club must be an incorporated society and have a constitution that complies with clause 4.1 b) in the NZCF constitution. A club must supply a copy of their constitution with the application and supply a new copy to the NZCF when it registers a new or amended constitution to the Incorporated Societies office.
- 2.14 The affiliated member must have no less than 5 of their current financial members that are also current financial members of the NZCF at all times and must also maintain the membership requirements of an incorporated society.
- 2.15 The application must also include the geographical area that it is applying to host activities in. All breeds clubs will be restricted to 50km radius of their registered office. All other specialist clubs are able to hold events anywhere.
- 2.16 All breeds clubs may apply for exemptions if they wish to hold a show in a new location that is outside their stated area.

Breed Section Membership

- 2.17 A breed section shall be established by the Executive Council for each NZCF recognized breed or breed group (as set out in Registration Rules, Appendix A). A breed section shall also be established for members who show or have an interest in cats in the Domestic Division. There shall be a breed representative for any breed section which has five or more active breed members. An active member is one who has bred and registered with NZCF a minimum of two litters in the past two years. There shall also be a breed representative for the Domestic breed section if there are 10 or more members. A breed section shall lose its individual breed representative if the above criteria are not met for three successive years. A breed section which does not meet the criteria for an individual breed representative will be linked with another breed section or represented by the general breed representative as recommended by the Breed Standards Advisory Council to the Executive Council.
- 2.18 As part of their membership fee, members are eligible to belong to the breed sections of the breeds they own and breeder members to belong to the breed sections of all breeds they are actively breeding. Any member may belong to additional breed sections, to a

maximum of six sections in total for all classes of membership except affiliate. Affiliate members may belong to all breed sections provided that such breed sections are to be relevant to the constitution of the particular affiliate member. Application can be made at the time of application for membership, or at any later date, by applying for membership and by paying the prescribed additional fee.

- 2.19 Members of each breed section shall sponsor the breed and be responsible for assisting in the development of a comprehensive standard for the breed, and proposing amendments and revisions of the standard for the breed.

Register of Members

- 2.20 A register of members ('the Register'), which shall contain the names, the addresses and telephone numbers of all members, and the dates at which they became members shall be kept and maintained in a secure manner in accordance with the Privacy Act.
- 2.21 Members must advise the Secretary of changes to their contact details, address or telephone number as soon as reasonably possible.

Membership Fee

- 2.22 An application for membership must be completed yearly at the beginning of the NZCF financial year which is the 1st of January each year and paid on or before the 31st of January in the same year.
- 2.23 On the 1st of February if no membership fee has been paid by the member all rights and privileges will be terminated. (Effective from 2013.)

Overdue Membership

- 2.24 A member whose membership fee is overdue as described in paragraphs 2.22 and 2.23 and as a result their membership has been terminated is required to pay the current fee for the type of membership that they apply for and any late payment fees applicable at time to become a financial member again.

Cessation of Membership

Resignation

- 2.25 Any member may resign by giving written notice to the Secretary.

Dispute or Discipline

- 2.26 A member may have their membership terminated or suspended as an outcome of a dispute or discipline process. In addition to any court fine a member may be subjected to penalties as listed.

By the Executive Council

- 2.27 The Executive Council may by a unanimous vote terminate the membership of any member for breach of the provisions of the constitution or any other rules or bylaws including the codes of conduct, or non-payment of fees, or any other indebtedness to the NZCF. A member may have their membership suspended or terminated where a member is charged or convicted under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and subsequent amendments.
- 2.28 Any member who may be liable to be removed from membership under this clause shall be entitled to appear before the Executive Council to offer a verbal or written explanation in mitigation.
- 2.29 At least 14 days written notice of the Executive Council meeting shall be given to the member concerned.
- 2.30 The Executive Council may by ordinary resolution terminate the membership of any member whose membership fees are more than 1 month and 7 days overdue without written notice or the right to appear before the Executive Council.

