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Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of Australian National Sikhs Sports And Cultural Council (ANSSACC) held at Rydges Hotel, Parramatta, Sydney on Saturday 15 April 2006

Present:

National Steering Committee

Mahanbir S Grewal (President), Narinder S Gill (Vice President & Hockey Co-ordinator), Jasbir S Randhawa (Secretary), Kuldip Singh Bassi (Committee Member), Tejinder Singh Sian (Committee Member), Gurdip S Ahluwalia (Soccer Co-ordinator), Mehnga S Khakh (Kabaddi Co-ordinator), Jaswinder S Basra (Tug-of-War Co-ordinator)

Regional Organisations

Brisbane Sikh Union (BSU) – Harminder S Binning

Dashmesh Sports Club, Sydney – Sukhwant S Kang, Gurpreet Singh

Punjabi Cultural Association of Queensland – Harjit S Roshey

Punjabi Sports Club (PSC) Melbourne – Sher S Bhangoo, Harjinder Singh, Ravinder S Guraya, Sukhwinder Singh

Sikh Association of Western Australia (SAWA) – Surjit S Punia, Amritpal Singh

Sikh Sports & Cultural Club (SSCC), Riverland – Jang Bahadur S Grewal

Singh Sabha Sports Club (SSSC), Melbourne – Jagjit S Chughra, Mandeep S Johal, Dalvinder S Garcha, Daljit Singh

Sports & Cultural Sikh Association Sydney (SCSAS) – Vickram S Grewal, Naginder S Bhandal

Baljit S Chugh, Gursharan S Banwait

Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour Sikh Sports Club – Narinder S Bajwa, Amandeep S Sidhu, Harbhajan S Rai, Jaswinder S Basra

Apologies:

Ajit S Nijjar Treasurer, National Steering Committee (NSC)

John Singh Committee Member, NSC

Kiran Kaur Netball Co-ordinator, NSC

Gurdawar Singh Volleyball Co-ordinator, NSC

1. Opening

The Chairman (Mahanbir Singh Grewal) opened the meeting at 7.05 pm., welcoming all the attendees.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The agenda as circulated prior to the meeting was adopted with the inclusion of the following:

(i) additional item ‘Hosting of the 2007 Games, 2008 Games, and 2009 Games’ (proposed by the MS Grewal; seconded by JS Randhawa) be considered as Agenda Item 10 ;

(ii) 5 items to be discussed under ‘Other Matters’ (Agenda Item 11), as follows:

(a) Age Groups to follow the National Australian Rules

(b) Sikh / non-Sikh participation for the Team Sports

(c) Pool System for Team Sports

(d) Residents / Non-Residents for participation in the Games

(e) Dispensation Methodology for grey or non-specific areas of Rules

3. President’s Address

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- 3.1 The President (MS Grewal) stated that it was very encouraging to note the overwhelming attendance at the Inaugural ANSSACC meeting – with representatives from all the participating States. He added that ANSSACC had been registered as an incorporated body. To date the following nine organisations have become affiliated members:

Dashmesh Sports Club, Sydney
Guru Nanak Society of Australia Inc.
Punjabi Cultural Association of Queensland
Punjabi Sports Club (PSC) Melbourne
Sikh Sports & Cultural Club (SSCC), Riverland
Singh Sabha Sports Club (SSSC), Melbourne
Sports & Cultural Sikh Association Sydney (SCSAS) Inc.
Victorian Sikh Association
Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour Sikh Sports Club

- 3.2 Surjit Punia stated that Sikh Association of Western Australia (SAWA) was also keen to become a member of ANSSACC, and he would arrange for payment of the joining fee (\$250) upon his return to Perth.

Action Item 1: Surjit S Punia to pursue matter re SAWA's affiliation to ANSSACC.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 The Secretary (Jasbir Singh Randhawa) informed that the minutes of the previous meeting held in Griffith on 12 June 2005, had been circulated for comments. As there were no amendments proposed, these were adopted as the final minutes. (Proposed – Gurdip S Ahluwalia; Seconded – Jang Bahadur S Grewal).

