

GRAND LODGE OF INDIA



RW Bro. VISHAL BAKSHI
Grand Secretary



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(Circular No.44/17)

05th March 2020

The Secretaries of all Daughter Lodges

Dear Sir and R/V/W/Brother,

At the Annual Grand Festival Communication held at Tiruchirapalli on 30th November 2019, Amendments to following Rules of Book of Constitutions and certain new Rules in the Book of Constitutions were amended. These amendments/creation of new Rules were confirmed in the Especial Communication held in New Delhi on 29th February 2020:

RULE 154(Breaches of Regulations and Fines) A daughter Lodge or Brother offending against any law or regulation of the Craft to the breach of which no specific penalty is attached shall at the direction of the Grand Lodge, or of any of its delegated authorities, or of a Regional Grand Master, be subject to Admonition, fine or suspension.

If a daughter Lodge be suspended, the members thereof are not relieved of their responsibility to pay the dues to the Grand Lodge and each member is liable for his share of proper expenses incurred by the Lodge during the period of suspensions.

If a brother be suspended, the penalty may be made to apply to his membership of a particular daughter Lodge or Lodges, or to all, or some only, of his Masonic privileges, and such Brother remains liable for his subscription to any Lodge from which he has been suspended.

If fine be the punishment awarded it shall for the first offence, be not less than *five thousand rupees* nor more than *seven thousand five hundred rupees*, for the second offence of a similar nature within three years, it shall not be less than *ten thousand rupees*, nor more than *fifteen thousand rupees*, and if the Lodge or Brother shall

refuse to pay the fine or be guilty of a third offence, within three years of the second offence, the Lodge shall be liable to be erased or the Brother to be expelled.

182.(Fees etc.) The following fees shall be payable or such fees as may be determined by the Board of General Purposes from time to time for:

A Deputy Regional Grand Master for registration in the Grand Lodge Books - *Rs. 2000*

An Assistant Regional Grand Master for registration in the Grand Lodge Books - *Rs. 1500*

Warrant for a new Lodge - *Rs. 5000*

Warrant for Centenary Jewel - *Rs. 2500*

Warrant of Confirmation - *Rs. 5000*

Dispensation by the Grand Master(except Dispensation under Rule 112A) - *Rs. 3000*

Registration of a Mason on initiation or on joining from a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge(The fees include Grand Lodge Certificate) - *Rs.400*

Founders Fee - *Rs.400*

Duplicate Grand Lodge Certificate - *Rs.500*

Serving Brother Certificate - *Rs.400*

Corrected Certificate - *Rs.400*

Installed Master's Certificate(to be collected by the Lodge concerned prior to his installation and remitted to Grand Lodge immediately thereafter - *Rs.500*

For registering bye-laws - *Rs.500*

For registering amendments to bye-laws - *Rs.400*

Every Grand and Past Grand Officer - *Rs.200*

Every Past Master not holding any Grand Rank - *Rs.200*

Reigning Master - *Rs.200*

Senior Warden - *Rs.200*

Junior Warden - *Rs.200*

Dispensation under Rule 124A(iii) - *Rs.5000*

Annual Dues:

Every Lodge for each of its members up to a maximum of *Rs. 1000*

Any member of Grand Lodge shall have the option to pay a sum of *Rs. 3000/-* or such fees as may be determined by the Board of General Purposes from time to time at any one time and on such payment being made, he shall not be liable thenceforth to pay any annual dues in future. If such member has ceased to be a subscribing member of any daughter Lodge under the Grand Lodge or for any other reason he shall not be entitled to any refund out the said sum of *Rs. 3000/-*. On his again becoming a member of the Grand Lodge he shall be liable to pay annual dues as mentioned in this Rule and the said sum of *Rs. 3000/-* previously paid by him will not apply to such annual dues but he shall have an option to pay another sum of *Rs. 3000/-* in commutation of his future annual dues.