Resignation and Removal from Office of Officers and Officials

- 2.31 Any elected officers or appointed officials of the NZCF shall cease to hold office upon:
- a. death;
 - b. a written resignation from the officer or official;
 - c. they become incapable of holding office by reason of infirmity or otherwise;
 - d. being lawfully removed from their office;
 - e. being declared bankrupt;
 - f. conviction of any criminal offence with subsequent imprisonment exceeding three (3) years;
 - g. being absent as a member of the Executive Council from more than two (2) consecutive meetings of the Executive Council, without the prior leave of the Executive Council; or
 - h. conviction of an offence involving the neglect of or cruelty to animals.
- 2.32 All property and documents obtained or produced during their term remain the property of the NZCF and must be returned to the NZCF when they cease to be an official or officer of the NZCF.
- 2.33 Resignation of an officer or officials will take effect at a date that is either mutually agreed on or at the date that the letter of resignation is received or dated or a date in the future that is stated in the letter of resignation.

Appeal

- 2.34 Any member that has their membership terminated for any reason other than as stated in para 2.30 has the right to appeal within 14 days of the termination by submitting in

writing to the Secretary their appeal

Obligations of Members

- 2.35 All members shall promote the purposes of the NZCF and shall do nothing to bring the NZCF into disrepute.

3. Management of the NZCF

Executive Council

Eligibility

- 3.1 To be a NZCF Executive Council member:
- a. you must be a financial full or family member or life member of the NZCF,
 - b. you cannot hold a position of office in a similar registry, and
 - c. your place of permanent residence must be New Zealand.

Term of Office

- 3.2 The NZCF shall have an Executive Council made up from a minimum of six (6) elected persons as determined by a voting process described in the constitution clause 10.0 and 12.0. Once elected to the Executive Council their term of office shall be three (3) years or as defined by clause 10.2 of the constitution.

Powers and Duties of the Executive Council

- 3.3 The Executive Council shall manage and conduct the business and affairs of the NZCF. All members of the Executive Council shall have responsibility allocated to them for the management of one or more operational areas of the NZCF. The Executive Council Chairman at the first meeting of the Executive Council following the AGM shall make the allocation of such responsibilities in conjunction with the other members of the Executive Council. They shall be required to provide a written report on their area(s) of responsibility to each scheduled meeting of the Executive Council and to the AGM. They shall exercise all such powers of the NZCF as are not required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 and its amendments or by its constitution to be exercised by the NZCF in General Meeting.
- 3.4 In addition, the Executive Council shall have the following powers and duties as set out in clause 13.0 of the constitution.
- a. Deal with, manage and control the property and finances of the NZCF in a manner designed to ensure the continued financial viability of the NZCF, and to

- grant authority to at least two persons, as it thinks fit to operate the bank accounts of the NZCF.
- b. 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 Council shall think necessary or expedient for the purpose of attaining the objects of the NZCF or its members, and to sell, exchange, let, bail or lease with or without option, or purchase or in any manner dispose of such property or privileges as aforesaid.
 - c. Grant permission for Cat Shows to be held under the auspices of the NZCF and to decide the dates on which they may be held.
 - d. Regulate Cat Shows held by Clubs under the auspices of the NZCF, as the Executive Council considers necessary or desirable.
 - e. Cause Cat Shows to be held by the NZCF on such dates and at such locations as the Executive Council may determine.
 - f. Make and allocate such awards at such Shows as it shall think fit.
 - g. Make amendments to the NZCF Registration Rules and/or Show Bylaws or any other such regulatory or official publication that the Executive Council shall authorise, and the amendments shall be effective from the expiry of seven (7) days after they have been published in an official publication, including the website, of the NZCF. The Secretary shall send notice of all amendments to all affiliate members and to all registered judges as soon as practicable after approval by the Executive Council.
 - h. Keep and make amendments to, a Register or Registers of pedigree or domestic (non-pedigree) cats and kittens, which Registers shall be in such form as the Executive Council shall from time to time determine.
 - i. Correct typographical errors, consequential numbering.
 - j. Issue pedigree certificates for cats and kittens in accordance with details appearing in an NZCF Register.
 - k. Issue or decline to issue prefixes to breeders for cats and kittens under such terms and conditions as it may from time to time determine.
 - l. Compile and issue a book of Standing Rules governing its business, which may be amended from time to time.
 - m. Make rules and bylaws for the qualification and examination and admission to office of judges and/or probationary judges, relevant disciplinary procedures, and the issue or withdrawal of licenses to such judges or probationary judges.
 - n. Make such rules and other regulatory documents including codes of ethics as it may deem necessary and desirable from time to time to carry out the objects of the NZCF with power to repeal or amend such rules or regulatory documents or make further rules or regulatory documents in substitution therefore.
 - o. Appoint from time to time such person or persons who may or may not be

