



Special General Meeting – December 9, 2017

Introduction

Steveston Athletic Association is a British Columbia Society; as such, we are subject to the laws of the [BC Societies Act](#). Each Society has a constitution which provides a framework for how the Society governs itself (e.g. number of directors, frequency of meetings, voting process, etc.).

A new Societies Act came into effect on Nov. 28, 2016. Within two years, every pre-existing Society must “transition” to the new Act. There is recognition that a ‘one size fits all’ approach to societies may create overly burdensome regulations to smaller organizations (especially under the new Act).

Essentially, we have two choices:

1. Continue as a Society (much like we are right now). However, in doing so we will be bound by even more regulations than we are currently obligated to follow.
2. Transition to a “member-funded” society, which is designed for smaller organizations (such as sports clubs), providing more freedom and latitude and fewer regulations.

Our transition (to one or the other) requires our members to vote. Instead of waiting for our Annual General Meeting, the Board felt it would be better to confirm an option, and then focus our AGM on the ‘execution’ of that course (i.e. the number of directors, structure etc.) and our new Constitution. For example, under a member-funded society, we can have as few as one Director (though that wouldn’t be a practical structure workload-wise).

Vote & Resolution

Prior to our Christmas party on December 9, the Board is calling a special general meeting to vote on this matter. Please note that [TriBC endorses the member-funded society model](#), and assumes that all triathlon/sports clubs will follow their lead. **As a Board, we are also advocating the member-funded model**, but also want to provide our members with as much good information as possible so each person can make an educated decision. The rest of this document briefly outlines the two scenarios. If you require further information, please visit the BC Government [website](#). The vote will be on the Special Resolution: “I authorize the Board of Directors of the Steveston Athletic Association to transition to a member-funded society.”

Additional Information – Society Transition

In the transition application, you must indicate whether your organization is ‘member-funded’ or publicly-funded. Most affiliated clubs are member-funded – which means there is less responsibility to disclose records and finances, but note, publicly-funded clubs may have increased ability to source grants and other funding from municipal, provincial and federal agencies.

What is the key difference between the two types of funded societies? Member-funded societies are a type of society that receives most of its funding through its members and their activities, and services are primarily for its members. Publicly-funded societies collect funds through a variety of funding, including membership, public donations and government funding. Because Triathlon BC received a portion of its revenue from government funding, it is a publicly-funded society.



Member-Funded Society or Not?

On transition, each pre-existing society will be asked whether it wishes to designate itself as a “member-funded society” by including a statement to that effect in its constitution. A member-funded society is a society that is funded primarily by its members to carry on activities for the benefit of its members. Common examples might include some sports clubs, golf courses and professional associations.

Member-funded societies are allowed to distribute assets to their members if the society winds up. As well, the Societies Act makes them subject to fewer accountability measures than other societies. For example, they need only have one director and are not required to make their financial information publicly available. The following chart summarizes the different rules applicable to member-funded societies as compared to other societies:

	Member-funded societies	Other societies
Distribution of assets on winding up	No restrictions – assets could go to members	Assets can only be distributed to certain entities (e.g. non-member-funded societies, registered charities or community service cooperatives)
Number of directors	One director is sufficient – no residency requirements	At least three, one of whom is ordinarily resident in B.C.
Composition of board of directors	No restrictions on number of board members who are employed by or under contract with the society	Majority of board must not be employed by or be under contract with the society
Financial statements	No public right to copies	Public has right to obtain copies
Disclosure of remuneration	No disclosure of remuneration required	Financial statements must set out remuneration paid to directors and to highly paid employees/contractors
Conversion to company	Can convert	Not possible