



תנועת בני עקיבא
BNEI AKIVA
NEW ZEALAND

The Constitution of Bnei Akiva New Zealand Incorporated

*We believe in the Torah,
we believe in Avodah,
we Believe in Aliyah,
'cause we are Bnei Akiva!*

Note:

This constitution has been amended since its passage in 1997. This version includes all amendments from 2002 until 2008, which are so marked to indicate their later addition. This constitution was updated and significantly reformatted in 2015. Amendments made in 2015 are not marked. Amendments made from 2015 onward are marked.

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Part I

General Provisions of the Constitution

1 Title

This document shall be referred to as “The Constitution”

2 Commencement

This Constitution comes into force at the time of its passage on Thursday 10th July 1997 which is the 10th of the month of *Tammuz* 5757.

3 Purpose

This Constitution is a document to formalise and affirm ideology, aims, rules and traditions of Bnei Akiva New Zealand. In doing so, to set a constructive and clear course towards the *Tnua's* growth and success in New Zealand. Furthermore, to safeguard and preserve the existing rules and traditions in accordance with Ideology and *Halacha*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, -

Aliyah means Settling in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Avodah means Labour which improves the world.

Chanich means Student or Ward, pluralised *Chanichim*, this shall be taken to include the feminine, *Chanicha*, pluralised *Chanichot*.

Chinuch means (Jewish) Education.

Dugmah means Personal Example as defined in section 24 of the Constitution.

Eretz Yisrael means the Land of Israel including, but not limited to, the borders of the State of Israel.

Gizbar means Treasurer, this shall also be taken to include the feminine, *Gizberet*.

Halacha refers to Orthodox Jewish Law.

Hatikva refers to the national anthem of the State of Israel.

Kehilla means Congregation, pluralised as *Kehillot*.

Machane means Camp.

Madrach means Counsellor, pluralised as *Madrachim*, and include both Senior and Junior *Madrachim*. This shall also be taken to include the feminine, *Madricha*, pluralised *Madrichot*.

Mazkir Artzi means Head of Bnei Akiva New Zealand (formerly called *Merakez Artzi*) this shall also be taken to include the feminine, *Mazkeret Artzit*.

Mazkirut Artzit means National Executive.

Mizdar means an official Assembly of all Members of Bnei Akiva New Zealand

Passage by Vote means passage of a vote by simple majority of parties with voting rights constituting the body carrying out that vote.

Peula means a particular individual Programme or activity, pluralised as *Peulot*.

Posek means a *Rabbi* specifically appointed to advise on Halachic rulings, pluralised *Poskim*.

Rabbi means a man who has attained Rabbinic Ordination from a recognised Orthodox leader or organisation, pluralised *Rabbanim*.

Rosh means Head, pluralised as *Roshim*, pluralised as *Roshei* in compound nouns.

Shevet means Group, pluralised *Shevatim*.

Shaliach means Representative, pluralised *Shlichim*.

Snif means Branch, pluralised as *Sniffim*.

Tekes means Ceremony.

Tnua means Movement.

Torah means the Religious Tradition of the Jewish People.

Tochnit means the Programme of activities, pluralised *Tochniot*.

Tzniut means Modesty as defined in Schedule 2 of the Constitution.

Veidah Artzit means national general meeting, pluralised as *Veidot Artzit*.

Yoetzet Halacha means an Halachic advisor and is a woman who has received recognition as a *Yoetzet Halacha* from a recognised Orthodox institution. The term is not synonymous with "the *Rabbi*'s wife".

- (2) If any doubt shall arise as to the construction or interpretation of any clause of the Constitution and any rule thereof –
 - (a) the decision of the *Mazkirut Artzit* shall be final, and
 - (b) The *Mazkirut Artzit* shall, when making a decision, bear in mind the basic aims and objects of Bnei Akiva and its duty to promote Religious, Jewish and Zionist values and aspirations.