- members of the Executive Council upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit, to act as Officials of the NZCF or to perform or carry out any act or function on behalf of the Executive Council.
- p. Appoint such sub-committees as it may think fit, consisting of either members of the Executive Council or any other persons, for such purposes as it may think fit, with power to act or report back to the Executive Council and with or without power to co-opt further members thereto. The Executive Council may at any time revoke such appointments
 - q. Provide and administer a discipline and dispute process for all members through an independent non-member appointed to the position of disputes coordinator.
 - r. To take such steps or actions as the Executive Council decides for the good order and proper management of the NZCF.
- 3.5 Executive Council may delegate its powers to portfolio managers. Any delegations made must be in writing and must be notified in the minutes of Executive Council meetings.

Executive Council Meetings

- 3.6 These are to be held at times and places decided by the Executive Council within the boundaries set by the Constitution (Section 23. Executive Council Meetings) and the following shall apply:
- a. At least three scheduled meetings of the Executive Council should be held each year. Unscheduled meetings may be held as required.
 - b. The dates, time, and places of all scheduled meetings of the Executive Council shall be notified to all members by the Secretary as soon as practicable after they have been fixed.
 - c. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Council shall be five voting members. With the exception of the Chairperson's casting vote, each person present is entitled to cast a maximum of one vote.
 - d. All scheduled Executive Council meetings are open for any financial member to attend and the Chairman may or may not allow members to speak from the floor at these meeting.
 - e. Once the meeting has closed outcomes of the meeting may be communicated to interested parties or the membership as a whole as long as those outcomes are not confidential, and any affected parties have been advised first.
- 3.7 The Executive Council Chairman or anyone acting instead of the Executive Council Chairman shall have both a deliberative vote, and a casting vote. The casting vote shall be used in the case of equality of votes as the Executive Council Chairman or anyone acting in their place shall decide the matter by using the casting vote.
- 3.7A Members of the Executive Council must declare any possible conflicts of interest. They must abstain from speaking, voting and must leave the meeting whilst the issue is being dealt with, unless a member's declaration of a conflict of interest would cause the meeting

- to not have quorum, in which case the member may remain in the room but must abstain from speaking and voting.
- 3.8 A copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Council shall be sent by the Secretary to each Executive Council member, each officer and official, and each affiliate, as soon as practicable (normally within 10 days) after each meeting of the Executive Council. The Secretary shall have a report on the proceedings of the Executive Council published in the journal of the NZCF in the next ensuing issue thereof or, if that is not practicable, in the next following issue, and the report shall also be published on the NZCF website as soon as practicable.
- 3.9 The Executive Council may receive any submissions, in writing or otherwise, or may make such enquiries, as it may think fit, in relation to any matter before it.
- 3.10 The Executive Council shall ensure that:
- a. a record is kept of all proceedings of the NZCF and the Executive Council;
 - b. a record is kept of all members, their addresses, and class of membership, and the date on which they became members of the NZCF;
 - d. all correspondence, records and reports connected with the NZCF are kept for a reasonable period; and
 - e. a record of monies due to the NZCF, or payments made by the NZCF is kept in a correct record of such receipts and payments.

