

The Constitution of M.S. Ramaiah College of Law Literary and Debating Society, 2010

(As amended on 29th March, 2014)

Preamble

Whereas:

The M.S. Ramaiah College of Law was established in the interests of higher legal education and professional training. The college's aim is to develop in their students a strong backing of the legal profession with an all-round character development program.

In this context, the college has given due importance to the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities as essential to the development of a student's personality. The M.S. Ramaiah College of Law, Literary and Debating Society (herein referred to as "**LDS**") was hence founded to better develop the oratory skills of aspiring lawyers. It was felt, a new constitution be made to govern The Literary and Literary and debating society and help in realizing all that it stands for.

Article 1: The Literary and Debating Society

1. The LDS shall comprise of only full time students of the college who shall meet as a General Body in accordance to the Constitution
2. The Principal of the college shall be the Patron of The LDS.
3. The LDS shall deal with all and only those functions dealt within the constitution.
4. The LDS shall be the primary body for the students to participate in the activity of debating, whether it is tournaments of a national or international nature, or even intra-college debates.
5. Any student wishing to attend a debate must first approach The LDS and must be on the record of the same in order to represent the college in any form of debate or debate-related activity.
6. All permissions relating to debate or debate-related activities must first receive the approval of The LDS, followed by the approval of the Teacher-in-Charge and Principal in order to be considered a genuine authorization for partaking in debating or debate-related activities of any sort.

Article 2: The General Body of the LDS

1. An ordinary meeting of the General Body of The LDS may be called in by the Office Bearers.
2. The General Body shall consist of :-
 - (a) The Convener

- (b) The Co-Convener
 - (c) The Secretary
 - (d) The Treasurer
 - (e) Advisory Members
 - (f) Veteran Members
 - (g) Regular Members
 - (h) Recruit Members
3. Apart from the ordinary meetings, a special meeting may be called for one of the following reasons:-
- (a) Special Meeting, in connection with the removal of the Office Bearers (as under Article 9)
 - (b) Special Meeting called in by the Office Bearers in relation to extra-ordinary circumstances with prior notice being given out.
 - (c) Special Meeting related to the necessary action needed with immediate effect, with prior notice being given out.
 - (d) Special meeting for discussion on an upcoming debate for registration and team forming the same.
4. The Office Bearers of The LDS shall be as follows:
- (a) The Convener
 - (b) The Co-Convener
 - (c) The Secretary
 - (d) The Treasurer

Article 3: The LDS Faculty-in-charge.

1. The LDS shall have one member of the college faculty nominated by the Patron of The LDS.
2. The Faculty Member shall be the Faculty Advisor of The LDS.
3. The Faculty Advisor shall have the right to attend the ordinary meetings at any time he/she chooses to do so.
4. The Faculty Advisor shall advise The LDS, in the performance of its functions, the developments of the organization and its budget requirements. The Faculty Member can also recommend actions to the Patron for the benefit of The LDS and its members.

Article 4: Finances and Audits

1. The Treasurer shall be accountable for the finances of The LDS.
2. The LDS Treasurer shall submit an account of the amount of funds held by The LDS at the end of two months.
3. At the end of an Academic Year, the Treasurer shall give a detailed report stating the previous balance of The LDS and the required budget. It shall be submitted to both the Convener and the Co-Convener.

4. All immediate monies in relation to The LDS shall be deposited with the Treasurer.
5. The Treasurer is also accountable to the Faculty Advisor.

Article 5: The Convener

1. There shall be a Convener elected in accordance to the provisions of this constitution.
2. The Convener shall head The LDS in all its general and special functions.
3. The Convener's term shall be for a period not greater than one academic year.
4. The Convener shall be elected in the last month of the academic year for the forthcoming academic year.
5. Apart from the following disqualifications mentioned below, any veteran member can stand for the post of Convener.
6. Any member of The LDS shall not be eligible for the post if:-
 - (a) Found guilty of serious misconduct.
 - (b) Found to be politicizing The LDS
 - (c) He/she is a recruit or regular member.
7. The Convener shall remain answerable to the Faculty-in-Charge

Article 6: The Co-Convener

1. There shall be a Co-Convener elected in accordance to the provisions of this constitution.
2. The Co-Convener shall assist the Convener in all general functions of The LDS.
3. The Co-Convener's term shall be for a period not extending one academic year.
4. The Co-Convener shall be elected in the last month of the academic year for the forthcoming academic year.
5. The Co-Convener shall be the 'acting' Convener in the Convener's absence.
6. Any member of The LDS shall not be eligible for the post if:-
 - (a) Found guilty of serious misconduct
 - (b) Found to be politicizing The LDS
 - (c) He/she is a recruit or regular member.
7. The Co-Convener is answerable to the Faculty-in-Charge

Article 7: The Secretary

1. There shall be a Secretary elected for the succeeding academic year.
2. The Secretary shall receive/send invites for all competitions.
3. The Secretary is in charge of all relations with other colleges in context with The LDS.