5 Amendments

- (1) The Constitution of Bnei Akiva New Zealand may be amended at any *Veidah Artzit* by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
- (2) Any amendment shall first be considered by the *Mazkirut Artzit*, who –
 - (a) shall rule whether the proposed amendment is halachic or non-halachic, and –
 - (b) shall rule whether the proposed amendment is Ideological or non-Ideological in nature.
- (3) The proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be circulated to all Members *Veidah Artzit* together with the notice of the *Veidah Artzit*.
- (4) Amendments to The Constitution that are of halachic significance can only be made –

- (a) with the agreement of a competent halachic authority and –
 - (b) a two-thirds majority of the *Veidah Artzit* present and voting when increasing or decreasing stringency.
- (5) Amendments to The Constitution that constitute an Ideological change to Bnei Akiva New Zealand can only be made with an eighty percent majority of the *Veidah Artzit* present and voting.
- (6) New constitutional rules accepted at *Veidot Artzit* must be added to the Constitution and the Constitution must be adjusted accordingly. The Constitution is therefore a perpetual documentation of the constitutional decisions of each *Veidah Artzit*. This shall be the responsibility of the *Mazkir Artzi*.

6 Publication

- (1) The Constitution shall be available to all Members of the *Veidah Artzit* before each meeting of the *Veidah Artzit*.
- (a) (*Amended 6/2/2004*) Attached to the Constitution should be copy of previous *Veidah Artzit* minutes and dated record of all resolutions relevant to following years.
 - (b) These tasks are the responsibility of the *Mazkir Artzi*.
- (2) The Constitution can only be made available to other Members of the *Tnua*, individuals or organisations of the *Kehillot*, and the general public once permission has been granted by the *Mazkirut Artzit*.

Part II

The *Tnua*

7 Name

The name of the *Tnua* shall be “Bnei Akiva New Zealand Incorporated”.

8 Ideology

Bnei Akiva New Zealand is a Religious Zionist Youth Movement, led by an elected *Mazkirut Artzit*, affiliated to Bnei Akiva World and Zionist Federation of New Zealand.

9 Aims

The aims of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be –

- (a) to educate a Jewish generation to be faithful and devoted to its *Torah*, people and land,
- (b) to educate towards *Aliyah* and development of *Eretz Yisrael*, in order to realise the ideal of *Torah v'Avodah*, and –
- (c) to promote Jewish Identity among the members and wider Jewish Community.

10 Commitment to *Halacha*

- (1) All Bnei Akiva activities shall be run in accordance with *Halacha* as defined by Community *Rabbanim*. This includes:
 - (a) *Shabbat* Observance
 - (b) *Kashrut*,
 - (c) *Tefillah*,
 - (d) Observance of Fasts and Mourning Periods
 - (e) *Tzniut* (Modesty) – including both dress, dancing and swimming.
- (2) The executive and administration of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be subject to *Halacha*.

11 Use or Possession of Cigarettes, Drugs, Weapons or Dangerous Items

- (1) Use or possession of cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, or weapons or any other dangerous items (guns, knives, fireworks etc.) – is strictly forbidden at any Bnei Akiva activity or *Machane*.
- (2) Use or possession of any of these goods is grounds for summary expulsion from the activity or *Machane*.
 - (a) The application of this subsection is at the discretion of –
 - (i) the *Rosh Snif* at local activities; or
 - (ii) the *Rosh Machane* at *Machanot*.
- (3) An exemption to subsection (1) of this section may be made regarding alcohol, permitting its consumption for the purposes of a religious ceremony (*Kiddush*, *Havdalah*, et.c.).

12 Motto

The motto of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be: *Torah v'Avodah*

13 Anthem

The anthem of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be: *Yad Achim*.

- (a) It is reproduced, transliterated, below –

*Yad Achim Lachem Shelucha HaNoar HeChaviv
Al Digleinu, Kulechem, Chanu Mesaviv
Yazhir Lachem Kochav Torah
Darkechem Sugah B'Avodah
B'Leiv Amitz, B'Ezrat Hashem, Alo Na'aleh*

Kadima Bnei Akiva, Heidad B'ma'aleh (x2)

*Moledet Zu Eretz Avot, Artzeinu HaKedosha
Midei Abir Ya'akov Lanu Morasha
Roshei B'Imkei Torata, Kapeinu B'Rigveei Admata
B'Leiv Amitz, B'Ezrat Hashem, Alo Na'aleh*

Kadima Bnei Akiva, Heidad B'ma'aleh (x2)

14 Emblem

The emblem of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be represented as:

Two Tablets on which letters are engraved. The tablets are crowned by olive leaves, scythe and a pitchfork on the right side and a sheaf of wheat on the left. Under this is a ribbon inscribed with the words of the motto in Hebrew.