Submissions to the Executive Council

- 3.11 All matters which members may wish to submit to the Executive Council shall first be submitted in writing to the Secretary who shall refer it to the responsible member of the Executive Council (Portfolio Manager). The Portfolio Manager may submit the matter to the Executive Council or may deal with it or may decline to submit it to the Executive Council. In the event that the Portfolio Manager declines to submit the matter to the Executive Council, he must inform the member within 30 days of receipt of the matter so that the member submitting the matter may ask the Executive Council Chairman to rule on the appropriateness of such a decision. In the event that the Executive Council Chairman is also the Portfolio Manager responsible for the operational area that the matter addresses, then the Executive Council Vice Chairman may be asked to make such a ruling.
- 3.12 Such submissions shall be made at least 42 clear days before the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Council. The Executive Council may in its discretion deal, in accordance with its standing orders, with any matter of which notice is not given within the prescribed time. As soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of notice of such matters, the Secretary shall send to each member of the Executive Council, officials, and to each affiliate member an agenda for the scheduled Executive Council meeting, at least 28 days before the date fixed for the meeting.
- 3.13 The Secretary shall also cause the agenda to be published on the website of the NZCF. Notice of any matters of which 42 days' notice has not been given shall be given in similar

manner by the Secretary as soon as practicable.

Annual Appointment of Officials

- 3.14 The annual appointment of officials is carried out at or before the last meeting of the Executive Council each year.

Expressions of Interest

- 3.15 At least one month before the Executive Council meeting the Secretary will invite expressions of interest for all annually appointed positions, including, or not, and not limited to:
- a. Secretary;
 - b. Treasurer;
 - c. registrars (longhair, shorthair, provisional, honours, and prefix);
 - d. national disputes co-ordinator;
 - e. membership co-ordinator;
 - f. Flash Cats editor;
 - g. health and safety officer;
 - h. historian;
 - i. international liaison officer;
 - j. information technology contractor;
 - k. webmaster;
 - l. privacy officer;
 - m. governance documents officer;
 - n. breed standards advisory council (chair, standards of points officer, and members);
 - o. animal welfare liaison officer; and
 - p. NZCF representative Companion Animals New Zealand board.
- 3.16 Position descriptions should be circulated with the invitation and positions which are paid honoraria should be indicated.

Eligibility and Requirements

- 3.17 Expressions of interest in appointed position shall be accepted from those who:
- a. are financial full, family, or life members of the NZCF (with the exception of the national disputes co-ordinator and IT contractor);
 - b. do not hold a position of office in a similar registry; and

- c. whose place of permanent residence is New Zealand.
- 3.18 A summary of experience, skills, and suitability for the role should accompany all expressions of interest except from incumbent officials.
- 3.19 Appointees must be prepared to sign confidentiality agreements.

Appointment

- 3.20 The Executive Council shall appoint officials for the positions advertised from the expressions of interest except that if none are provided or are considered suitable they may appoint members with appropriate skills or experience.

Term of Appointment

- 3.21 Annual appointments are from 1 January – 31 December each year unless otherwise decided by the Executive Council.
- 3.22 Training periods for new appointees will normally run from the time the appointment is confirmed until 31st December and will be unpaid for new appointees in positions which will receive honoraria.
- 3.23 New appointees to positions shall serve a 90-day trial period after which their appointment may be confirmed or terminated by the Executive Council at the next meeting held.

Breed Standards Advisory Council

Terms of Reference, Role, and Responsibilities

- 3.24 To provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Council regarding proposed changes, updates, and corrections to the Standards of Points for pedigree cats breeds accepted by the NZCF. These changes, updates or corrections may be initially requested by individual NZCF members, breed representatives, judges, or the Executive Council itself.
- 3.25 To ensure that the appropriate breed sections are consulted about proposed standards changes or (if appropriate) other changes affecting a breed (such as requirements for health testing) and the results of those consultations taken into account when making recommendations to the EC.
- 3.26 To provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Council regarding the acceptance of new breeds, either breeds established overseas but new to New Zealand, or entirely new breeds developed in New Zealand.
- 3.27 To provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Council about genetic and health issues affecting particular breeds, and approaches to minimise the harmful effects of these.
- 3.28 To provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Council about rules for intermateability within breed groups and outcrossing to other breeds, having regard to ensuring genetic viability and health of breeds, and maintaining type and characteristics of

breeds.

