



Equal Parenting Alliance Constitution

Membership

1. The party shall have the following categories of membership:
 - Party Members , full members of the party
 - Party Supporters , people who support the party, but who are less committed than party Members
 - An elected Committee , who must all be party Members, and who make decisions for the party in committee meetings
2. The committee shall have at least two members with the following responsibilities:
 - Party Leader
 - TreasurerAnd other roles as agreed by the committee.
3. The committee makes decisions by majority vote of those committee Members present at a committee meeting. In the event of a tie, the Party Leader will have the casting vote, but if the Party Leader is not present the Treasurer will have the casting vote. A committee meeting cannot take place without either of the Party Leader or Treasurer present.
4. Anyone can apply to become a party Member by applying to the committee. If their application is agreed then they become a Member when they have paid the appropriate fee.
5. Anyone can become a party Supporter, they become a Supporter when they have paid the appropriate fee.
6. The committee can appoint, at its discretion, honorary members who will have all the rights of party Members except that no membership fees will be due.
7. The committee can expel a Member or Supporter for any reason and at any time by majority vote. That person ceases to be a Member or Supporter as soon as they are notified by the committee of their expulsion. In this circumstance no refund of membership monies will be made.
8. Members or Supporters can resign at any time by giving written notice to the committee, they cease to be Members or Supporters when their notice is received by the committee. No refund of membership monies will be made.
9. Committee members can resign from the committee (becoming normal Party Members) at any time by giving one months notice to all other committee members. At their discretion, the committee can allow any other shorter notice period.
10. The committee can appoint, at their discretion, any party Member to join the committee at any time if they consider it necessary for the proper running of the party.
11. The committee may appoint, at its discretion, members from other organisations that choose to affiliate with the Party onto the Equal Parenting Alliance committee. Typically, if the Party agrees a joint affiliation with another organisation, a member from that organisation will join the Equal Parenting Alliance committee and have all the normal voting rights of a committee member. The Equal Parenting Alliance would expect reciprocal rights in the affiliated organisation but the exact terms of individual affiliation agreements will be determined by the committee.
12. Renewal of membership fees will be due annually from the date of joining, failure to renew may result in termination of membership, at the discretion of the committee.



13. Membership and Supporter fees are set by the committee, and varied from time to time.
14. Party Members and Supporters must at all times treat other members, members of other organisations and especially the general public with courtesy and respect. Bad language and profanities must not be used.
15. No one may represent themselves as an official Party spokesman without authorisation from a member of the committee. (for example, it is acceptable to say “I am a member of the Equal Parenting Alliance and I think ...”, but it is not acceptable to say “I speak for the Equal Parenting Alliance and our view is ...”).
16. Normally, communication between the Party and its Members and Supporters will be by email.

Party Meetings

17. The Party will have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) open to all Members and Supporters once a year at a time and place set by the committee. Members and Supporters will be notified of the AGM at least one month in advance of the meeting.
18. The committee will appoint one person to chair each AGM and other meetings.
19. Party Members and Supporters can attend all party meetings including committee meetings, but may only speak at committee meetings at the invitation of the chair.
20. Party Members can vote at an AGM and other party meetings at which they are present except they cannot vote at committee meetings.
21. Party Supporters cannot vote at any meeting.
22. Approximately once a year, normally at the AGM, a vote will be held to decide who should form the committee, including choice of the Party Leader. All Members present at the meeting can vote.
23. If the party has less than one hundred Members, the committee may appoint a new Party Leader and other committee roles at their discretion and at any time.
24. In the event of a tie in any vote in a Party meeting, the Party Leader (or chairman of the meeting if the Party Leader is not present) will have the casting vote (except in the case of a vote for the role of Party Leader, in which case the Treasurer will have the casting vote).
25. Any Member can put forward motions to be discussed or voted on at an AGM provided they are proposed in writing to the committee at least one week before the AGM. The committee can consider inclusion of proposals for motions presented after this time at their discretion.
26. The committee or other Party Members may, from time to time, organise other party meetings. These meetings will be less formal than the AGM, but may still propose motions and vote on policy decisions that will decide policy for the party provided that at least 25% of party Members are present at any such meeting.
27. If more than 33% of Party Members notify the Party Leader of a wish to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) then the committee shall arrange an EGM within a calendar month, giving as much notice as is practicable to all Party Members. An EGM shall have the same function and authority as an AGM (for example, the right to vote for a new committee or Party Leader) and all reference to an AGM in this document should be taken to also include an EGM.



28. Two or more committee members may instigate a committee meeting by informing the Party Leader of their request. The Party Leader shall subsequently organise a committee meeting within one week of notification. All committee members will be given at least 72 hours notice of this committee meeting by the Party Leader, unless a shorter notice period for this meeting is agreed by all committee members.
29. In exceptional circumstances, the Party Leader or Treasurer may arrange an EGM themselves, giving as much notice as is practicable to all Party Members. For example, a scenario where this would be appropriate would be the sudden resignation of the Party Leader or another important committee member.

Accountability

30. The Party Leader shall be responsible for ensuring that minutes are recorded of party meetings, including committee meetings. These minutes will be made available for view to any Member at any reasonable time by request.
31. The Party Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a record of the party accounts and finances up-to-date at all times. These accounts will be made available for view to any Member at any reasonable time by request.
32. Policy decisions may be made at the AGM, but the committee will not necessarily be bound by these decisions and can make alternative decisions at committee meetings and manage the day-to-day business of the party at their discretion. It is the clear intention of this constitution, however, that the committee shall normally follow decisions made by members at the AGM or other quorate party meetings as far as is practicable and lawful.
33. The Party Leader is responsible for all the legal duties due to the Party Leader as defined in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) 2001.
34. The Treasurer is responsible for all the legal duties due to the Treasurer as defined in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) 2001.
35. In the event of dispute or ambiguity, the committee will decide how to interpret this constitution by majority vote at committee meeting and their decision will be final.
36. Amendments to this Constitution can be made only by majority vote of party Members present at an AGM.