15 Common Seal

The Common Seal of Bnei Akiva New Zealand Incorporated shall consist of the emblem.

- (a) This seal shall remain in control of the *Mazkir Artzi* who will authorize most of the operations of the *Tnua*. However, it may be entrusted to the use of another member of the *Mazkirut Artzit* by passage of a vote of the *Mazkirut Artzit* in person or by any other means of communication.
- (b) The seal shall be used to validate Bnei Akiva New Zealand Incorporated documents where required. Use of it will be limited to these purposes only.

16 Official Greeting

Wherever appropriate, and especially at *Mizdar*, the official greeting of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be –

Greeter says: *Hashem Imachem* (May the Lord be with you)

Greeted answer: *Yevarechecha Hashem* (May the Lord bless you)

17 Official Uniform

When opportunity presents itself to be worn, the official uniform of Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall be –

- (a) A white shirt with long sleeves with the emblem sewed onto the left pocket for *Madrichim*, or –
- (b) A light blue shirt with long sleeves with the emblem sewed onto the left pocket for *Chanichim*.

18 Official Affiliations (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

- (1) Bnei Akiva New Zealand considers itself an integral part of the Orthodox Jewish community in New Zealand.
- (2) Bnei Akiva New Zealand therefore affiliates itself with the Orthodox communities in Auckland and Wellington, namely the Auckland Hebrew Congregation and the WJCC respectively.

Part III

Membership

Subpart 1

Chanichim

19 Membership

- (1) Any person who –
 - (a) is above the age of 8, and –
 - (b) is halachically Jewishis eligible to be a member of Bnei Akiva New Zealand and to be considered a *Chanich*, subject to the discretion of the *Rosh Snif* responsible for the city of the candidate's residence.
- (2) An exception to subsection (1)(a) of this section may be made to extend membership to a seven-year-old at the discretion of the *Rosh Snif* responsible for the city of the candidate's residence.
- (3) An exception to subsection (1)(b) of this section shall be made to extend membership to a candidate who is undergoing an Orthodox conversion process and fulfils all other membership prerequisites.
- (4) Residents of the South Island and all residents of the North Island south of Taupo, shall be considered members of the Wellington *Snif* and all residents of the North Island north of Taupo, including Taupo, shall be considered members of the Auckland *Snif*.

20 Powers and Duties

- (1) Membership to Bnei Akiva New Zealand as a *Chanich* entitles the *Chanich* to attend all Bnei Akiva New Zealand *Tochniot*, *Machanot* and other activities.
- (2) By attending Bnei Akiva New Zealand *Tochniot*, *Machanot* and other activities, *Chanichim* implicitly agree to participate in all said activities, and to obey the rules of Bnei Akiva as outlined by the *Mazkirut Artzit* and as given by *Madrachim* at appropriate times.

21 Shevatim

- (1) The *Shevatim* shall be named as decided by the *Veidah Artzit*.
- (2) The names of the *Shevatim* shall be common to both *Sniffim*.
- (3) Every *Shevet* shall contain *Chanichim* belonging to two consecutive year groups.
- (4) *Chanichim* shall join the *Shevet* which corresponds to their year group at school, subject to the discretion of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (5) A *Shevet* ceases to be a part of the *Tnua* at such a time as the youngest year group of that *Shevet* completes the equivalent of their Year 13 year at highschool.
- (6) The summer *Machane* of any year in which there is a cessation of a *Shevet*, all *Chanichim* then in *Netzanim* shall become a unique *Shevet* and shall be named as decided by the *Veidah Artzit*. Any *Chanichim* who join the *Tnua* subsequent to the formation of the new *Shevet* and who are in the same year group or one (1) year

group lower than the oldest year group in the new *Shevet* shall also join the new *Shevet*.

- (7) Any *Chanichim* who are younger than one (1) year group younger than the oldest year group in the youngest *Shevet* shall be known as *Netzanim*.
- (8) The *Chanichim* remain in the same *Shevet* throughout their time as *Chanichim* in the *Tnua*.

