



The Australian Finch Society

Rules

Revised February 2019

General

1. The Society shall be called The Australian Finch Society. Hereafter called the AFS or Society.
2. The aim of the Society is to encourage the keeping, breeding, exhibition, study, research and preservation of all Australian Finches and Parrot Finches (excluding Zebra Finches but including Timor Zebra Finches), and their conservation in the wild.
3. The financial year of the Society shall commence on the 1st December and end on the 30th November annually.
4. All official correspondence and documentation shall be dated and source indicated.
5. Anything appertaining to the Society and its affairs not specifically covered by these rules shall be decided by the Council whose decision shall be final. No alteration to these rules may be made other than by the Council which shall vote by no less than two-thirds majority to change a rule or to implement a new rule.
6. The AFS affairs shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of England. Any dispute or matter relating to the AFS shall be decided by the High Court in London or by the Central London County Court.

Meetings

7. Council Meetings shall be held, as the Council decide, not less than four times per period of office. The first meeting of the year, usually in February, will be the Annual General Meeting. All paid up members are entitled to attend these meetings. Dates will be published in the Grassfinch.
8. AFS members may put forward motions for consideration to Council meetings by written submission to the Secretary quoting their membership number
 - a. Council will debate it as soon as possible and no later than six months from receipt.

9. Any motion lost at Council may not be moved again at Council until a lapse of 18 months.

Officers

10. The day-to-day affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Executives of the Council who will be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Editor.
11. The Executive Council shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting to serve until the next Annual General Meeting and shall comprise of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Editor. Members of the retiring Executive Council can stand for re-election having first been nominated by a proposer.
12. The Vice-Chairman will not automatically become Chairman Elect.
13. An Auditor shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting for the current year and no National Officer or Council Member shall act as Auditor.
14. Any Annual General Meeting may elect a President of the Society who shall hold such a position until resignation or cancelled by a subsequent Annual General Meeting. The President shall be an ex-officio member of the Council and may attend and vote at any Council meeting.
15. The Council may appoint other Officials for duties within the Society and such Officials shall act in accordance with the Directions of the Executive Council Members. Any such Officials will be invited by Council to attend Council Meetings and will be entitled to vote.
 - a. Voting on the appointment of Officers, only the delegates and Officers to vote.
16. Should any member of the Executive Council resign or be unable to serve, the members position on the Executive Council may be declared vacant and filled by co-option at the discretion of Council until the next Annual General Meeting.

Finances

17. The funds of the Society shall be banked in the name of the Australian Finch Society. Cheques and other payments shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman or one other Officer. The Treasurer shall keep such records and produce such financial reports as the Council may direct from time to time, and the audited accounts of the Society shall be published annually to all members with the Society Magazine no later than the end of April.
18. No member of the Society other than the Treasurer may both receive money and make payments.

Membership

19. Annual Subscriptions shall be due on 1st December each year and shall be decided by the Council from time to time. Any amounts so decided can only be set aside or amended by the concurring vote of not less than two thirds of the members of the Council present at an Annual Council or Council meeting.
 - a. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid on the 1st March of any year shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society.
20. No member may use the name of the Society or its emblems or any matter issued by the Society, whether copyright be claimed by the Society or otherwise, without prior written authority of the Council. Should any member be proven in the opinion of the Council to have acted prejudicially to the interest or reputation of the Society, such a member may be suspended from membership for as long as the Council may decide, or may be expelled from the Society and legal or other action shall thereby lie. Such a proposal requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. If any member so suspended or expelled is aggrieved by such decision the member may give written notice of appeal to the Chairman within twenty one days of receipt of the notice of suspension or expulsion. The appeal shall be held at the

next Council Meeting and voting at the meeting shall be by two-thirds majority vote to confirm or set aside or modify the decision of the Council.

21. The Chairman with the majority approval of the Executive Members of the Council may dismiss or suspend any AFS Official or member. This person has the right of appeal.

Judges

22. AFS members may apply to become AFS panel judges if they satisfy the following criteria.
 - a. Must be a current paid up member of the AFS
 - b. Must have experience of showing Australian Finches
 - c. Must be approved by the AFS Council
 - d. Must have good knowledge of published show standards
 - e. Must have good eyesight
24. The AFS Council reserve the right to revoke panel judge status if AFS membership is not maintained

Branches

25. Each AFS Branch recognised by the Council shall abide by the following rules
 - a. All Branches should incorporate "Australian Finch Society Branch" in their name.
 - b. All branches will maintain accurate records of Expenditure and Income and will return accounts for the previous year to the treasurer of the AFS by 31st January, (or on closure of the year end accounts. Only the AFS Treasurer will have access to view these accounts)
 - c. Should any Branch be disbanded any assets must be returned to the Society to be held in Trust until the Branch is

reformed. The Branch will be reimbursed after a properly elected committee is formed.

- d. The Australian Finch Society accepts no responsibility for any debts incurred by the branch.
- e. All branches will advertise events and meetings in the Grassfinch and Cage & Aviary birds.
- f. All branches will submit reports of events and meetings to the Grassfinch and Cage & Aviary birds.
- g. A Calendar of events for the following year should be prepared for and presented at the AFS Annual General Meeting.
- h. Only birds owned by branch members should normally be offered for sale at branch meetings, unless a special sales day has been organised.
- i. Area branches will be granted show patronage by the society but this must be applied for.
- j. Any events organised by area Branches which are likely to attract national interest should be arranged with the prior knowledge of the AFS Council.