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- 5.1 The actions arising from the previous meeting had all been completed. The meeting acknowledged with thanks the following:
- (i) Gurdip Ahluwalia's prompt action in providing the Secretary with digital copies of the Games' Rules & Regulations which had been used in the past.
 - (ii) Excellent work carried out by Vickram Grewal in enhancing the ANSSACC website (www.australiansikhgames.com)

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 The President reported on financial matters on behalf of the Treasurer. A current (cheque) account had been opened with the Commonwealth Bank in Port Augusta, SA. The signatories for any transaction would be the Treasurer plus one (either the President or Secretary). The current balance was \$ 500.00 (joining fee paid by Guru Nanak Society of Australia Inc., and Sikh Sports & Cultural Club (SSCC), Riverland). The additional sum of \$ 1, 750.00 collected from 7 more members on 15 April 2006 would bring the total in the account to \$ 2,250.00. An ABN No. for ANSSACC was being applied for soon.

7. Report of Sub-Committees

- 7.1 Nil (as there were no existing sub-committees).

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- 7.2 It was noted by members present that the ANSSACC Constitution required reviewing as there were a number of clauses which were contradicting, ambiguous, etc. The meeting decided to set up a Constitution Review Sub-Committee (Baljit S Chugh, Jagjit S Chugha, Amandeep S Sidhu) to look into this matter. The Sub-committee would prepare, and forward by 31 July 2006, a Preliminary Report to the Secretary for circulation among members.

Action 2: Constitution Review Sub-Committee to prepare a Preliminary Report and forward to Secretary for circulation among members (deadline 31 July 2006).

8. Resolutions

- 8.1 No resolutions, for consideration by the ANSSACC Meeting, had been forwarded to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

9. Byelaws passed by the Executive during the term

- 9.1 Nil.

10. Hosting of the 2007 Australian Sikh Games and subsequent Games

- 10.1 It was noted that at the previous meeting held in Renmark (26 March 2005), Griffith had expressed interest to host the 2007 Games. However there was no subsequent confirmation regarding this. The Secretary informed that he had received an email from Singh Sabha Sports Club (SSSC) Melbourne stating that it was willing to host the 2007 Games. This was confirmed by the SSSC Melbourne delegates attending the meeting. As there was no other contender, the meeting unanimously decided that Melbourne would host the 2007 Games, organised by SSSC Melbourne. President requested SCSAS to provide the relevant information (Games Rules, Games Budget, Contact details, etc) to SSSC so as to facilitate the organisation of the 2007 Games.

Action 3A: SSSC Melbourne to organise the 2007 Australian Sikh Games in Melbourne.

Action 3B: SCSAS to provide relevant games information to SSSC Melbourne

- 10.2 Surjit S Punia stated that Sikh Association of Western Australia (SAWA) was willing to organise the hosting of the 2008 Games in Perth. As there was no other expression of interest for these Games, the meeting unanimously agreed to SAWA arranging to host the 2008 games in Perth – subject to SAWA completing the necessary formality for affiliation to ANSSACC.

Action 4: SAWA to organise the 2008 Australian Sikh Games in Perth, subject to it being affiliated to ANSSACC.

- 10.3 The Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour Sikh Sports Club representatives (Narinder S Bajwa and Amandeep S Sidhu) expressed interest in holding the 2009 Games in Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour. The Meeting agreed to this, subject to confirmation from their organisation. The

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meeting also decided that the 3 year planning ahead for the Games would reduce any problems at the last minute, e.g lack of response from Griffith for the 2007 Games.

Action 5: The 2009 Australian Sikh Games to be held in Woolgoolga – Coffs Harbour, subject to confirmation by Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour Sikh Sports Club.

11. Other Matters

11.1 Age Groups to follow the National Australian Rules

11.1.1 The President informed that the National Australian Rules use 1 January of the year as the (age group) cut-off date for participation for the games in that particular year - e.g. for participation in the 2006 Games in order to be in the under-13 Group the player must not have achieved his/her 13th birthday on 1.1.06 or after. Furthermore the actual age groups are Under 13, under 15 and under 17 (in hockey), and believed that it would be the same for other games like soccer and netball. He proposed that ANSSACC adopts these criteria so as to maintain uniformity/consistency among the various team events held in the Australian Sikh Games.

