

South African Radio Drivers' Association

Internal Combustion Powered (Gas) Section

CONSTITUTION

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1. Preamble

This Constitution describes the organisation, administration, membership requirements and general rules of the Sectional Committee of the South African Radio Drivers' Association empowered to control the racing of internal combustion engine powered radio controlled circuit racing cars.

This Sectional Committee is constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the South African Radio Drivers' Association (hereinafter referred to as the Parent Body), which provides for the existence of Sectional Committees to control various aspects of radio controlled model car racing, all being co-ordinated by the Executive Committee of the Parent Body.

2. Name and Objectives

- 2.1 **Name:** This Sectional Committee shall be known as the South African Radio Drivers' Association - Gas Section, hereinafter referred to as SARDA Gas.
- 2.2 **Objectives:** SARDA Gas has the following objectives:
 - 2.2.1 To control and promote the sport of internal combustion engine powered radio controlled model car circuit racing, by establishing racing rules and procedures, car and circuit specifications and a series of National Championship events to select National Champions.
 - 2.2.2 To liaise with the other Sectional Committees of SARDA by participation in the activities of the SARDA Executive Committee.
 - 2.2.3 To facilitate participation by members of the section in World Championship or other international events run under the auspices of the International Federation of Model Auto Racers (IFMAR), or its affiliated blocks (ROAR, EFRA, FEMCA and FAMAR).
 - 2.2.4 To maintain the amateur status of the Sport.
 - 2.2.5 To encourage and assist any activities designed to foster good relations between the public and the Sport.

3. Status

- 3.1 The SARDA Gas Sectional Committee is a separate legal entity, distinct from the SARDA Parent Body, other Sectional Committees and the Clubs from which its membership originates.
- 3.2 SARDA Gas uses the badge of the Parent Body without adaptation.

4. Membership and Termination of Membership

- 4.1 Membership of SARDA Gas rests in personal affiliation to SARDA Gas by members of Clubs recognised by SARDA Gas. SARDA Gas will not admit any person as a member who is in debt to any one of the other Sectional Committees. Membership of SARDA Gas by persons who are not members of a recognised Club shall be at the discretion of the SARDA Gas Committee, for use in exceptional circumstances only.
- 4.2 The SARDA Gas Committee shall periodically establish the affiliation fees to be paid, as well as the due date for payment for each year.
- 4.3 The SARDA Gas Committee may suspend or terminate the membership of any person for any of the following reasons:
 - 4.3.1 Failure to pay the required affiliation fees by the required date.
 - 4.3.2 Disciplinary action resulting from the person's behaviour.
 - 4.3.3 Indebtedness of the person concerned to any other Sectional Committee, if so requested by that Sectional Committee.Any such suspension or termination shall be reported to the Executive Committee.

- 4.4 Honorary Membership of SARDA Gas may be conferred on any member or non-member of SARDA Gas by a majority decision taken at the Annual General Meeting. Such membership is awarded to recognise exceptional services rendered to SARDA Gas by the nominee in the fields of administration, technical leadership or communications. Honorary Members are presented with a certificate confirming their status and are no longer required to pay affiliation fees, although race entry fees would still be payable.

5. Indemnity

Neither the Sectional Committee nor its Office Bearers shall be in any way liable for any damages in respect of injuries or loss sustained by members, or for debts incurred by members, whether due to the negligence of any member of SARDA Gas or of any third party.

6. Finances

- 6.1 The Committee shall operate a current account at a registered commercial bank.
- 6.2 Signing powers for this account shall be determined by the Committee, with at least two signatures being required for any withdrawals or cheque payments. No person who has signing powers for any other Sectional Committee shall have signing powers for the SARDA Gas account.
- 6.3 True and accurate books of account shall be kept of the financial affairs of the Section. These books of account shall be consolidated into a financial statement for presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Section each year and shall also be submitted to the Executive Committee of SARDA.
- 6.4 The financial year of the Section shall run from November to October.

7. Composition of the Committee

- 7.1 SARDA Gas shall be administered by a Committee comprising the following Office Bearers:
Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Competitions Manager
General members
- 7.2 The Office Bearers shall be elected, by a simple majority, at the Annual General Meeting of the Section. The term of office of the Committee shall be from one Annual General Meeting to the next. No restrictions are placed on the number of times any person may be re-elected. The number of general members is not limited, as the intention is to allow for representation on the Committee of each of the recognised Clubs, if so desired.

8. Functions of the Committee Members

- 8.1 **Chairman:**
- Convenes and chairs all Committee and General meetings
 - Acts as spokesman for the Committee and the Section
 - Directs the activities of the Committee regarding the administration of the Section
 - May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee
- 8.2 **Vice-Chairman:**
- Acts as Chairman in all cases where the Chairman is unavailable
 - Takes over the Chairmanship of the Section on the resignation, impeachment or death of the Chairman
 - May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee
 - May act as a representative of a Club
- 8.3 **Secretary:**

- Conducts and controls all written correspondence flowing to, from and within the Committee
- Maintains the membership list of the Section, and issues membership cards
- Records and distributes the minutes of all Committee and General Meetings
- Manages the production and distribution of the Newsletter
- May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee
- May act as a representative of a Club

8.4 **Treasurer:**

- Controls and manages all financial aspects of the Section
- Issues financial statements at each Annual General Meeting
- Consolidates all income from National Championship events and ensures that all fees are paid
- May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee
- May act as a representative of a Club