22 List of *Shevatim*

Since 1987, both *Sniffim* have formed and named their *Shevatim* as follows:

Hermon - Carmel - Gilboa - Tzofim - Golan - Etzion - Arava - Yovel -
Nevatim - Lehava - Ariel - Shilo - Aviv - Na'aleh - Nachshon - Amichai

Subpart 2

Madrachim

23 Membership

- (1) Any person who is otherwise eligible to be a *Chanich* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand, but who has finished their final year at school is eligible to be a Senior *Madrach* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand.
 - (a) Membership as a Senior *Madrach* is at the discretion of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (2) Any person who -
 - (a) is eligible to be a *Chanich* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand, and -
 - (b) who is in their final year at schoolis eligible to be a Junior *Madrach* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand, subject to the discretion of the *Rosh Snif* of the candidates residence.
- (3) The only difference between Senior and Junior *Madrachim* as regards Membership shall be that Junior *Madrachim* may have the status of *Chanichim* for the *Machane* taking place in the winter, at the discretion of the *Rosh Machane*.

24 Powers and Duties

- (1) The *Madrach* is responsible for all *Chanichim* at all *Tnua Tochniot*, *Machanot*, and other activities.
- (2) The work of the *Madrachim* is supervised by the *Rosh Snif*.
- (3) The *Madrach* must obey decisions of the *Rosh Snif* and the *Madrachim* Meetings.
- (4) Punishments for a serious breaches of discipline and the removal of any *Madrachim* and *Chanichim* is, in the first instance, the duty of the *Rosh Snif*. *Mazkirut Artzit* approval must be granted in cases of removal. Appeal against removal is in the hands of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (5) In the event of serious conflict or differences of opinion between -
 - (a) a *Madrach* and a *Rosh Snif*, or -
 - (b) a *Madrach* and another *Madrach* or *Madrachim*

both parties shall continue their duties until the matter has been dealt with in a meeting consisting of the opposing individuals and a neutral representative of the *Mazkirut Artzit*. The decision of the *Mazkirut Artzit* representative shall be final.

25 *Dugmah*

All *Madrichim* should strive to set a personal example that corresponds with Bnei Akiva Ideology at least in the presence of any *Chanichim* at any official Bnei Akiva New Zealand *Peula*, *Machane* or activity. Including, but is not limited to –

- (a) observance of *Shabbat*,
- (b) observance of *Kashrut*,
- (c) aspiring to the principles of *Aliyah*,
- (d) regular *Torah* study,
- (e) observance of the standards of *Tzniut*,
- (f) use of appropriate language and conversation in general, and –
- (g) *shule* attendance and attendance at important Community functions.

Subpart 3

Shlichim

26 Membership

- (1) Any person who is currently in the employ of either the Auckland Hebrew Congregation or the Wellington Jewish community as a *Shaliach* is eligible to be a *Shaliach*, at the discretion of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (2) There shall be no upper limit to the number of *Shlichim* who are members of the *Tnua*.
- (3) When considering acceptance of a *Shaliach*, or advising any individual about the prospect of a *Shaliach* in relation to Bnei Akiva New Zealand – whether in general or as regards a particular prospective *Shaliach* – the *Mazkirut Artzit* shall consider that the *Shaliach* –
 - (a) is a desirable and beneficial part of the *Tnua*,
 - (b) should be a responsible and respectable personal example of the *Tnua's* Ideology,
 - (c) should be a person who is able to co-operate between and gain the support of all necessary Jewish Community leaders and bodies,
 - (d) should have the ability to approach and encourage parents to send their children to Bnei Akiva and the ability to effectively encourage parents to support the *Tnua*, and –
 - (e) should be a person who holds themselves to the highest degree of *Dugmah*.

27 Powers and Duties

- (1) The *Shaliach* shall have a valid say in all aspects of the *Tnua*. The *Madrich* and *Mazkirut Artzit* shall give careful consideration to the advice of the *Shaliach*.
- (2) The primary role of the *Shaliach* is to teach, inspire, motivate, guide, push and direct the *Madrichim*.
- (3) The *Shaliach* shall hold themselves to the highest degree of *Dugmah*.
- (4) The *Shaliach* shall investigate the appropriateness and success of various Israel programmes.
- (5) The *Shaliach* shall be a responsible New Zealand representative to Bnei Akiva World.

