



Constitution

1. Name - Bharatha cultural Fellowship – BCF
2. Motto -
 - Per Aspera Ad Astra
 - Through effort – To
3. Logo
 - Two fish positioned vertically and inter twined with a star above with the words Stella Maris
4. Address
 - The address of the Secretary General or otherwise determined by the General Membership
5. Objective
 - 5.1) Gather together people of the Bharatha Community under a single banner
 - 5.2) Establish and strengthen ties with similar bodies in Sri Lanka and overseas.
 - 5.3) Re establish and strengthen the unique identity of the Community locally and Globally
 - 5.4) To regain the legal status bestowed upon the Community since independence of the country, by the Parliament.
 - 5.5) To promote fellowship and solidarity among the people of the Community
 - 5.6) To assist the needy financially and/or otherwise.
 - 5.7) To help the deserving people of the Community to pursue higher goals in studies arts or sports, as and when possible.
 - 5.8) Inculcate spiritual, human and cultural values.
6. Structure and Composition-
 - 6.1) General Membership
 - 6.2) Office bearers – elected
7. Governing Council of Management

The composition of Council shall consist of

 - A) Office bearers and

B) Twelve elected members

8. The powers of the Council shall be to

8.1) Manage all affairs of BCF

8.2) Take appropriate decisions and the implementation thereof

8.3) Interpret the decisions and the rules of the BCF

8.4) Execute the policies and decisions of the General Membership

8.5) To take disciplinary action including expulsion of any membership/committee

9. General Membership

The Composition

9.1) All office bearers

9.2) All Council members

9.3) All card holding members duly registered and not in arrears of the annual and/or other dues

10. Application for Membership

Anyone above the age of 18 years of age who belongs to the Bharatha community is eligible to join SLBCF.

The criteria for consideration for membership of the Bharatha Community

A) Both parents being members of the Bharatha Community

B) Either of the parents being a member of the Bharatha Community

C) The father of the person concern aspiring to be the President of the SLBCF should be of Bharatha Community

11. Application

Shall be made on a prescribed form duly proposed and seconded by Council members

12. Annual General Meeting

12.1) The AGM of SLBF will be held during the month of April each year

12.2) 14 days notice shall be given either individually by post or e-mail and/or by two newspaper advertisements.

12.3) The Agenda will include

1) Notice of Meeting

2) Minutes of the previous AGM/SGM and the approval thereof

3) Master arising out of Minutes

4) Presentation of annual report

5) Review of the report

6) Presentation, acceptance and reviews of accounts

7) Election of office bearers

8) Election of 8 Council Members

9) Election of the Auditors

- 10) Any other matters or resolutions of which 7 days written notice has been submitted to the Secretary General
- 11) The office bearers of SLBF Will be as follows
 - a) Patron-Ex officio Archbishop or Bishop of the Colombo Archdiocese. This office shall be considered as titular.
 - b) President
 - c) 2 Vice Presidents
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Assistant Treasurer
 - f) Secretary General
 - g) Assistant Secretary General

13. Special General Meeting

- 13.1) The SGM may be convened on a decision of the President in consultation with the Secretary General
- 13.2) It may also be summoned by a decision of the Council of Management
- 13.3) It shall be summoned at the signed request of 1/3rd of the General membership with the stated purpose
- 13.4) All office bearers, council members and members are eligible to attend and vote
- 13.5) Only the matter on which the SGM is summoned shall be discussed and divided upon

14. Quorum

a) Quorum for Council meetings

- 14.1) 1/3rd of those who are eligible to attend and vote at the meeting concerned
- 14.2) A meeting shall be adjourned to a decided date for a want of a quorum
- 14.3) Such adjourned meeting shall conduct its listed business with those present over looking the 1/3 requirement

b) Quorum for AGM and SGM shall be 30 members eligible to be present and vote

15. Voting

- 15.1) Voting shall be conducted by the show of hands
- 15.2) However, on the basis of an unanimous decision voting may take place by secret ballot

16. Finance and Accounts

- 16.1) The Council may decide to establish one or more current account as well as open savings or fixed deposits in reputed banks and/or a safe or reliable finance establishment
- 16.2) The Financial year for the purpose of accounting shall begin and end as per calendar year.
- 16.3) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of the books of accounts and for the preparation of monthly statements of accounts and the compilation, submission for audit, and the presentation of the annual statement of accounts at the Annual General Meeting

of SLBCF.

16.4) Signatories for cheques and other related bank documents shall be:

Treasurer and the President or Secretary General

16.5) The Council of Management shall review and authorize all expenses and payments within within the scope of the policies and objectives of the SLBCF

17. Vacancies.

In the event of the occurrence of a vacancy of an office bearer or a council member the Council of SLBF shall have the power to fill such a vacancy by election by?

18. Matters regarding the Interpretation of the constitution and issue not covered by the constitution

The Council of SLBCF is empowered to deal with matters not covered herein, as well as to interpret any provisions of the constitution judiciously. However the onus to reverse such decision lies within the scope of the general membership assembled at the AGM or SGM.

19. Application for membership shall be made in a prescribed form and be submitted to any of the office

bearers. The Council of Management is empowered accept or reject any such application for a valid reason. Such a rejection may be appealed against at a AGM for a review, through a member already registered with SLBF.

Enrollment fees	Rs. 500/=
Annual membership fees	Rs. 500/=
Life membership fees	Rs. 500/=

20. Amendment to the Constitution

20.1). The responsibility to amend or delete any provision of the Constitution vests solely on the General Membership assembled in an AGM or SGM

20.2) 14 day notice to the General Membership as per section 7, clause(b) of the Constitution

Is required

20.3) The Secretary shall accept any such motion from a group of 30 members for the purpose

20.4) The Council of Management may introduce such amendments to the General Membership for the purpose.