
Fourth Session Third Parliament Trinidad and Tobago
24 Elizabeth II



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 27 of 1975

[L.S.]

AN ACT for the Incorporation of the Trinidad Rifle
Association

[Assented to 29th September, 1975]

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Trinidad Rifle Associa- Preamble
tion be incorporated for the purpose of exercising the
powers hereinafter set forth:

Enactment

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Trinidad Rifle Association (Incorporation) Act, 1975.

Incorporation

2. The Trinidad Rifle Association (hereinafter referred to as "the Association") is hereby created a body corporate.

Object of the Association

3. The object of the Association is the promotion and encouragement of marksmanship with rifle and pistol.

Powers of Association

4. Subject to the provisions of any law (including this Act and any rules thereunder from time to time in force) the Association shall have the powers hereinafter set forth and such powers as are appropriate to its objects and are from time to time specified in any such rules, that is to say—

- (a) to acquire by purchase, transfer, donation, exchange, devise, bequest, grant, gift, conveyance or howsoever otherwise, any real or personal property or any estate or interest therein;
- (b) to accept surrenders or re-conveyances and to enter into contracts;
- (c) subject to any restraint, reservation or condition contained in the document under which it shall have acquired title thereto, to sell, demise, mortgage or otherwise dispose of and deal with all property which may for the time being be vested in or have been acquired by it.

Mode of execution of documents

5. All documents requiring the seal of the Association shall be sealed with its common seal in the presence of its President and Secretary for the time being in office who shall both sign every such document, and such signing shall be *prima facie* evidence that the said seal was duly affixed and that the same is the lawful seal of the Association.

6. (1) The Association shall at all times have a fixed address in Trinidad and Tobago for the service of documents on the Association and that address and any change thereof shall be registered with the Registrar General within twenty-eight days of the date of incorporation or the change of address, as the case may be.

Service of
documents on
the Association

(2) Every document to be served on the Association may be served by leaving the same at, or by sending the same by registered post to the registered address of the Association.

(3) Failure to register the address and any change thereof is a summary offence and renders the Association liable to a fine of one hundred and twenty dollars and to a further fine of ten dollars for each day during which the offence continues after conviction thereof.

7. All land and other property of every kind including things in action heretofore vested in or belonging to the Association; and all rights, privileges and advantages and all the liabilities that immediately before the commencement of this Act the Association was entitled or subject to, are hereby transferred to, and conferred or imposed upon the Association.

Vesting of
Property

8. (1) The Association may make rules for the proper conduct of its proceedings and discharge of its duties.

Rules

(2) Until such rules are made, the rules contained in the Schedule shall be the rules of the Association and any of such rules may be varied or revoked or added to by the Association.

9. Nothing in this Act shall affect the rights of Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors or of any bodies politic or corporate or of any persons except such as are mentioned or referred to in this Act or those claiming by, through, from or under them.

Saving of
Crown and
other rights

SCHEDULE

RULES OF THE TRINIDAD RIFLE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall be called the "Trinidad Rifle Association" (hereinafter referred to as the Association) and shall have its headquarters in Port-of-Spain.

2. The object of the Association shall be to promote and encourage marksmanship with rifle and pistol.

3. Members may be of five classes namely—Life Members, Ordinary Members, Associate Members, Service Members, and Temporary Members.

4. Life Members:

- (a) Any person who has rendered conspicuous service to the Association or to marksmanship in the Territory or who shall donate a sum of not less than \$350.00 to the funds of the Association may be elected by the Committee to Life Membership and such person shall be exempt from annual subscriptions, and shall enjoy all privileges of ordinary members.

5. Ordinary Members:

- (a) Residents in the Territory who are duly proposed and seconded by Life and Ordinary members of the Association on the appropriate form may be elected by the Committee to Ordinary Membership subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Police.
- (b) The Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription, shall accompany application for membership, which shall be returned if the applicant is not elected.
- (c) The Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription as fixed by members at a General Meeting shall be payable by all Ordinary Members.

6. Associate Members:

- (a) Members of all clubs affiliated to the South Trinidad Rifle Association and of all clubs affiliated to the Association shall be Associate Members of the Association.
- (b) Associate Members shall pay no entrance fee and no annual subscription. They shall have no right to vote at meetings, nor may they hold office in the Association. They may be elected to Ordinary membership without the payment of an entrance fee.
- (c) Associate Members may use the ranges of the Association on recognised days of practise and may participate in competitions run by the Association. They must, however, produce evidence of their Club membership if they wish to shoot.

