

Synopsis of the by-laws of Les Précieuses Ridicules

This is an abbreviated translation of our by-laws in English. This is not a legal document, nor is it a literal translation of the original document. The official Dutch version is in accordance with Dutch law, so in case of disagreements, that is the document that holds legal value and gives rights to the members.

Name and location

Article 1

The association is called Les Précieuses Ridicules and has its office in the municipality of Nijmegen.

Goal

Article 2

1. The goal of this association is to practise, study and encourage, in the most broad definition of these words, classical dancing. In addition this association is also a social association.
2. LPR tries to reach this goal by teaching, performing and studying dance and its history and by having meetings and parties.

Length of one year

Article 3

1. The existence of the association is for an undetermined amount of time.
2. The financial year runs from October 1st until September 30th every year.

Membership

Article 4

1. There are four types of membership, which are:
2. Regular members, between the ages of 17 and 30, who were admitted to the association in accordance with Article 5-1 of the by-laws.
3. Honorary members, who have earned their title by going above and beyond for the association.
4. Alumni, former members of the association.
5. Donors, who give a donation to the association either periodically or one time only.

Article 5

1. Regular members can be admitted after putting in a request with the board to be admitted. The GMA decides if a potential member will be admitted, the inauguration seals the deal.
2. Honorary members will be nominated by the board and appointed by the GMA as described in the House Regulations.
3. Alumni can be admitted after putting in a request with the board or after being asked by the board.
4. Membership is personal and cannot be transferred onto someone else.

End of membership

Article 6

1. A membership ends
 - a. when the member passes away
 - b. when the member cancels the membership
 - c. when the association cancels the membership
 - d. when the association expels the member
2. A member can cancel their membership at any time without giving prior notice by contacting the abactis and informing them of the cancellation.
3. The association can cancel a membership at any time, but must give 4 weeks notice, if the member has not paid their membership fees or if the member doesn't conform to the rules in the by-laws any longer. The board must have contacted the member twice about the cancellation beforehand. The member will receive the reasons for cancellation in writing.
4. The association can only expel a member if they are going against the by-laws, House Regulations or other agreed upon documents. The member will be informed of this decision in writing and has a period of one month to appeal this decision in a GMA. The decision of the GMA to expel the member must be made with at least two thirds of the votes cast.
5. If, for any reason, a membership ends before the dance year ends, the (former) member is still obliged to pay the full membership fees owed, unless the board decides differently.
6. If a decision was made that raised membership obligations (such as higher membership fees) and a member cancels their membership within a month of hearing about this change, the member is not obliged to comply with that decision.

Funds

Article 7

1. The funds of the association consist of:
 - a. membership fees of the members
 - b. donations
 - c. payments for services provided
 - d. acquisitions through inheritances, legacies and gifts
 - e. subsidies
 - f. and other profits

2. The membership fees are decided by the GMA as proposed by the board.
3. Inheritances will only be accepted with the benefit of inventory.

Board

Article 8

1. The board runs the association in accordance with Article 9.
2. The board consists of at least 5 people. A board can still function with as little as two board members but they should do everything in their power to add board members to their board.
3. New board members are nominated by the board or at least one tenth of the current membership body.
4. A board consists of a praeses, vice-praeses, quaestor, abactis and assessor, their tasks are outlined in the House Regulations.
5. The GMA can suspend or fire a board member if they see fit. A minimum of two thirds of votes cast is necessary for that decision to take effect.
6. Board members are permitted to resign at any time, only if they do so in writing with at least one month prior notice.
7. Board members are appointed for one year and are immediately eligible for re-election.

Board tasks and representation

Article 9

1. The board will function in the best interest of the association and in accordance with these by-laws and House Regulations.
2. The board needs permission from the GMA to make certain decisions, for example if they want to have the association function as co-debtor or collateral for someone else's loan, or if they want to buy registered properties.
3. The board needs permission from the GMA to take out loans or to rent (out) registered properties.
4. The board members are authorised to represent the association within a legal setting and outside of it.

General Members' Assemblies (GMA)

Article 10

1. The board will have a GMA at the end of the year, within one month after the financial year has ended. They will give an annual report and a financial report of the past year. The GMA can extend the period in which the board must present these files by a maximum of three months.