- 3.29 To consider applications for experimental breeding programmes, approve these (or not), monitor as appropriate and provide support, advice, or linking with a mentor as deemed appropriate.
- 3.30 To decide if specific health or genetic testing should be required either of foundation cats in an experimental programme, or of progeny and ensure applicants understand any such conditions attached to the approval.
- 3.31 To approve (or not) the transfer for breeding of experimental programme cats (gen 1-3) to breeders not involved in the original experimental breeding programme.
- 3.32 To develop or improve systems and processes for all the above functions.

Procedures

- 3.33 Changes to (or new) standards must meet the following requirements:
- a. They are to be placed on the agenda for an EC meeting.
 - b. The agenda must include (as an attachment) the recommended final standard, in full, in NZCF format which will enable:
 - i. the EC decision to approve / reject / amend the final version of the standard, and
 - ii. all submissions (agenda responses) from NZCF members must be made before the meeting.
 - c. Changes to (or new) standards must be approved no later than the last meeting of the year prior to implementation for the following year's show season.

BSAC Composition

- 3.34 The Breed Standards Advisory Council (BSAC) is a committee of appointed members. The Provisional Registrar shall automatically be appointed and shall have the role of Secretary. The Longhair and Shorthair Registrars shall be guests on the BSAC forum and provide advice and recommendations as appropriate but shall not be required to vote on issues under discussion.
- 3.35 Further members shall be appointed to provide balance and expertise.
- 3.36 Members:
- a. shall be a financial member of the NZCF;
 - b. shall have ready access to a computer and email (as most BSAC business will be conducted by electronic means);
 - c. shall meet one or more of the following:
 - i. Have been breeding for a minimum of two years (but longer experience is welcome).
 - ii. Have an interest in and knowledge of genetics as it applies to cat

- breeding.
- iii. Be a longhair, shorthair, or all breeds judge.
- iv. Have experience of a variety of breeds or have an interest and willingness to learn about other breeds.
- v. Have experience of carrying out an experimental breeding programme.

Breed Section Representatives

- 3.37 Breed section representative elections are held every two years at the same time as other NZCF elections. Breed section representatives must be members of the relevant breed section. Only members of the relevant breed section may nominate and vote to elect by postal ballot or by electronic means a breed representative to serve a term of 2 years.
- 3.38 The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall become the breed representative. In the event of a breed section representative position becoming vacant, the Executive Council shall have the power to appoint a suitable person to serve until the next election.

4. Elections

Election of Officials and Executive Council Members

- 4.1 One month before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the members will decide by a postal ballot or by electronic means:
- a. the new Executive Council members, and
 - b. the breed section representatives.

Voting

- 4.2 Voting papers will be sent to all eligible voting members along with a copy of all the candidates' biographies or each eligible member will be provided with access to electronic voting. If voting is via electronic means, biographical information will be placed on the NZCF website or circulated by other means and the membership advised of this. This will be sent 28 days prior to the date set for the AGM.
- 4.3 The voting papers must be returned by the date specified on the ballot paper. Any that are received after this date shall not be counted. Note that any postmarked envelopes that are marked prior to the cut-off date but received after the cut-off date will also be disregarded. It is the member's responsibility to ensure that their votes are counted. If voting is via electronic means, each member shall be responsible for completing their vote by electronic means by the required date.
- 4.4 The votes shall be counted after the voting papers have all been received. The candidate

receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Where multiple vacancies exist, then the candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie, the result shall be decided by lot. Scrutineering (if any) of the voting paper count shall be by whatever method is determined as appropriate by the Executive Council.

Term of Office

- 4.5 Where there is a three (3) year term and a unexpired term vacancy to be filled the candidate with the most votes shall get the 3 year term and the next highest polling candidate shall get the next three (3) year term and the next highest shall get the unexpired term left by the vacated position
- 4.6 Elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of the AGM at which they were elected.
- 4.7 All retiring officers and officials shall be eligible for re-election but must also complete the nomination process outlined at 3.2.