95A(Secretary Period of Office) - No Brother shall occupy the position of a Secretary of more than two Lodges at the same time. No brother shall continue to hold the office of a Secretary of a Lodge for a continuous period of more than *three years* and can only be appointed as Secretary after lapse of three years subject to

the same limitation of not more than three continuous years. A Lodge may apply to the Regional Grand Master for dispensation from the applicability of the above Rule. The Regional Grand Master may reject or grant any application *only for one year*, subject to the conditions as he may deem appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the case.

Note: The period for which the brother has served as Secretary prior to the amendment coming into force will not be taken in consideration for computing the three years.

NEW RULE

26A - Duties of Grand Treasurer - Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds and securities of Grand Lodge. At the Annual Grand Festival, a faithful report regarding Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the preceding year will be submitted.

Rule 19 - The Grand Secretary, who shall be a whole time Officer of the Grand Lodge, shall be appointed by the Grand Master from out a panel of three names submitted to him by the Board of General Purposes. The Grand Secretary shall initially be appointed for a period not exceeding three years starting from the date of installation of the Grand Master and ending on the day a new Grand Master is installed, which term may thereafter be extended for a period of not more than **three years** at a time. The service of the Grand Secretary may be terminated at any time, by the Grand Master, by giving him three months' notice in writing, or three months' salary in lieu thereof. Similarly, if the Grand Secretary wishes to resign, he shall give three months' notice in writing or pay an amount equivalent to three months' salary in lieu thereof, or such shorter notice or lesser payment, as may be decided by the Grand Master in his sole discretion.

Rule 14: Election and Installation of Grand Master

The election of the Grand Master shall vest in an Electoral College which shall consist of Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, the President of the Board of General Purposes, Regional Grand Masters, the Immediate Past Regional Grand Masters, Deputy Regional Grand Masters, the President of the Board of General purposes of the Regional Grand Lodges and sixteen elected and nominated members of the Board. An elected member shall be a member of the Electoral College from the date of his announcement under Rule 165. The Electoral College shall consider the choice of a Grand Master during the month of July in the final year of the office of the incumbent Grand Master, and announce its decision by way of immediate Circular from the Grand Lodge of India to all Lodges under its jurisdiction.

The Candidate for the office of the Grand Master must be an Indian citizen, a subscribing member in good standing of the Grand Lodge of India for an uninterrupted period of 25 years, and holding a Grand Rank of not less than Past Junior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of India. In considering the choice of a Grand Master,

the Electoral College shall not consider the choice of a candidate who is Present or Past Grand Master which includes the Grand Master in office.

The election of the Grand Master by the Electoral College shall be by secret Ballot, only if there are more than one Candidate contesting for that office.

Except in the case of vacancy as expressly provided herein, the Grand Master so elected and announced shall be installed at the following Grand Lodge communication held in accordance with Rule 11.

Most Worshipful the Grand Master shall be the President of the Electoral College and the Grand Secretary shall be its convenor.

The term of office of the Grand Master shall be three years commencing from the date of his installation till the installation of his successor at the third Communication of the Grand Lodge to be held thereafter in accordance with Rule 11.

Provided, however, if by reason of vacancy in the office of the Grand Master, a Grand Master is installed prior to the Communication of the Grand Lodge to be held in accordance with Rule 11, the period of three years will commence from the 1st Communication immediately following such installation till the installation of his successor at the third Communication of the Grand Lodge held thereafter. No Grand Master or Past Grand Master shall be eligible for re-election. Should the Grand Master die, or resign, the Deputy Grand Master, or failing him, the Assistant Grand Master or failing him, the Regional Grand Master in order of seniority shall, as soon as may be practicable and in any case not later than 45 days from the date of event in question, summon the Electoral College for the purpose of electing a new Grand Master who shall be installed at a convenient date thereafter. From the day of election, the Grand Master Elect shall exercise the powers and prerogatives of the office. Provided, however, if the Electoral College has already elected a Grand Master prior to the death or resignation of a Grand Master in office a fresh Electoral College shall not be summoned and the Grand Master elect shall be installed at a convenient date thereafter. The Grand Master Elect shall exercise the powers and prerogatives of the office from the date from which the Grand Master's office is vacant.

During the vacancy in the Grand Mastership, the Deputy Grand Master shall act as Grand Master until a new Grand Master is elected. If there be no Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master shall act. If there is no Assistant Grand Master, a Regional Grand Master in order of seniority shall act.