7. Service Members:

- (a) All members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Force may be elected by the Committee to Service Membership without entry fee, on the recommendation of an officer not below the rank of Major, Lieutenant Commander or Superintendent.
- (b) Service Members shall pay an Annual Subscription as fixed by a General Meeting and shall have all the rights of Ordinary Members.

8. Temporary Members:

Visitors to the territory may be elected by the Committee to Temporary Membership for a period not exceeding three months. Temporary Members shall have no right to vote or hold office. No entrance fee or subscription shall be payable by Temporary Members.

9. The Committee shall have the sole right of electing Members. Every candidate for election as a Life, Ordinary or Temporary Member shall be proposed and seconded on the appropriate form by Members of the Association. The names and addresses of all applicants together with the names of their sponsors shall be posted by the Honorary Secretary on the Association's Notice Board for a period of one month and shall also be submitted to the Commissioner of Police for approval. Any Member who has any objection to the election of a candidate shall inform the Honorary Secretary of the reasons and these shall be reported to the Committee. The votes of two-thirds of the Members of the Committee present at a meeting shall be necessary for the election of a candidate. The Honorary Secretary shall forthwith send to such Member notice of his election together with a book of the Rules of the Association.

No candidate who has been rejected shall be proposed again within a period of one year as a Member of the Association, nor shall he be admitted to the Association ranges as a visitor or otherwise except with the authority of the Committee.

10. The Association year shall coincide with the calendar year and all subscriptions shall become due on the 1st January. Any Member who has failed to pay his subscription by the 31st March shall have his name posted on the notice board; and if such subscription is still not paid by 31st May then he shall cease to be a member of the Association and the Honorary Secretary shall notify the Commissioner of Police accordingly so that any weapons may be confiscated. A member who has been so struck off may be reinstated by the Committee on payment of the entrance fee and annual subscription.

11. Any Member may resign from the Association by giving notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, prior to the 1st March, after which date no notice of resignation shall exempt the Member from payment of the current year's subscription.

12. The Committee has the power to revoke permission to possess firearms, and to expel or otherwise discipline a member.

13. Officers of the Association:

The Officers of the Association shall be as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | ... Commander, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force |
| Vice-President | ... To be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. No Vice-Presi- dent may serve for more than three consecutive years. |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Two Hon. Life | | |
| Vice-Presidents | ... | To be elected at the Annual General Meeting, when vacancy exists, by a two-thirds majority. |
| Hon. Secretary ... | ... | To be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. |
| Hon. Secretary ... | ... | (Small Bore as above). |
| Hon. Treasurer ... | ... | „ |
| Captain ... | ... | „ |
| Vice-Captain ... | ... | „ |

14. Committee:

- (a) The entire management of the affairs of the Association shall be deputed to a Committee (hereinafter referred to as The Committee) comprised as follows:—
- (i) The Officers of the Association
 - (ii) One nominated member from the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment
Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard
Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force
Trinidad and Tobago Police Force
 - (iii) One nominated member from each of the Tobago Rifle Clubs
South Trinidad Rifle Association Affiliated Clubs
 - (iv) Four members elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The President shall be Chairman of the Committee and in his absence the Vice-President, and in his absence, a chairman shall be elected. Where there is a difference of opinion, matters shall be determined by a show of hands.
- (c) At any committee meeting seven members shall form a quorum.
- (d) The Committee shall have powers to make regulations for the good administration of the Association until such time as they are rescinded or amended by a General Meeting of the Association.
- (e) The Committee shall have power to authorise any expenditure of money that is necessary for the running of the Association and shall institute an internal audit whenever necessary.
- (f) The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur during the year and to make provisional appointments as necessary. The Committee shall appoint a Firearms Sub-Committee and shall have power to appoint such other sub-committees as may be deemed necessary from time to time.
- (g) The Tobago Rifle Club and South Trinidad Rifle Association shall co-ordinate small-bore shooting in their respective areas and be responsible to the Committee.

