

# International Ombudsman Institute Australasian and Pacific Region Rules and Bylaws

## Background

The International Ombudsman Institute (**the IOI**) is the only truly international grouping of Parliamentary Ombudsman. In 1996, the full Institutional Membership of the IOI voted to create formal regional groupings within its membership. These groupings would allow members to participate fully in the IOI, as well as communicate more effectively, sharing information and their experiences as Ombudsman. The IOI By-laws were amended to reflect this decision, and the Australasian and Pacific Regional grouping, or APOR, was created. In 1997, the APOR members agreed upon a set of rules to govern the operation of the region.

These rules were reviewed in 2010, and the regional membership approved and adopted the following rules at its regional annual meeting, held in Canberra in March 2010.

## The rules

### Meeting Language

English may be used as the working language. At meetings other than the ones referred to in Article 14 of the IOI By-laws, by agreement, any one of the official languages may be used as the working language (see Article 4 (2) IOI By-laws).

## Membership

1. The membership of the Australasian and Pacific region who are members of the IOI shall comprise all members of that region of any category of membership.
2. The region will be represented on the IOI Board by three Directors, including a Regional President. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1(c) and 22, paragraph 7 of the IOI By-laws, these representatives shall be elected democratically from the Voting Members of the region.
3. The Directors must, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 5 of the IOI By-laws, be Voting members in good standing and demonstrate the ability to fully represent the regional membership. A Director should be able to show they can fully fund their attendance and participation in regional meetings, as well as the annual meeting of the IOI Board.

## Election

1. The Directors will be elected every two years. These elections will coincide with regional meetings.
2. Each Voting member of the region is entitled to one vote. If an election takes place during a regional meeting, voting will only be open to those Voting members present at the meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot.
3. When more than one nomination is received for a Director's position, the various nominees should be provided with an opportunity to make their case for election to the regional members.
4. A Director shall resign his/her office as a Director on vacating office as an Ombudsman.

5. If an annual meeting is not scheduled to take place within two months of a Director resigning their position or there is an imminent IOI Board Meeting, the Regional President will send a call for nominations in writing to all regional members (such communication can be by mail facsimile or email). The Regional President will then make members aware of nominations received. If there is more than one nomination, each member nominated will be provided with an opportunity to accept the nomination and state their case for election in writing to all regional members. The Regional President will then call for votes in writing from the regional members.
6. If the Regional President has vacated their office, the remaining Directors will perform the role described above.

### **Responsibilities**

1. The Directors will be responsible for organizing the region's affairs. The Directors will determine what regional initiatives should be undertaken after gauging the views of the membership.
2. The Regional President will act as Chair of meetings of the regional membership.
3. The Directors may make such rules as are necessary for the smooth functioning and operation of the Region. Such rules must not be inconsistent with these rules or the By-laws of the IOI.
4. The members of the region may at any time, by a majority and in writing, alter, amend or add to these rules.
5. In accordance with Article 22, paragraph 6(e) of the IOI By-laws, the Regional President is responsible for organizing and submitting to the IOI General Secretariat, the APOR section of the IOI Annual Report.

Adopted at Canberra APOR Conference Australia, March 2010.

In accordance with Article 13 of the IOI BY-Laws, amended by written circular resolution dated 6 August 2013 of a majority of APOR members to achieve consistency with IOI By Laws amended at the IOI 10th World Conference.