8.5 **Competitions Manager:**

- Maintains and distributes the Section Rules and Regulations
- Distributes the entry forms for National Championship events, and receives entries and entry fees
- Sets up and distributes the race allocations for Nationals.
- Controls the results of Nationals, the points allocation and maintains an up to date list for circulation by the Secretary
- May act as Race Director for a National, on invitation by the hosting Club
- Approves the appointments of Race Director and Controllers for Nationals and ensures that they are competent to operate the AMB system.
- Controls the use and maintenance of the AMB system, the computer and all other SARDA Gas equipment used for race control.
- May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee
- May act as a representative of a Club

8.6 **General Members:**

- Represent Clubs on the SARDA Gas Committee
- Perform general duties as allocated by the Committee
- May be nominated by the Committee as a representative on the SARDA Executive Committee

9. Meetings

9.1 Annual General Meeting:

- 9.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Section shall take place at a National event and will be held on a rotation basis with the AGM being held one event earlier each year. IE. Round 4 in 2006, round 3 in 2007 etc.
- 9.1.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be convened by a notice to all members issued at least one month before the date of the Annual General Meeting, calling for nominations for Office Bearers, proposals for rule changes and other matters of general interest.
- 9.1.3 The financial statements of the Section shall be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting and shall be accompanied by a report by the Treasurer on the financial status of the Section and on the condition of the Section's assets.
- 9.1.4 The Chairman shall present a report at the Annual General Meeting on the "state of health" of the Section, including the performance of the drivers at various levels of competition and the status of the administrative systems within the Section.

9.2 Special General Meeting:

- 9.2.1 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee by means of a notice to all members at least one month before the date of such a meeting.

9.2.2 Special General Meetings are convened to discuss and decided upon specific issues which cannot be delayed until the Annual General Meeting. No matters other than those for which the meeting was convened may be discussed.

9.3 General Provisions:

9.3.1 The Chairman, or the Vice-chairman in his absence, shall preside at all Annual and Special General Meetings.

9.3.2 **Quorum:** At any Annual or Special General Meeting, the quorum shall comprise of the number of SARDA members present at the meeting.

9.3.3 **Voting:** Voting at all Annual and Special General Meetings shall be by a show of hands, unless a motion for a secret ballot is accepted by the meeting. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall call for a new vote and may exercise a casting vote only if this second vote is also tied.

9.3.4 **Motions:** No motion shall be carried to a vote unless it has been properly proposed and seconded. Once seconded, a motion may only be withdrawn by the proposer with the permission of both the Chairman of the meeting and the seconder. All motions shall be carried or defeated by a simple majority of votes, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

9.4 Committee Meetings:

9.4.1 The Committee shall meet regularly throughout the year, at a frequency suitable to the administration of the activities of the Section.

9.4.2 At each National Championship event, a short (one hour) meeting shall be held, attended by the Committee members and the chairpersons of all the Clubs represented at the event. This meeting shall confirm the arrangements for the event and discuss other matters as required.

10. Racing Procedures and Bye-Laws

10.1 The Committee shall publish a set of Racing Rules and Procedures which shall control the racing of National Championship events, as well as of all other events requiring recognition by the Committee.

10.2 These Rules shall be contained in a Rules Book which shall be supplemented each year by a set of Supplementary Regulations for the year in question.

10.3 The Supplementary Regulations shall contain the number and dates of the National Championship events for the year and the points scoring system to be used.

11. International Competition

11.1 Drivers shall be selected to represent the country in any international events arranged by IFMAR.

11.2 Drivers shall be selected on the basis of Qualifying or Sprint racing performance at National Championship events only.

11.3 Positions and points achieved in the year's National Sprint Championship preceding the International event will be used for selection purposes.

11.4 The number of drivers eligible for representation shall be determined by the number of "slots" allocated by IFMAR to SARDA Gas, as follows:

11.4.1 Up to five slots: Any of the top ten drivers as determined in para 11.3 above.

- Six or more slots: A number of drivers equal to twice the number of allocated slots.

11.4.2 Drivers qualify in the order in which they finish according to para 11.3 above. Should a driver not be able to attend the International event, his place will be offered to the next driver on the list according to para 11.4.1, until the limits of 11.4.1 are reached. Should there still be slots available once these limits have been reached, they shall be returned to IFMAR for re-allocation.

11.5 All drivers representing the country at official World Championship events shall be awarded the SARDA Gas colours blazer. This is a green blazer bearing the official colours badge of SARDA Gas, as registered with the National Colours Board.

12. Dissolution

- 12.1 The Section may be dissolved only by a 75% majority vote of all remaining members of the Section in favour of dissolution. This vote may be taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting, or by means of a Postal vote, provided that the results of the Postal vote are clearly communicated to all remaining members prior to dissolution.
- 12.2 On dissolution of the Section, the assets and liabilities of the Section shall be distributed as decided upon a simple majority of the remaining members.

13. Amendments

- 13.1 The provisions of this Constitution may be amended only by a two thirds majority of votes at an Annual or Special General Meeting for which there is a quorum in terms of para 9.3.2 above.
- 13.2 The full text of any proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be circularised to all members at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted on. The proposed amendment shall be properly worded and correctly seconded before being submitted to the Secretary for circulation to the membership.
- 13.3 All amendments are of immediate effect after approval unless specifically otherwise requested in the amendment proposal itself.