Composition

- 4.8 The NZCF Executive council shall have a minimum of six (6) council members at all times and:
- a. have a Chairperson that is elected at the first Executive Council meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the elected council members will as the first order of business make a determination as to who will be their Chairperson and Vice-chairperson from the elected council members;
 - b. shall appoint council members to be the portfolio managers each looking after a separate portfolio, and appoint a buddy to assist and support each portfolio manager;
 - c. should either or both the Chairperson or Vice-chairperson for any reason have vacated or be obliged to vacate their position then the Executive Council will elect from their members a replacement or replacements for part of unexpired term of the vacant council positions until the next AGM;
 - d. shall fill any vacancy on the Executive Council in accordance with para 12.4 of the Constitution; and
 - e. the Chairperson shall be the sole and official spokesperson for the NZCF.

5. Meetings

NZCF Meetings

- 5.1 At all general meetings of the NZCF the provisions in the Constitution (Section 21. NZCF Meetings) and the following shall apply:

- a. The Executive Council Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the NZCF, or if absent, the Executive Council Vice Chairman, or in the absence of them both, the members present may elect another member of the Executive Council to preside at the meeting. The validity of the appointment of such person to act as Chairman or the validity of any business transacted at such meeting shall not be questioned in any Court of Law and all decisions taken at such meetings shall be binding on the NZCF, the Executive Council, and all members of the NZCF.
- b. All individual members and affiliate members of the NZCF shall be entitled to attend and every full member, affiliate member, family and life member shall have the right to exercise one vote.
- c. For changes to the constitution the Constitution (Section 27. Altering this Constitution) shall be followed.
- d. A voting card will be issued to each member, upon which the individual's membership number shall appear, or the membership number of the member for whom that person has been appointed a proxy.
- e. Voting at all General Meetings shall be by a show of hands holding voting cards (unless a poll is demanded by at least 10% of the members present at the meeting who are entitled to vote). For changes to the Constitution and other proposed motions for which notice has been given members may cast their votes in person, by postal ballot or by electronic means, or appoint a proxy. For other business members may cast their vote in person or appoint a proxy.
- f. Any eligible member not in attendance, and who has not nominated a proxy, must have returned their ballot with a postmark showing a date on or before the due date for ballots to be returned as shown on the ballot paper(s) for their vote by ballot to count, or have submitted their vote by electronic means prior to the close of the voting process for their vote to count.
- g. Any member having already cast their vote by ballot or electronic means may not be issued with a voting card on the day of the meeting. They may attend, may be called upon to speak and make motion or second a motion, but may not vote.
- h. Any member having already cast their vote on proposed motions by ballot or electronic means may not be issued with a voting card on the day of the meeting. They may attend, may be called upon to speak and make motion or second a motion, but may not vote.
- i. Ballots for General Meetings shall give the option of:
 - i. YES as written or with amendments that do not substantially alter the general intent or objective of the remit, and
 - ii. NO
- j. Motions to amend remits may be accepted from the floor. The Chairperson may be asked to rule on whether the amendments have substantially altered the general intent or main objective or tenor of the remit.

- k. Members of the Executive Council shall be entitled to be present at all General Meetings of the NZCF, and may take part in any discussion or debate. They shall also be entitled to vote.
- l. The quorum for any General Meeting of the NZCF shall be at least 40 members (in person or by proxy) who are eligible to vote whichever is the lower, also read clause 21.7 of the constitution
- m. If during the meeting, the voting strength of those present falls below the number required for a quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned until the Executive Council calls a Special General Meeting to finish the business of the General Meeting and all business transacted prior to the adjournment shall be deemed to have been lawfully and legally transacted.
- n. If a quorum for the meeting is not present 90 minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of the meeting, a meeting of those members present shall be held that will consider all matters that would have been considered at the General Meeting. The previous members of the Executive Council shall then put the decisions of the meeting held in lieu of the Annual General Meeting, to the membership of NZCF via postal vote.

