



Constitution Of

The Society For Obesity & Bariatric
Anaesthesia



CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR OBESITY AND BARIATRIC ANAESTHESIA (SOBA)

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be THE SOCIETY FOR OBESITY AND BARIATRIC ANAESTHESIA (SOBA).

2. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of SOBA shall be:-

- a) To establish contact with and between the working members within the UK
- b) To encourage national and international links between like-minded groups
- c) To assist in distribution of useful knowledge and developments and thus improve safety, quality and outcomes for all high BMI patients within our working spheres
- d) In pursuit of the above, to arrange and host regular national or regional meetings and to encourage research networks
- e) To provide training/ standards/pathways for anaesthetic management of specialist areas (bariatric anaesthesia) and more generally for obese patients.
- f) To work with private insurers to establish medical fees in the future
- g) To act as a conduit for higher bodies (RCOA/AAGBI/NCEPOD) to contact specialty groups

3. MEMBERSHIP

Our initial image is non-profit making.

FULL membership of SOBA shall be open to the following:

- a) Consultant or equivalent medical practitioners qualified in Anaesthesia.
- b) Consultant or equivalent medical practitioners (or other healthcare professionals) qualified in Anaesthesia or other specialities, with an interest in obesity surgery / medicine / anaesthesia / critical care or research or education in similar areas.

TRAINEE membership of SOBA shall open to the following:

Anaesthetists in training in Great Britain and Ireland who have an interest in bariatric anaesthesia.

ASSOCIATE membership shall be open to;

Those not qualified in anaesthesia but with an interest in this area.

OVERSEAS membership shall be open to overseas practitioners of specialist status at the discretion of the Council.

CORPORATE membership shall be open to companies or organisations at the discretion of the council

4. SUBSCRIPTION

All full, trainee and associate members of SOBA shall pay such subscriptions and at such times as may be decided by the full members. Subscriptions will be collected annually. Corporate and overseas membership subscriptions will be determined by the council.

5. THE COUNCIL

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Hon Secretary

Treasurer

IT Officer

Research and Education Officer

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The general membership shall have the right to make nominations for the six ordinary offices on the Council, which, having been proposed and seconded, must reach the Secretary not less than two weeks before the advertised date of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations shall be emailed to the membership not less than one week prior to the AGM, and electronic voting will close at midnight on the day before the date of the AGM. Voting shall be by a simple first past the post system. The Chairman does not have a vote in the normal election process, but in the event of a tie has the casting vote

Each office shall be held for two years. A post-holder shall be eligible for re-election to that same post only once, for a further period of 2 years.

Officers may take other roles on the Council but will be limited to a total of 8 years service on the council.

Any office, which falls vacant unexpectedly, shall be filled by election at the next AGM.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The general policy of the council shall be to serve the objective and the membership of SOBA. Accordingly, the officers shall perform the duties ascribed to them by the full membership.

Subject to the limitation hereinafter mentioned, the Council shall in addition have power to do the following:

a. a) Co-opt such additional members as it requires to maintain adequate expertise in appropriate fields of interest to SOBA.

a. b) To appoint such subcommittees as it may from time to time decide and to determine the powers and terms of reference of such subcommittees.

a. c) To appoint and dismiss paid employees.

All such actions of the council must be available for the scrutiny and approval of the full membership at the next meeting of SOBA. Approval will be determined by acclaim or by a simple majority vote.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings shall be convened by the Secretary for the attendance of the full members only. Other than in exceptional circumstances meetings will occur yearly and will directly precede or follow educational and or scientific meetings and consider all matters deemed relevant by full members or officers of SOBA. The first general meeting each year shall be the Annual General Meeting, at which the full members will be entitled to attend for the following additional purposes:-

- a. a) Receiving the annual report of the council.
- b. b) Receiving the annual audited statement of accounts, and to fix the amount of the subscription for full and other members.
- a. c) Appointing an auditor(s).
- b. d) Accepting resignations from officers, and nominations for replacements.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

The Chairman or Secretary may at any time at their discretion within 21 days of a request to do so supported by not less than 10% of the membership having the power to vote and giving reasons for the request, call a special general meeting of the Society.

10. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 14 regarding alterations to the Constitution, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote, excluding the Chairman, or, in his/her absence, excluding whichever officer is acting as Chairman. In the case of any equality of votes the Chairman or officer acting as Chairman shall have the casting vote. At any meetings of the Council, four of the members shall form a quorum. At any meetings of the full members, six full members shall form a quorum.

Minute documents and attendance records shall be kept by the Council and all subcommittees of SOBA and the appropriate secretary shall enter therein a record of all proceedings and resolutions.

11. STANDING ORDERS

The Council shall have power to adopt and issue standing orders and/or rules, which shall go into operation immediately after approval has been given by a simple majority of members at the next General Meeting. In exceptional circumstances, standing orders may become operational before approvals of the general membership has been given provided that the entire Council is unanimous in its recommendation and provided that the standing orders are consistent with the provision of the Constitution.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription fixed at the annual general meeting shall become payable on the succeeding 1st July.

All monies raised by and on behalf of SOBA shall be applied to further the objectives of SOBA and for no other purpose.

The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of SOBA. The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by an Auditor(s) who shall be appointed at the annual general meeting.

The audited statement of accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted to the full members of the annual general meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the accounts of all monies accruing to SOBA, whether they are subscriptions, grants, donations, bequests, loans or from any other source whatsoever. Debts will be the responsibility of council as a whole.

13. PROPERTY

The title of all or any real property which may be acquired by or for the purpose of SOBA shall be vested in trustees who shall be appointed by the full members and who shall enter into a Deed of Trust setting forth the purpose and conditions under which they hold the said property in trust for SOBA. The number of trustees shall not be fewer than two.

14. DISSOLUTION

If the Council decides by a simple majority that there are grounds for the dissolution of SOBA then it shall give notice that such a resolution is to be put before the full membership by means of a ballot. If such a decision is then confirmed by a simple majority vote of full members, then all debts and liabilities will be settled at the earliest opportunity. Any residual assets shall be transference to such charitable purposes of all like a nature as possible to the objectives of SOBA as the full members may determine.

15. ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposal to alter this Constitution must be delivered in writing to the Chairman or Secretary of SOBA. A proposal should be accompanied by a petition of support signed by not less than ten full members. Upon receipt of such a proposal, the Officers of SOBA shall organise a ballot of the membership to the registered address within the next 28 days. An alteration will require the approval of a two-thirds majority of members responding to the ballot within a further 28 days. No alteration can be made to this Constitution which would be incompatible with paragraph 2 (Objectives) or which would prejudice the status of SOBA as a charitable institution.





D C Bouch
Secretary to SOBA
October 2015

