

Voting Policies for the Board of Nelipots in Nature

Purpose

This policy outlines the voting procedures and decision-making protocols for the Board Members of Nelipots in Nature. It ensures clarity, transparency, and consistency in how organizational decisions are made.

1. Voting Eligibility

- All members of the Board Members, as listed in the by-laws, are eligible to vote.
- Each eligible board member holds **one vote**.
- Proxy voting is not allowed; members must be present (in person or virtually) to vote.

2. Quorum Requirements

- A **quorum** must be established before any vote can occur.
- A quorum is defined as **at least 50% of all current board members**.
- If a quorum is not met, the vote must be postponed until quorum is achieved.

3. Types of Decisions Requiring a Vote

Votes are required for decisions including but not limited to:

- Adoption or amendment of by-laws
- Approval of annual budget
- Strategic planning or changes in programming
- Recruiting new Board Members
- Partnerships, grants, or purchases
- Creation or dissolution of committees
- Expulsion of members

4. Voting Procedures

- Votes may occur during scheduled board meetings or via email (if urgent).
- The **President** will present the motion, followed by a second from any board member.
- Discussion is held before a vote is taken.
- Voting may be conducted by a **show of hands**, **voice vote**, or **written ballot**, depending on the sensitivity of the issue.

5. Voting Outcomes

- **Simple Majority Rule:** Most decisions are approved by a **simple majority** (more than half of those present and voting).

- **Supermajority Rule:** Amendments to the by-laws or dissolution of the organization require a **two-thirds majority vote** of the full board.

6. Abstentions and Ties

- A board member may **abstain** from voting, which will be recorded in the minutes.
- In the event of a **tie**, the **President** (or Vice President in the President's absence) will cast the deciding vote.

7. Documentation and Record-Keeping

- All votes must be recorded in the official **meeting minutes**.
- The Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate voting records and tracking attendance.

8. Confidentiality

- Board members are expected to maintain confidentiality around any sensitive or personnel-related votes.
- Voting related to member discipline or internal disputes shall be conducted via private ballot when appropriate.

9. Virtual and Emergency Voting

- Votes may be conducted via **email or secure online platforms** in emergency situations or when timing is urgent.
- For virtual votes to be valid:
 - The motion must be clearly written and sent to all board members.
 - A 48-hour minimum response time must be provided unless urgent.
 - A quorum must still be met digitally for the vote to be binding.