- (h) The committees of the Tobago Rifle Club and South Trinidad Rifle Association shall act as Firearms Committees (under Rule 29) for their respective areas. These committees, shall report in writing any issue of firearms within 48 hours.
- (i) The Committee shall be the sole interpreter of the meaning of the Rules and Regulations.
- (j) There shall be four Signing Officers of the Association; the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary and two others nominated by the Committee. Funds may only be withdrawn from the Association bank accounts on the signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and one other signing officer.

15. Annual General Meeting:

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held between 1st March and 31st March, the date and place being determined by the Committee of which 14 days' notice together with the agenda and the audited balance sheet shall be given to every Member of the Association.
- (b) At the Annual General Meeting a report shall be presented upon the work of the Association and an audited statement of its financial position submitted. The following business shall also be transacted namely, the election of Officers, the election of Members to the Committee, the approval of the auditors, and other business which the Committee shall bring forward, and any business, for which private Members shall have given 21 days' previous notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary. Such business will be included in the agenda sent to Members.
- (c) All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- (d) All questions for decision shall be put to the meeting in the form of a motion duly proposed and seconded, and shall be determined by a show of hands; a majority of those members voting being sufficient to carry a motion, except in those cases when under these Rules a different method of procedure has been laid down.
- (e) No member shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
- (f) All members under rules 4, 5 and 7, the President and Honorary Life Vice-President will have a vote.
- (g) Twenty Members of the Association shall form a quorum.

16. Extraordinary General Meeting:

The Honorary Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association on the written requisition of a quorum of the Committee, or of any ten Members; such requisition shall state the particular object of and the business to be transacted at such meeting. The nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting shall be communicated in writing by the Honorary Secretary to every Member of the Association at least seven days before the date on which it will be held. The procedure at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be that set out in Rule 15.

17. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall be the chairman of a General Meeting of the Association. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, a chairman, duly proposed and seconded, shall be elected to preside. The chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.

18. Honorary Secretary:

The Honorary Secretary shall convene all meetings and shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Association. He shall keep a Minute Book and it shall be his responsibility to ensure that the Minutes of all meetings, whether General or Committee, are entered therein, and he shall act generally by the direction and under the control of the Committee.

He shall maintain a register of Members, a register of Ammunition Stocks and a Register of Firearms.

He shall present the report upon the work of the Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

He may authorise incidental expenses not exceeding \$100.00 in any one month.

He shall inform the Committee of the names of all Ordinary and Service Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 31st May.

19. Honorary Treasurer:

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for all moneys or cheques, which he may receive and deal with them in such manner as the Committee may from time to time direct. He shall also keep proper books of accounts.

He is authorised to meet incidental expenses not exceeding \$100.00 in any one month.

He shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual balance sheet and for the provision of all the necessary books, documents and vouchers for inspection by the auditors.

He shall produce the audited balance sheet and the annual accounts for acceptance by the Annual General Meeting and shall at the same time make a statement on the financial position of the Association.

20. Auditors:

The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually by an accountant (not a member of the Committee) or a firm of auditors appointed by the Committee and approved by the Annual General Meeting.

21. Notwithstanding that a person has ceased for any reason to be a Member, his liability to the Association for arrears of subscriptions, or other payments due to the Association shall remain in force.

22. Each member of the Association shall be provided with a copy of these Rules and any regulations made by the Committee and shall be bound to submit to and be governed by all the Rules and Regulations of the Committee.

23. Each member shall furnish his full address to the Honorary Secretary and shall advise him of any change of address; and all notices of letters sent by post to such address shall be deemed to be duly delivered.

24. The property of the Association shall belong to the Members of the Association for the time being. No member shall by reason of his membership have any transmissible or assignable interest by operation of law or otherwise in any of the property of the Association. On any member ceasing by death, resignation or otherwise to be such, all his interest in the property of the Association, shall survive, accrue and belong to the other Members for the time being, provided that no Associate or Service Member shall have any interest whatever in the property of the Association.

25. Members whose term of office has expired or whose membership has ended, must turn in promptly any books, equipment or other property of the Association of which they may be in possession.

26 Visitors:

- (a) Every Member shall be allowed to introduce visitors subject to Rules 9 and 12 and any Regulation made by the Committee from time to time. Every visitor shall be considered the guest of, and be accompanied throughout his stay by the Member introducing him.
- (b) All visitors and the introducing Member shall sign the Visitors' Book.