Annual General Meeting

5.2 At Annual General Meetings of the NZCF the provisions in the Constitution (Section 21. NZCF Meetings) and the following shall apply:

- a. Consider and adopt, if thought fit, a plan for the coming one to five years.
- b. Consider and adopt a budget for the coming year that reflects the appropriate parts of any plan adopted under clause 21.10(c) of the constitution.
- c. Consider any remits submitted by the Executive Council, or from full, affiliate or life members.
- d. Fix the location for the AGM, two years ahead.
- e. Consider any other business which may be lawfully brought forward.
- f. Newly elected candidates to the Executive Council and newly elected breed section representatives shall take office from the completion of the Annual General Meeting following their election, and shall hold office for the relevant period laid down by the constitution (Executive Council) or these rules and policies (breed section representatives).
- g. The meeting may deal with the business in such order as it decides.
- h. A copy of the minutes of each Annual General Meeting, and of any Special General Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary, or assistant, to each Executive Council member, all officers and officials, and to each affiliate member as soon as practicable after the meeting. The Secretary shall cause a report on the proceedings to be published on the NZCF website and in the official journal of

NZCF in the next issue thereof.

- i. Remits may be made to the Annual General Meeting by the Executive Council, by full or life members or any club, and all remits shall be in writing and be received by the Secretary at least 42 days before the date set for the Annual General Meeting. All such remits, received in time, shall be placed on the agenda for the meeting. Remits submitted by full or life members shall bear the signatures of at least nine other full or life members in order to be accepted. Remits should either propose changes to this constitution, or should seek to set or change the policies of NZCF.
- j. At least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall forward the agenda for the Annual General Meeting to the secretary of each club and to all members of the Executive Council. In addition, and with the assistance of the Treasurer, the Secretary shall also cause an agenda, any remits, and an alphabetical list, by type of office, of all eligible candidates for elected positions and any nominations for life membership, together with a ballot paper, to be sent to all eligible voting members of NZCF and they will be advised that voting by electronic means is open. The postal ballot paper or voting by electronic means shall be in such form as the Executive Council shall approve.

Special General Meetings

- 5.3 For all Special General Meetings of the NZCF the provisions in the Constitution (Section 21. NZCF Meetings) and the following shall apply:
- a. A Special General Meeting of the NZCF shall be called by the Secretary within 21 days of the receipt of such requisition by the Secretary. The requisition to call a Special General Meeting shall be in writing and a copy of the requisition shall also be sent to the Executive Council Chairperson.
 - b. Such requisition shall be by resolution of the Executive Council, or by a requisition signed by not fewer than one quarter of the members of the NZCF holding voting rights.
 - c. The requisition shall clearly state the reason for calling the Special General Meeting and the business which is to be considered at the meeting.
 - d. The Special General Meeting will be held at such time and place as the Secretary in consultation with the Executive Council chairperson shall determine. The Secretary shall hold the meeting not earlier than 14 clear days after the posting of the notice from the Secretary calling the meeting, and within 42 days of the receipt of the requisition.
 - e. Should the Secretary fail to comply with paragraph 5.3d. above, the Executive Council chairperson shall call such meeting, or, if the Executive Council chairperson fails to do so, the Executive Council vice-chairperson, as if the meeting had been called by the Secretary. At the meeting, if the Executive Council

- chairman is not present, or declines to preside, then the meeting may elect another member of the Executive Council to preside over the meeting.
- f. At least 14 days before the Special General Meeting, the Secretary shall forward the agenda for the Special General Meeting to each club and to all members of the Executive Council. In addition, and with the assistance of the treasurer, the Secretary shall also cause a ballot and a form for giving proxy, along with an agenda, to be sent to all eligible voting members of the NZCF and they will be advised that voting by electronic means is open.
 - g. Ballots must be returned for processing, postmarked no later than 14 days prior to the date set for the Special General Meeting. Ballot papers not received by or on the due date shall be deemed to be Out Of Order and shall not be counted.
 - h. The agenda shall state clearly on whose requisition the meeting is called and the business to be considered at the meeting. Only the business detailed in the agenda shall be considered at the meeting.
 - i. If the Secretary receives any further requisitions for a Special General Meeting at least 21 days prior to the date appointed for the original meeting, the Secretary shall give similar notice of meeting in accordance with paragraph 5.3e.
 - j. Where the Secretary receives further requisitions as referred to in paragraph 5.3i. above; the Special General Meeting shall have power to consider any business or matter contained in the same.
 - k. The Executive Council or the NZCF in General Meeting may also order a Special General Meeting to be held on a nominated date.