4. The Secretary shall maintain a directory of members of The LDS in addition to a list of tournaments attended by these members, as well as total number of wins, and present status of the member.
5. The Secretary shall take and update and be in charge of The LDS attendance who in the absence of which will delegate this power to the treasurer, then Co-Convener, then Convener.
6. Any Veteran or Regular Members may stand for the post of The Secretary.
7. The Secretary shall hold office for a period of one academic year.

Article 8: The Treasurer

1. There shall be a Treasurer for the Debate elected for the succeeding academic year.
2. The Treasurer is in charge of all finances in relation to The LDS.
3. The budget for the forthcoming academic year shall be drawn up by the Treasurer.
4. The Treasurer is answerable to the Office Bearers and the Faculty Advisor.
5. Any veteran or regular member may stand for the post of Treasurer.
6. The Treasurer's term shall not exceed a period of one academic year.

Article 9: Removal from Office

1. The Convener or the Co-Convener may be removed from office by the Debate Society and the post shall thereafter be filled in accordance to Article 10.
2. Removal proceedings may be instituted by either:-
 - (a) Request in writing made to the Co-Convener in relation to the Convener and vice-versa with a consensus of not less than 50% of the General Body of The LDS.
 - (b) Request to either the Convener or Co-Convener in relation to The Secretary or The Treasurer.
 - (c) Letter given to the Faculty Advisor, expressing the need for removal.
3. The remaining three office bearers with the Faculty Advisor shall decide if the removal request warrants the attention of The LDS.
4. After the following deliberations, a disciplinary hearing shall be called by the Faculty Advisor where both the person making the request for removal and the office bearer facing removal from post shall explain their grounds for and against such removal.
5. Subsequent to the disciplinary hearing the request for removal shall be passed by 2/3rds of members present and will take effect immediately.

Article 10: Vacancy in Office

1. On a vacancy arising in the post of the Convener, the Co-Convener shall assume all general functions as 'acting' Convener. In the occasion of vacancy in both posts, the Secretary shall take over the Conveners functions while the Treasurer deals with the Co-Conveners functions.
2. On a vacancy arising in the post of the Co-Convener only, the Secretary shall take over as 'acting' Co-Convener.
3. On a vacancy arising in the post of the Secretary, the senior most veteran shall be immediately appointed by the Convener and the Co-Convener.
4. On a vacancy arising in the post of the Treasurer, the Co-Convener shall take over all the functions of the Treasurer, as well as take control of the Finances of The LDS.
5. All changes made have to be in accordance with The LDS Constitution. Any alterations in the procedure shall not be accepted and can lead to revocation of membership.

Article 11: Amendments

1. On the recommendation of the office bearers, either independently or on the request of a member of The LDS, the agenda for an amendment will be looked into.
2. A meeting of the General Body shall be held by giving one week's notice and stating the amendment requested in such notice.
3. The quorum for such a meeting should be 2/3rd of the total strength of The LDS at minimum.
4. The amendment proposed should be passed by a maximum of 2/3rd of the members present.
5. The amendment should be immediately informed to the Faculty Advisor, purely for his/her knowledge.
6. The basic structure of the constitution may not be amended however if needed, cannot be made without the express permission of the Teacher-in-charge.

Article 12: Registry of Members

1. A registry of members shall be maintained by the Secretary
2. The registry shall contain the attendance of each member of The LDS
3. The registry shall also contain the debates participated by each member of The LDS
4. The registry shall also contain all breaks and wins of all members of The LDS.

Article 13: Meetings

1. The LDS shall meet every Monday and Wednesday
2. All meetings will be general meetings following which practice sessions will be held.

3. If called upon by the Convener or Co-Convener, A special meeting can be called where attendance will be compulsory for emergency or procedural meetings. Absence at these meetings will be taken seriously and reasons will need to be provided to the office bearers following which appropriate action will be taken if needed.