Subpart 4

Termination of Membership

28 Termination by Resignation or Age

- (1) Unless expelled, every person shall remain a *Chanich* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand until the happening of the following event:
 - (a) The resignation of the member, given in writing, or –
 - (b) The completion of the 7th form year of the member.
- (2) Unless expelled, a *Madrich* shall remain a *Madrich* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand until such time as they resign by giving verbal notice to the *Mazkirut Artzit* of their intention to do so.
- (3) Unless expelled, a *Shaliach* shall remain a *Shaliach* of Bnei Akiva New Zealand for as long as they are employed as a *Shaliach* by either of the Orthodox Hebrew Congregations in Wellington or Auckland.

29 Expulsion or Suspension

- (1) Grounds for expulsion or suspension of a member shall only be where the member's conduct is injurious to the aims and objectives of Bnei Akiva New Zealand.
- (2) Any person shall only be expelled or suspended from Bnei Akiva New Zealand if they –
 - (a) have had the particulars of the complaint against them delivered in writing, and –
 - (b) have had an opportunity to attend – with or without representation – a meeting with the *Mazkirut Artzit* or a representative of the *Mazkirut Artzit* to offer a defence or explanation in response to the complaint, and –
 - (c) the *Veidah Artzit* subsequently votes to expel or suspend the defendant by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.
- (3) An expelled or suspended member may be re-admitted to Bnei Akiva at such a time or on such terms as the *Veidah Artzit* may impose at the time of that *Veidah Artzit*.

Part IV

Institutions of the *Tnua*

Subpart 1

Veidah Artzit

30 Purpose

The *Veidah Artzit* is the supreme authority of Bnei Akiva New Zealand and has supreme power in deciding the *Chinuch* programme and organisation for Bnei Akiva New Zealand.

31 Frequency and Timing (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

- (1) The *Veidah Artzit* shall meet no less than twice a year. One shall take place in the summer and one in the winter. Each shall constitute a General Meeting.
- (2) The precise time and place of the meeting of the *Veidah Artzit* shall be at the discretion of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (3) Notwithstanding (2), the Summer General Meeting should be held at such a time as to allow Members returning from *Shnat* to participate in the General Meeting.
- (4) The *Veidah Artzit* may meet more than twice a year. Any other meeting of the *Veidah Artzit* shall constitute an Extraordinary General Meeting.

32 Special Open Session of *Veida Artzit* (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

- (1) The Winter General Meeting shall have at least two sessions, one to take place sometime before *Winter Machane*, and the second to take place sometime on *Winter Machane* itself.
- (2) The second session shall be a Special Open Session of *Veida Artzit* which will be open to all senior *Chanichim*.
- (3) At any Special Open Session, senior *Chanichim* shall have speaking rights like any other Member of the *Veida Artzit*.
- (4) Subject to the discretion of the *Mazkir Artzi*, motions submitted by senior *Chanichim* to *Veida Artzit* shall be accepted if –
 - (a) subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson, the motion is submitted in writing to the *Mazkir Artzi*, by any means, before the beginning of the Special Open Session, and –
 - (b) that motion is seconded by a *Madrach* or Member of the *Mazkirut Artzit* before being submitted to the *Mazkir Artzi*.
- (5) Subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson, business at a Special Open Session of *Veida Artzit* shall include only –
 - (a) any motion, or motions, submitted by *Madrachim* or Members of the *Mazkirut Artzit* that would be of particular interest to senior *Chanichim*,

- (b) any motions submitted by senior *Chanichim* to the Special Open Session of *Veida Artzit*, and –
- (c) shall not include the election of *Roshei Machane* or any discussion considered private or sensitive that should be had among the *Madrachim* and Members of the *Mazkirut Artzit* only.

33 Notice

- (1) Fourteen (14) days prior to convening the *Veidah Artzit*, notice shall be given by the *Mazkir Artzi* to all *Madrachim* and all Members of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (2) (*Amended 04/07/2016*) Fourteen (14) days prior to convening any Special Open Session of *Veidah Artzit*, notice shall be given by the *Mazkir Artzi* to all senior *Chanichim*.

34 Uniform for *Veida Artzit* (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

Members of *Veida Artzit* shall endeavour to wear the uniform of the *Tnua* at all times during any meeting of the *Veida Artzit*.

35 Quorum

Any *Veidah Artzit* must consist of a quorum of the Chairperson, and –

- (a) half, or
- (b) at least 3 –
of the voting Members from each *Snif*.