6. Initiative and Referendum

- 6.1 Notwithstanding anything else in the constitution, upon a petition signed by at least 10% members eligible to vote, at the time of filing the notice, accompanied by a filing fee of \$250, any amendments of the Show By-Laws, Registration Rules, Disputes and Discipline Process, Standing Rules or any other regulatory document of the NZCF, and any matters concerning the business affairs, government and policy of the NZCF, shall be submitted to the membership for a postal ballot.
- 6.2 Notice of intent to present a petition to have a ballot published for initiative or referendum shall be filed with the Secretary. Within 30 days of the filing of the notice, the petition shall be filed with the Secretary. Factual written evidence must be presented in support of the proposed petition
- 6.3 Notice that the petition has been filed and reason given therein shall be published in the next available journal of the NZCF. Any rebuttal submitted together with a restatement of the reasons for shall be printed in the following journal. The ballot shall be mailed to each member eligible to vote on the matter. Ballots must be returned for processing,

postmarked no later than 7 days prior to the date set for their return. Ballots not postmarked by the due date shall be deemed to be Out Of Order and shall not be counted.

6.4 Unless otherwise specified in the constitution, Show Bylaws or Registration Rules of the NZCF or in the proposal itself, all action taken by the membership by initiative or referendum shall become effective immediately upon certification that the proposal has been adopted by a majority vote.

6.5 Every petition must include the following:

- a. An attribution declaring who created the petition must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page.
- b. If circulated to obtain signatures at a show a disclaimer must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page with the following statement: "This petition is distributed in accordance with the NZCF Rules and Policies, Section 6, Initiative and Referendum, and does not constitute an endorsement by the show committee of the opinions/statements made herein."

7. Disputes and Discipline

7.1 All complaints shall be referred to the Secretary in the first instance and dealt with according to the Disputes and Discipline (Complaints) process as laid down from time to time by the Executive Council.

7.2 Objections or protests arising under the NZCF Inc Show Bylaws shall be dealt with by the Show Committee and/or under the Disputes and Discipline (Complaints) process.

8. Affiliated Clubs

8.1 The affiliated clubs shown in Appendix 1 are the current list of affiliated clubs.

Appendix 1: Affiliated Clubs

Northern Region

Abyssinian & Somali Cat Club of N.Z. Incorporated
Auckland Cat Club Incorporated
Birman Cat Club of N.Z. Incorporated
Geyserland Cat Club Incorporated
Hamilton Cat Club Incorporated
Metropolitan Shorthair Cat Club Incorporated
Mid Island Cat Club Incorporated
NZ Maine Coon Cat Club Incorporated
The Oriental Shorthair Cat Association of N.Z. Incorporated
Patches & Pointed Incorporated

Central Region

Central Districts Cat Fanciers Association Incorporated
Dominion Shorthair Cat Club Incorporated
Feline Society (Hutt) Incorporated
Kapiti-Horowhenua Cat Club Incorporated
Palmerston North Cat Club Incorporated
Pedigree Persian Cat Fanciers (N.Z.) Incorporated
Sacred Temple Cat Club (N.Z.) Incorporated
Taranaki Cat Club Incorporated
Wellington Cat Club Incorporated

Southern Region

Burmese Cat Club of NZ Incorporated
Canterbury All Breeds Cat Club Incorporated
Longhair Cat Breeders Association (S.I.) Incorporated
New Zealand Siamese Cat Association Incorporated
Shorthair Cat Breeders Association Incorporated
Southern Cross All Breeds Cat Club Incorporated