11.1.2 Following some deliberation on this matter the meeting decided that ANSSACC could adopt the 3 age groupings for the Sikh Games, subject to confirmation by the soccer and netball co-ordinators that the same applies to their events at the national level. However consensus was not reached for the cut-off date – mainly due to the fact the Sikh Games are held during Easter weekend annually (i.e. occurring end March / first half of April) and it would be more appropriate to have a cut-off date like the eve of the Games – i.e. the Thursday prior to the Easter weekend.

Action 6: Soccer and Netball co-ordinators to investigate the age groupings used for soccer and netball under the National Australian Rules.

11.2 Sikh / Non-Sikh participation for the Team Sports

11.2.1 The meeting held a lengthy discussion on the issue of allowing non-Sikhs to participate in the team events. The following points were raised:

- (i) Not allowing non-Sikhs – Does it contravene the ‘Racial Vilification Laws’? Raised by SSSC Melbourne.
- (ii) not allowing non-Sikhs poses a challenge for states/regions with small Sikh population (NT, Tasmania, SA). Perhaps use the ‘100 families Rule’ – i.e. with cities/regions where total no. of Sikh families do not exceed 100, then allow 1 non-Sikh player for a team with up to 10 players, and 2 non-Sikh players for a team exceeding 10 players.
- (iii) Over the years it was becoming difficult to draw younger players to Kabadi – mainly due to greater risk of injury, not played in schools, etc. Suggestion to allow non-Sikhs to participate and hence in a way promote the game at the wider community level.

11.2.2 Following some deliberation the meeting decided on the following:

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- (i) Constitution Review Sub-Committee to investigate whether the current practice of not allowing Non-Sikhs contravenes Racial Vilification Laws (refer to relevant Australian Laws). Report findings to the Executive.
- (ii) A request to allow participation by non-Sikhs will be dealt on “case by case’ basis. The organisation making such a request has to submit its case to ANSSACC Executive at least 4 months prior to the Games, and the ANSSACC decision made no later than 3 months before the Games.
- (iii) A maximum of 2 non-Sikh players per team be allowed to participate in Kabadi. However this provision is only on a trial basis for 1 year (i.e. for 2007 Games). The decision to continue with the provision will be reviewed by ANSSACC after the 2007 Games.

Action 7: Constitution Review Sub-Committee to investigate the whether ‘Non-Sikhs’ issue contravenes Racial Vilification Laws and report findings to the Executive.

Action 8: Request for participation by non-Sikhs will be treated on a ‘case-by-case’ basis, with the request being submitted to ANSSACC executive at least 4 months prior to Games.

Action 9: Maximum of 2 non-Sikh players per team allowed to participate in Kabadi – only on a trial basis for 1 year (i.e. for 2007 Games). This provision will be reviewed by ANSSACC after the 2007 Games.

11.3 Pool System for Team Sports

- 11.3.1 The meeting decided that the existing Pool System worked well, and had been used for provision of players for hockey, soccer during the Games. It should be used for all team sports and encourage participation to the last minute.

11.4 Residents / Non-Residents for participation in the Games

- 11.4.1 With regard to residency requirements, etc the Meeting decided as follows:

- (i) For all sports events there must be evidence of the participant being resident for a minimum of 6 months in the region/city that he is representing. However tourists (even if they have visas for 6 months or excess) will not be allowed to participate.
- (ii) Those on student visas, and not fulfilling requirement in (i) above, may be exempted from this rule provided case is submitted to ANSSACC executive at least 1 month before the Games.

Action 10A: For all sports events participant must have a minimum of 6 months

residency in the region/city that he/she is representing. Tourists (even if they have visas for 6 months or excess) will not be allowed to participate.

Action 10B: Participants on student visas, with less than 6 month residency may be exempted from this rule provided case is submitted to ANSSACC Executive at least 1 month prior to Games

11.5 Dispensation Methodology for grey or non-specific areas of Rules

- 11.5.1 The meeting decided that any grey or non-specific areas of rules will be treated on a case-to-case basis. Any request/clarification sought with regard to these issues have to be submitted to the ANSSACC Executive at least 3 months prior to the Games, and each individual case will be decided by voting by the Executive members.

