

Subject	Definition of Committee
Date	1/04/2019
By	Paul Sauter
Ratified at meeting	3/04/2019

1. The “Committee” of the NEPG, as defined, in part, in the 2017 Constitution, consists of:
 - The Office Holders (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), as well as:
 - Competition Director;
 - Workshop Director;
 - Education Director;
 - Events Director;
 - Hospitality Director;
 - Communications Director;
 - Equipment Director;
 - Photomarket Coordinator;
 - General Committee Member;
2. The rights and obligations of the Committee members are spelled out in the Constitution, and summarised in Table 1 (below);
3. Each Committee Member present at a Committee Meeting has a deliberate vote (Constitution 14.5 (a)), i.e. Committee Members occupying more than one position still only have one vote;
4. All other Team Members are part of Sub-Committees, under the guidance of one of the Directors/Officers, and have no voting rights at Committee meetings, with the exception of:
5. A Team Member has voting rights when delegated by its Director/Officer, in its absence and at its request;
6. These By-Laws Laws can be reviewed/alterd by the Committee if and when required (Constitution 25).

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Table 1: Definitions, rights and obligations of the Committee

	Office Holder	Committee	Teams (Sub-Committees)
President	Y	Y	
Vice-President	Y	Y	Welcoming Team
Secretary	Y	Y	
Treasurer	Y	Y	Door Attendants
Competition Director		Y	Competition Assistants
Workshop Director		Y	Workshop Team
Events Director		Y	Assistant
Equipment Director		Y	Assistants
Communication Director		Y	Website, Facebook
Education Director		Y	Education Team
Hospitality Director		Y	Hospitality Team
Photomarket Coordinator		Y	Assistant
General Comm Member		Y	

				Constitution item
No more than one of these positions held by one person	Y	-	-	10.2(e)
Attend and vote at Comm meetings	Y	Y	-	14.4(g), 14.5(a)
Elected/Appointed at AGM	Y	Y	-	12; 23.3(b)(vi)
Not for persons convicted for several offences under 10.2(f)	Y	Y	-	10.2(f)
Not for persons who are bankrupt	Y	Y	-	10.2(g)
Not same position more than two years unless otherwise approved	Y	Y	-	12.5(e)

BACKGROUND

INTRO

There has been some confusion on the term “Committee”, or “Management”/“Executive” Committee, which has implications on the various rights and obligations of the “Committee” members, including voting rights at Committee meetings.

There are limited definitions given in the Constitution, with the opportunity given to the Committee to further define things through the By-Laws.

DEFINITION

The definition of “Committee” and its Members in the 2017 Constitution reads:

“Committee” means the Management Committee required by the Act, and is the body, established under rule 10, responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association;

- 10.2 Committee Members
- (a) The Committee is to consist of:
 - (i) the office holders of the Association; and
 - (ii) not less than one other Member.
 - (b) The maximum number of other Members of the Committee is to be determined by the Committee.
 - (c) The office holders of the Association are:
 - (i) the President;
 - (ii) the Vice President;
 - (iii) the Secretary; and
 - (iv) the Treasurer.

Apart from the above, there is no further definition of a “Management” or “Executive” Committee. The 2017 definitions are very similar to the definitions in the 2009 Constitution, except that in 2009 the Competition Director was also expressly named as a Committee Member.

PRACTICE

Records of AGM’s and contact lists, viewed from 2005 onwards, show that, in principle, the “Committee” consisted of all people elected, or appointed, to the various positions and sub-committees. In addition, records of Committee meeting show that a variety of Committee members attended those meetings, and that there is no suggestion that voting was restricted to a select group of “Executive” members. There are indeed some sparse references to an Executive Committee, as a sub-list of a Committee contact list, but there is no definition or a suggestion that these members have more rights than other Committee members.

So it appears to have been common practice, for a long period of time, for the Office Bearers, as well as Directors/Officers for e.g. Competition, Workshop, Events, Education, Equipment, to attend Committee meetings, discuss issues, and vote, if required. It is recommended that this practice is continued, and formalised in the By-Laws.

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There is a large number of people (26 at last count, incl a few doubles) contributing significantly to the club as part of various teams, under the guidance of Directors/Officers. Although also elected/appointed at the AGM, it is not suggested that these people are part of the "Committee". Under the definitions of the Constitution, they are part of the Sub-Committees and Subsidiary Offices, can attend Committee meetings if been invited, but have no voting rights.

VOTING AND QUORUM

Under the Constitution, each Committee Member has one vote (meaning regardless of the number of positions he/she is occupying).

Any five Committee Members constitute a quorum for the conduct of the business at a Committee Meeting.