27. General Firing Regulations:

- (a) The Ranges shall be open for practice on such days and at such times as may be appointed by the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall have the sole power of handicapping and classifying Members for any competition, of framing conditions for any competition or match, and generally shall have sole control in all matters connected with shooting or with the ranges. Members shall be divided into classes as laid down by N.R.A., N.S.R.A. and I.S.U.
- (c) All firing shall be carried out in accordance with the latest rules of the N.R.A., N.S.R.A. and I.S.U., unless amended by the Committee.
- (d) The appointed Range Officer, the senior officer of the Association or the senior member of the Committee present on the range during any practice shall be responsible for safety and the due observance of all rules and regulations during firing; and such officer or Committee member shall have authority, in the event of any member misconducting himself or infringing any of the rules or regulations, to order such members off the Range. Any such occurrence shall be reported to the Committee.

28. Equipment:

Shooting equipment and accessories may be ordered in writing through the Honorary Secretary of the Association on payment of half the catalogue value thereof at the time of ordering and the balance on issue of the items ordered.

29. Firearms:

- (a) No application for the acquisition of a pistol will be considered by the Committee unless the applicant has been an active member for at least six months.

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- (b) Members who wish to acquire a firearm shall submit a written application to the appropriate Honorary Secretary who shall pass all such applications to the Firearms Committee.
- (c) Firearms Committees may allow or disallow such applications and shall notify their decisions to
- (i) the applicant
 - (ii) the Honorary Secretary of the Association, and in the event of approval, supply the serial number of the firearm, immediately the applicant is given possession.
- (d) Members who wish to transfer a firearm shall submit a written application to the Honorary Secretary giving details of the members to whom the firearm is to be transferred. Subsequently action on such application shall be as set forth in sub-paragraph (a) and (b) above.
- (e) Firearms authorised in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) above shall be used only on the approved ranges of the Territory.
- (f) Members who do not shoot on the ranges during a period of twelve consecutive months are liable to have their firearms withdrawn.
- (g) Members shall submit a return of firearms in their possession at the time of paying their annual subscription. These firearms shall be inspected and certified as serviceable by a member of the appropriate Firearms Committee before 31st March each year. Members who fail to comply with this rule are liable to have their firearms withdrawn.
- (h) Security:
- Members are responsible for the safe keeping of firearms in their possession. The loss of a firearm must be reported in writing within 48 hours of the discovery of the loss to the Honorary Secretary.
- When Members are away from their homes for any length of time, they shall hand in their weapons for safe keeping to the nearest Police Station.
- (i) Register of Firearms:
- The Honorary Secretary shall maintain a Register of Firearms in possession of members of the Association and shall record therein acquisition by and transfers of firearms between members.
- (j) The Honorary Secretary shall notify the Commissioner of Police within 14 days of the acquisition by or the transfer from a member of a firearm. The Honorary Secretary shall also furnish the Commissioner of Police by 31st March each year with a list of members who possess firearms, together with their addresses, and the types and serial numbers of these firearms.
- (k) No member under the age of 18 years shall be authorised to keep a firearm.
- (l) The Committee may at any time withdraw from any member authorisation to keep a firearm.

30. Ammunition:

Only ammunition issued or supplied by the Association shall be used on the ranges and members shall not take away from the ranges any ammunition whatsoever. Breach of this rule may render a member liable to expulsion from the Association.

31. Affiliation to the Association:

- (a) The S.T.R.A. and any Rifle or Pistol Club in Trinidad and Tobago, of not less than 25 members, subject to the approval of the Committee, may, on payment of the annual fee as fixed by the Committee become affiliated to the Association. Members of affiliated Clubs and of the S.T.R.A. are automatically Associate Members of the Association.
- (b) Honorary Secretaries of affiliated clubs and of the S.T.R.A. shall submit to the Honorary Secretary of the Association a list of members by 1st March each year.
- (c) The rules of Affiliated clubs and of the S.T.R.A. must comply with the rules of the Association.

32. Affiliation of the Association:

The Association shall be affiliated to the—
International Shooting Union
National Rifle Association (Britain)
National Small-Bore Rifle Association (Britain).

33. Alteration of Rules:

These Rules may be altered, added to or amended only by resolution passed at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, due notice of such alteration having been given in accordance with rule 15(b).

Passed in the House of Representatives this 16th day of June, 1975.

J. E. CARTER
Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 29th day of July, 1975.

R. GRIFFITH
Clerk of the Senate