Action 11: Request for clarification of grey areas of rules to be submitted to ANSSACC Executive at least 3 months prior to Games. Executive will make a decision by voting.

11.6 Auditors

- 11.6.1 As there was a requirement for auditors under the ANSSACC Constitution, the President stated that he would confirm with Nirmal S Hansra who had indicated to do this work on an honorary basis.

Action 12: President to confirm whether Nirmal S Hansra is willing to be Honorary Auditor.

11.7 Accommodation for Under-13 Teams

- 11.7.1 The proposal that the host city provide free accommodation for Junior teams (Under-13) was briefly discussed. The rationale being that such an arrangement would dispense with their families having to travel with them and incur additional expenses, and furthermore it would also encourage greater participation by the juniors in the national event. The meeting noted that there were insurance implications if the host city were to undertake this responsibility - providing accommodation, looking after them for duration of Games, etc. It was therefore decided that this was an issue for the host city to consider.

11.8 Misconduct during Soccer Match

- 11.8.1 The meeting noted that the referee abandoned the soccer match between Melbourne A and Armanis Singapore (in the 42nd minute) due to fighting among players and spectators on the pitch. Both teams were given stern warning by the Soccer Tournament Director (Makhan S Rai) – any repeat of misconduct would lead to the team/s being excluded from rest of tournament. The meeting further noted that there is provision in ANSSACC Constitution for banning persons/teams under such circumstances for a maximum of 5 years.

12. Election of ANSSACC Executive Committee

- 12.1 The Secretary stated that as per the mandate given at the Griffith meeting the National Steering Committee (NSC) elected at the 2005 Games in Renmark would continue functioning until the

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2006 Games in Sydney. The election of the ANSSACC Executive would take place during the Sydney Games. Accordingly a Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Nomination Forms had been mailed out to all regional sports organisations.

12.2 The Meeting unanimously elected Baljit S Chugh as the Returning Officer (Proposed: Jasbir S Randhawa; Seconded: Vickram S Grewal).

12.3 Nominations received prior to the meeting were as follows:

President - Mahanbir S Grewal
Vice President - Narindar Singh Gill
Treasurer - Ajit S Nijjar; Jagjit S Chugha
Asst. Secretary - Mandeep S Johal
Committee Members (1 delegate from each affiliated association) - Satnam Pabla
Games Co-ordinators - Dalvinder S Garcha (Volleyball)

(Note: The meeting noted that Parshotam Singh's nomination for position of Vice President was invalid as the Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society, Yogali was not affiliated to ANSACC, i.e. not a financial member).

12.4 Nominations for remaining positions were called from the floor.

12.5 The Returning Officer then conducted the election procedure, and the results were as follows:

President - Mahanbir S Grewal
Vice President (2 positions) - Narindar S Gill; Kuldip S Bassi (only 1 nomination from floor)
Secretary - Jasbir S Randhawa (only 1 nomination from floor)
Asst. Secretary - Mandeep S Johal
Treasurer - Jagjit S Chugha (Votes: Jagjit Chugha – 9; Ajit Nijjar – 4)

Committee Members (max 8 positions – 1 delegate from each affiliated association):
- **Satnam Pabla (SSSC Melbourne)**
- **Naginder S Bhandal (SCSAS)**
- **Steven Thandi (Woolgoolga - Coffs Harbour Sikh Sports Club)**
- **Harjit S Roshey (Punjabi Cultural Association of Queensland)**
- **Harjinder Singh (PSC Melbourne)**
- **Panna Hopkins (SAWA)** - subject to SAWA's affiliation to ANSSACC

Games Co-ordinators -
Dalvinder S Garcha (Volleyball)
Kiran Atwal (Netball)
Gurdip S Ahluwalia (Soccer)
Mehnga S Khakh (Kabaddi)
Tejinder S Sian (Hockey)
Jaswinder S Basra (Tug-of-War)
Ranjit Singh (Golf)

13. Close

13.1 The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m., with a vote of thanks to SCSAS for the excellent arrangements in the organisation of the 2006 Games.

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Mahanbir Singh Grewal
President

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Jasbir Singh Randhawa
Secretary