

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Arts General Meeting Standing Orders

1 Introduction

These Standing Orders are for General Meetings of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Arts.

2 Guiding principles of standing orders

- 2.1 General Meetings should be fair and contribute to open, transparent and informed decision-making.
- 2.2 General Meetings should reflect levels of formality appropriate for the nature and scope of the responsibilities exercised at the meeting
- 2.3 General Meetings should be clear and follow constitutional direction to give the community confidence in the decisions and deliberations undertaken at the meeting.

3 Meetings

- 3.1 The Constitutions of the organisations provide detail on the convening and holding of general meetings, including annual general meetings.
- 3.2 The agenda of the meeting is determined by the board, after invitation from members to submit valid motions.
- 3.3 Under the agenda item “other business” at the meeting members can seek to have additional items addressed at the meeting or be placed on the agenda to be dealt with at a later time.
- 3.4 Meetings shall, subject to the presence of a quorum, start at the time set out in the notice of the meeting. Should the meeting be required to be extended to deal with the business of the meeting, a member can request an extension through a procedural motion from the floor.
- 3.5 The chairperson will deal with the items of business set down for the meeting in the order in which they appear on the agenda unless otherwise determined by the chairperson.

4 Order

- 4.1 The chairperson of the meeting is determined by the board in accordance with the Constitution.
- 4.2 A person addressing the meeting shall be heard in silence unless a point of order is raised.
- 4.3 The chairperson shall maintain order and conduct the meeting in accordance with these standing orders.

5 Points of order

- 5.1 The chairperson may call to order a member who is in breach of the standing orders or constitution, or who is engaging in activity contrary to the psychosocial safety of attendees.
- 5.2 A member may draw to the attention of the chairperson a breach of the standing orders or constitution, and must state briefly the nature of the alleged breach.
- 5.3 A point of order takes precedence over all other business until determined.
- 5.4 The chairperson will rule on the point of order.

6 Interruption of meetings by members

- 6.1 A member must not, while at a meeting:
 - (a) behave in an improper or disorderly manner; or
 - (b) cause an interruption or interrupt another member who is speaking.
- 6.2 The chairperson will rule on any instances of interruptions by members. The chairperson may seek an apology, have a short adjournment, ask the member to leave the meeting or adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled date. The chairperson's ruling will be final.

7 Conflict/difficult discussions

- 7.1 Each member needs to be clear when discussing a topic raised for discussion.
- 7.2 The chairperson has the discretion to declare a topic of discussion closed, if they determine the discussion is unproductive and becoming negative
- 7.3 All members shall remain calm and professional regardless of how difficult or challenging the topic.

8 Amendments to standing orders

- 8.1 These Standing Orders may be amended or stood down by resolution carried by a majority of members able to vote in a meeting