Rule 15: Abuse of Power by Grand Master.

If the Grand Master should abuse his power and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to appropriate action as may be deemed fit by the Grand Board of General Purposes which may include Impeachment, Censure, Reprimanding or such other punishment as may be deemed appropriate, should the Grand Master have deliberately indulged in any act which may be deemed inappropriate with the general laws and tenets of Freemasonry or the laws of Civil Society which may result in projecting the Craft in poor light or bring disrepute to the Craft. Any such action shall be approved by a 2/3rd majority of the total strength of the Board. Subject, however, the same be confirmed by the Grand Lodge at a meeting that would be convened not later than six months from the time that the Grand Board makes such recommendation and approves the same.

Rule No.54. Appointment of Regional Grand Master.

The Appointment of a Regional Grand Master is a prerogative of the Grand Master, by whom a patent may be granted, to hold for the prescribed period, to any Brother whom he may think worthy of the appointment, the Brother chosen should be a Freemason in good standing and a subscribing member of the Grand Lodge of India for an uninterrupted period of not less than 20 years. Further he should be an initiate of the Region for which he is appointed or have been resident and subscribing member of the Region for a period of not less than 20 years.

By this patent the Brother is invested with appropriate authority in the particular Region.

The precedence of the Regional Grand Master interse shall be regulated by the dates of their installation

Rule No.166 : Casual Vacancies.

In the event of vacancy amongst the elected members for any reason whatsoever except retirement by rotation, the same shall be filled up by the Grand Master within 30 days of such vacancy arising from a panel of 3 names to be submitted by the concerned Regional Grand Master. Such person shall remain a member of the Board till the Grand Festival held next after an election to the Board of General Purposes is held in the Region to which such members belong. If an elected member becomes an ex-officio member of the Board there shall be a deemed vacancy from amongst the elected members of the Region concerned. After such elected members ceases to be an ex-officio member of the Board he shall continue as an elected member for the balance period of his term subject to retirement by rotation in accordance with Rule 164.

NEW RULE 76 A

Regional Grand Lodge shall submit its quarterly financial accounts including accounts of all its Funds and/or Trusts to Grand Lodge of India within 45 days of the end of the Quarter along with the details of each cash payment in excess of Rupees Ten Thousand from each of these Accounts. Regional Grand Lodge shall also cause to transmit its Annual Accounts to the Grand Lodge of India immediately after the Accounts are audited as per the provisions of Rule 76.

NEW RULE 129A

Each daughter Lodge shall cause to maintain separate accounts for General Administration/Steward funds and Charity fund. No amount from the Charity Fund shall be used for and/or transferred to the General Administration/Steward funds or for any other purpose other than Charity. Each daughter Lodge shall transmit to the Regional Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of India, the Audited Statement of these Accounts duly audited by the Lodge Audit Committee, along with details of each cash payment in excess of Rupees Ten Thousand, within four months of the end of the financial year of the Lodge Accounts. A Lodge may apply for extension of time for submission of the Audited Statement of Accounts along with reasons thereof to the Regional Grand Master, who may allow or deny such an extension.

NEW RULE 92B

No Brother shall occupy the position of a Treasurer of more than two Lodges at the same time. No Brother shall continue to hold the office of a Treasurer of a Lodge for a continuous period of more than three terms and can only be elected as Treasurer after elapse of three years subject to the same limitation of not more than three continuous terms. A Lodge may apply to the Regional Grand Master for dispensation from the applicability of the above Rule. The Regional Grand Master may reject or grant any application subject to such conditions as he may deem appropriate having regard to the circumstance of the case. The grant of dispensation in such situation can be given only once.

All daughter Lodges are requested to take note of these amendments and take necessary action to amend their bye-laws accordingly and to ensure that the same are followed by them.

You are requested to read this Circular in the First Rising of the next Regular Meeting of your Lodge and also circulate the same to the Members by e-mail/post.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


VISHAL BAKSHI
Grand Secretary

Copy to: MWGM
 All Board Members
 All Regional Grand Secretaries
 All Active Grand Officers