2. The GMA appoint a treasury supervision committee at this GMA consisting of at least two members that are not part of the board. They will report on the financial status of the association at the next end-of-year GMA.
3. The board must allow the treasury supervision committee to view the financial documents and anything related to the finances of the association.
4. If the GMA approve the annual report and financial report, the board can be discharged.
5. If the GMA do not approve the financial report, a new committee of three members will be formed. They will do research into the finances of the association and have the same rights as the treasury supervision committee. This new committee will report to the GMA within one month, after which the GMA will once again vote on discharging the board. If voted against, the GMA are allowed to take any measures they see fit.

Calling a GMA

Article 11

1. GMAs are called by the board. They need to announce a GMA at least two weeks before the intended date by sending a written announcement with an agenda to all members.
2. Besides the yearly GMA as described in Article 10, the board will hold at least two GMAs per year. A GMA can be requested in writing by one tenth of the members.
3. If a board receives such a request for a GMA from the members, they must plan a GMA within four weeks. If they do not, the members that requested it, will plan the GMA themselves in the same way the board does.

Admission, voting and right to vote

Article 12

1. All members, honorary members and alumni are allowed to attend the GMAs and speak at them. The chairman of the GMA can however forbid them to speak further. The person can request to continue speaking only once.
2. The chairman of the GMA can allow and disallow the members to speak.
3. Only members have voting rights and they can vote only once.
4. A unanimous decision by members, even if not made during a GMA, has the same effect as a decision made during a GMA. The abactis will make note of this in the minutes.
5. Voting on non-persons will happen by show of hands, voting on persons will happen by secret ballot.
6. Decisions on all proposals will be made via a majority vote unless the by-laws decide otherwise. If there is no majority, the proposal is denied. People will be appointed by a majority vote as well. If there is no majority, there will be a second vote between the two people who got the most votes in the previous voting session. If this yields no majority as well, fate will decide.
7. By votes, we mean valid votes that were cast according to the rules. Blank votes are valid votes as well.

8. The result of the vote will be ratified by the chairman of the GMA and is binding. If however, the accuracy of the result is called into question, a new vote will take place. By taking a new vote, the results of the earlier vote will be nullified.

Chairman/minutes

Article 13

1. The praeses of the board will run the meetings. If the praeses is absent, the vice-praesides will take their place. If they are also absent, one of the other board members will run the meeting.
2. Minutes will be taken during every GMA by the abactis, or a member that was chosen by the praeses. These minutes will be added to the agenda of the next GMA for approval.

Changing the by-laws

Article 14

1. The by-laws can only be altered if a GMA is called with the explicit announcement that a change in the by-laws will be proposed during it.
2. The proposed changes need to be sent to the members 14 days before the GMA.
3. The proposal can only be accepted if two thirds of the members are present at the GMA and if two thirds of them are in favour.
4. If not enough people attend that GMA, a second GMA can be held (a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 30 days later) in which the proposal can be accepted by a two thirds majority, regardless of the number of members present.

Article 15

We can disregard the contents of Article 14 if all members are present for a GMA and the proposal to change the by-laws is presented during general voting.

Article 16

1. A change in the by-laws will only take effect after a solicitor has made a notarial deed of the changes. The board must make sure to have this done as soon as possible after the proposal was accepted by the GMA.
2. The board must hand over a formal copy of the updated by-laws to the Dutch Chamber of Commerce.

Dissolution and Liquidation

Article 17

1. The association can be dissolved after the membership body (GMA) vote to do so during a GMA. For such a decision to be valid, at least two thirds of the GMA must be present and a two-thirds majority vote must be reached.

2. If not enough people attend that GMA, a second GMA can be held (a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 30 days later) in which the proposal can be accepted by a two thirds majority, regardless of the number of members present.
3. When such a GMA is called, the announcement must explicitly state that the dissolution of the association will be voted on.
4. If a liquidator was not appointed during the GMA mentioned above, the board will act as liquidator.
5. -
 - a. The association's archives will be deposited with the County Archives of the Municipality of Nijmegen.
 - b. The GMA will decide what to do with all other possessions.
6. During liquidation, the association will continue to exist in whatever capacity is needed to complete the liquidation process of its assets. These by-laws as well as the House Regulations will remain applicable insofar as this is possible. In any correspondence, documents and announcements made by the association, its name must be suffixed with 'in liquidation'.

House Regulations

Article 18

1. The GMA can put other and more specific rules that are not present in the by-laws, in the House Regulations
2. The House Regulations cannot contain rules that are in conflict with the by-laws.