

The Jamaica Photography Society Constitution

PART A: Name & Purpose

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be The Jamaica Photography Society Limited.

2. Vision

- 2.1 Our vision is to promote the aesthetic of all aspects of photography in Jamaica, the region and the world. We aim to nurture the expansion of creative minds in photography.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aims and objectives are as follows:
- To cultivate the talents of enthusiastic minds in the principles, applications and the art of photography.
 - To impart our knowledge to peers and enthusiasts in photography.
 - To consistently exhibit high quality photographic work.
 - To establish and maintain unity within our community of photographers.
- 3.2 This Organization is a non-political and non-sectarian body. It is a social entity on the basis that members are committed to the goals of the Organization and the building of relationships with other photographers, artists, societies and social groups throughout Jamaica and the world.

PART B: Membership

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership of the Society shall consist of its founder and other persons primarily photographers.
- 4.2 New membership to this organization shall be considered following submission of an application and a portfolio as defined in Clause 4.3. Upon acceptance membership dues become payable.
- 4.3 Prospective members shall present a portfolio (digital or printed) of at least five images for evaluation by the Executive Committee.
- 4.4 Affiliate Membership may be bestowed upon an individual or organization who supports/adds value to the Society. The designation of affiliate membership shall be bestowed by the Executive Committee.
- 4.5 Membership shall be terminated if:
- (a) fees are in arrears for over six months,
 - (b) for a cause, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- 4.6 A member may resign from the Society by giving written notice to an officer of the Executive Committee. The resignation may take effect on the day and time specified in the notice (which should not exceed 1 month from the date of the notice). Membership fees will not be refunded.

PART C: Society's Management

- 5.1 The Executive Committee (directors) shall be the Founder, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and three (3) Ordinary members and such additional officer(s) as may be provided for in the by-laws.
- 5.2 All members of the Executive Committee with the exception of the Founder, shall be elected from among the members in good standing.
- 5.3 Policy making, decisions and actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the provisions of this constitution and feedback from the Society's membership where applicable.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee shall have general control over all officers and committees and may, for good cause, declare any office vacant. (Including after failure to attend two Executive meetings without apologies and/or failure to consistently communicate with the Executive Committee without valid reason).
- 5.5 There shall be provided in the by-laws of this Society the following standing committees: Fundraising & Finance Committee, Events & Field Trips Committee, Communications/PR Committee and such other standing committees as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the administration of the Society.
- 5.6 The President, with approval of the other Executive members, may appoint a special committee as he/she may deem necessary, citing their duties at the time of appointment. All such special committees shall lapse upon the completion of their duties, upon discharge of the appointed members, or with the end of term of office of the executive, whichever occurs first.
- 5.7 Elections of the Executive Committee shall be held annually. Elections will be held at the first meeting in November. If not possible, it must take place prior to the end of the fourth Quarter.
- 5.8 The term of office of all executive members shall be one calendar year.
- 5.9 All members of the Society in good financial standing shall be eligible for nomination as a member of the Executive and has the right to cast one (1) vote for each position in an election.
- 5.10 All nominations shall be presided over by the Election Chair, who is a member in good standing who is not seeking an Executive position.
- 5.11 In the event of the resignation of the President, the Vice-President will be designated Acting President and will complete the term of office. In the event of any other vacancy, the remaining Committee members will fill in until a new election.
- 5.12 Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote.

PART D: Meetings

- 6.1 The Society shall meet at least once per month, as provided by the by-laws, at a time suited to the convenience of the members.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee shall meet as provided in the by-laws.
- 6.3 Meetings of the Society and Executive Committee may be cancelled due to Acts of God (e.g. natural disaster), during holiday/vacation periods or for any reason at the discretion of the Executive members.
- 6.4 Minutes / summaries of meetings of the Society shall be recorded and shall be provided to the members at the following meeting.
- 6.5 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the first meeting in November (which will include financial reports, executive reports and any other significant business).
- 6.6 The secretary shall forward a notice to members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the AGM.
- 6.7 A quorum for the AGM is stated as being 50% of paid up members plus one. If a quorum is not present, the meeting stands adjourned until the next meeting.

PART E: Finance

- 7.1 The financial year of the Society shall run on an annual basis from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The year is further divided in 4 quarters starting from January to March, April to June, July to September, and October to December.
- 7.2 It is the responsibility of the Society to raise the funds necessary to carry out its program. It may solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses, or organizations. All funds raised for a specified project or cause must be expended for that purpose.
- 7.3 Dues and any income from the membership of the Society may be used for the relevant purpose of meetings and the administrative costs of the Society.
- 7.4 Funds for additional projects and exhibitions undertaken by the Society may be raised and accounted for.
- 7.5 The Treasurer shall keep and maintain proper books and accounts showing accurately the financial affairs of the Society.
- 7.6 The Treasurer shall prepare and present annual Financial Statements within a month of the end of the financial year to the Executive.
- 7.7 The Treasurer at the AGM shall present a report detailing the financial standing of the society as at the meeting date for approval of the members.
- 7.8 A thorough audit of the financial transactions will be conducted by a qualified person and shall be made at the end of each financial year.
- 7.9 No member of the Society shall derive any pecuniary gain from the property of The Jamaica Photography Society. This does not apply to the winning of any trophies or awards.

PART F: The Constitution

- 8.1 No alteration, repeal or addition shall be made to the Constitution except at the AGM, or General meeting, called for such purpose.
- 8.2 Notice of all motions to alter, repeal or add to the Constitution shall be given to members fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM or General Meeting called for such purpose.
- 8.3 All motions to alter, repeal or add to the Constitution shall be of no effect unless passed by a seventy five percent (75%) majority of those present and entitled to a vote at the AGM or General Meeting called for such purpose.

PART G: By-Laws

- 9.1 The Society shall generate by-laws with any amendments consistent with this Constitution and which may be deemed necessary or convenient for the governance of the Society.
- 9.2 Amendments to the by-laws may be proposed in writing by any member of the Society to the Executive Committee.
- 9.3 Notice of all motions to alter, repeal or add to the by-laws shall be given to members fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM or General Meeting called for such purpose.

PART H: Duration

- 10.1 This Society shall continue to exist so long as it continues to function in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and by-laws or until it is terminated by
 - (a) this Society upon its own determination and action or
 - (b) failure to function in accordance with this Constitution or for other cause.
- 10.2 If, on the dissolution of the Society, any property remains after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the Society and the costs, charges and expenses of that

winding up, that property shall be distributed: (a) To another incorporated Society having objectives similar to those of the Society; or (b) For charitable purposes as shall be determined by resolution of the members.

PART I: Acceptance of Constitution and By-Laws

- 11.1 Every member of the Society, by acceptance of membership, thereby accepts the principles of the Jamaica Photography Society as expressed in its aims and objectives and agrees to comply with the constitution and by-laws of this society, and on these conditions alone are entitled to the privileges of this society. No member shall be absolved from the observance of the Constitution and by-laws on the plea that a copy of them has not been received.