Article 14: Attendance

1. Every LDS member is required to maintain a 60% average per academic year
2. Failing to meet the 60% will result in losing eligibility to stand for elections and vote on resolutions, amendments, elections and bringing up agendas in meetings.
3. For those with an attendance of 40%-60% a show cause can be requested following which a hearing will be held and the General body will vote on restoration of voting rights. Failing to secure enough votes by simple majority for restoration, the candidate's eligibility stands unchanged.
4. To stand for a post in The LDS a candidate is required to have eligibility in The LDS, failing which he/she will not be eligible to stand irrespective of membership status.
5. A member will be marked absent only if they have attended college and missed a meeting, absence from college will not result in absence from a meeting.
6. The intention of this clause is to allow members to not restrict extracurricular activities to debate but explore other college activities like moots, etc. and also for personal reasons; the enforced 60% attendance is required for members to give back experience to The LDS from which he/she received it from.
7. All new recruit members will have an attendance requirement of 70% for the first semester of their membership or the first 3 months of working college days or till they become regular member, Subject to the discretion of The LDS Office Bearers on their competency to extend or reduce this time period.
8. Additional meetings attendance shall be added for participation and qualification as follows:
 - (a) Parliamentary Debate Participation- 3 meetings
 - (b) Parliamentary Debate Qualification or win- 2 meetings
 - (c) Conventional Debate- 1 meeting
 - (d) Conventional Debate Qualification or win- 1 meeting

Article 15: Advisory Members

1. The Convener and Co-Convener may, as per their discretion, may nominate certain members to the position of Advisory Member for commendable work done in favor of The LDS over the course of their membership.

2. All Advisory Members must be final year students and must have held the status of either a regular or a veteran member in order to be eligible to be nominated as the same. No recruit member shall be eligible for the post of Advisory Member.

Article 16: Membership

1. Students admitted to The LDS as members shall fall into one of the following three categories based on the total number of debate tournaments attended by that particular member.
 - (a) Recruit Member: - 0 to 3 debate tournaments attended
 - (b) Regular Member: - 4 to 7 tournaments attended
 - (c) Veteran Member: - 8 or more tournaments attended
2. This categorization of members based on the total number tournaments attended is deemed to be the 'status' of that member, and is solely for official record keeping purposes, and is in no way a determinate of ranking of that member.
3. Experience points are awarded for calculation of status as 1 (one) point for every Parliamentary Debate attended and .5 (Half) point for every Conventional Debate attended.

Article 17: Elections

1. Elections for the Governing body of The LDS shall take place within the last academic month of every even semester.
2. The posts of Convener, Co-Convener, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected upon by the general body with a need for a simple majority to be elected to the post.
3. The election will take place only under the supervision of the Principal or the Teacher-in-Charge and the election results will have to be ratified by both the principal and the Teacher-in-Charge for the change to come into effect.
4. Any nominated posts will be declared by the Office Bearers within one week from the election and declared to the general body during the subsequent meeting.
5. A Chief Election Officer shall be appointed by the candidates standing for Office Bearer posts in total consensus amongst all candidates to conduct the election who is a Veteran Member who is not standing for any post or an Advisory Member.

Article 18: Review

1. The LDS shall conduct a review of each of the Office Bearers posts with a confidence vote at the end of every odd semester or in the middle of the academic year.

2. In the event of a majority vote, the office bearer will continue in his/her position until the end of the academic year or term.
3. In the event of a minority vote, the office bearer will be allowed to explain their position for the general body to rescind or enforce the vote again in majority.
4. In the event of a majority vote, the office bearer will continue in his/her position until the end of the academic year or term
5. In the event of a minority vote, the office bearer will cease to hold their office and the vacancy shall be filled in accordance to Article 10.
6. The vacancy shall be filled only for a maximum period of 1 month before which another election in the presence of the Principal or Teacher-in-Charge must take place for the specific post.

Article 18: Miscellaneous

1. At the end of the academic year, The LDS may award a prize for outstanding performances of the year. Such need for prizes will be expressed to the Patron of The LDS.
2. The requirement to enroll or criteria required will not be mentioned in the Constitution and shall depend on the office bearers of that academic year.
3. The criteria for ranking which will decide preference for debate tournaments will not be mentioned in the Constitution and shall depend on the office bearers of that academic year.