36 Constituency

- (1) The *Veidah Artzit* shall consist of –
 - (a) the Chairperson,
 - (b) all *Madrachim*,
 - (c) all Members of the *Mazkirut Artzit*, and –
 - (d) any other person, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson.
- (2) (*Amended 04/07/2016*) At the open segment of the Winter General Meeting, *Veidah Artzit* shall also consists of all senior *Chanichim*.

37 The Chairperson

- (1) The *Mazkir Artzi* shall be the Chairperson.
- (2) The *Mazkir Artzi* may elect any other Member of the *Veidah Artzit* to be the Chairperson in the event that the *Mazkir Artzi* is unable to fill or complete their role as Chairperson.
- (3) In the event of a split vote, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

38 Voting

- (1) Only *Madrachim*, *Roshei Snif*, the *Gizbar Artzi* and the *Mazkir Artzi* who are present at the meeting of the *Veidah Artzit* shall have voting rights.
- (2) Members who only have speaking rights are –

- (a) *Shlichim*,
- (b) (Amended 04/07/2016) individuals brought from overseas to act as *Madrichim* on *Machane*,
- (c) (Amended 04/07/2016) and senior *Chanichim* at any Special Open Session of *Veida Artzit* –
who are present at the meeting of the *Veidah Artzit*.
- (3) (Amended 1/12/2002) Any other member may be considered for and awarded voting rights at the discretion of the *Mazkir Artzi*.
- (4) Voting at the *Veidah Artzit* shall be by show of hands unless a Poll is demanded whereupon the Chairperson shall order a Poll.
 - (a) A Poll shall involve each Member present and voting writing down their vote anonymously on a piece of paper. These papers shall be collected by the Chairperson who shall count the votes and announce the result of the vote.
- (5) Votes may either be for or against the proposition. Members of the *Veidah Artzit* may abstain from any vote.

39 Voting by Proxy

- (1) Any person who would have voting rights at *Veidah Artzit* if they had been present at the time of the vote, may, in the event of their absence, submit a proxy vote.
- (2) To be valid, such a vote must be submitted in writing to the *Mazkir Artzi* in any manner before the commencement of *Veidah Artzit*, subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson.
- (3) In general proxy voting should be discouraged as voting on issues under consideration at *Veidah Artzit* should be given full and proper consideration, including the discussion preceding voting at *Veidah Artzit*.

40 Election by Proxy

- (1) Any person who is eligible to be elected an Officer of Bnei Akiva, may be elected to that office even in the excusable event of their absence from *Veidah Artzit*.
- (2) To be considered for the office by the *Veidah Artzit*, such a candidate must submit a written indication of candidacy to the *Mazkir Artzi*, in any manner, before the commencement of *Veidah Artzit*, subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson.

41 Business

- (1) (Amended 04/07/2016) Business at a summer General Meeting, shall include only –
 - (a) the receipt from the *Mazkir Artzi* of an annual report subject to section 39.
 - (b) the receipt from the *Gizbar Artzi* of a report regarding finances subject to section 39.
 - (c) the receipt from each of the *Roshei Snif* of a report regarding developments in and the position of their respective *Sniffim* since the receipt of the previous report,
 - (d) the receipt from the *Shlichim* of an annual report subject to section 39.

- (e) the election of Officers for the ensuing year, excluding *Roshei Machane*,
 - (f) the election of the *Posek*, and *Yoetzet Halacha* if applicable,
 - (g) decisions on any resolutions which may have been submitted to the *Veidah Artzit* and –
 - (h) any other business subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson.
- (2) (*Amended 04/07/2016*) Business at a winter General Meeting, shall include only –
- (a) the election of *Roshei Machane* for the ensuing year,
 - (b) decisions on any resolutions which may have been submitted to the *Veidah Artzit* and –
 - (c) any other business subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson.
- (3) Business at any Extraordinary General Meeting, shall include only decisions on any resolutions which may have been submitted to the *Veidah Artzit*, subject to the final discretion of the Chairperson.
- (4) Unless constitutionally mandated otherwise, all business at any *Veidah Artzit* shall be passed by simple vote.

42 Officer's Reports at Summer General Meeting (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

- (1) The report from the *Mazkir Artzi* shall include but shall not be limited to –
- (a) the general position of the *Tnua*,
 - (b) the national *Tnua*'s presence in Wellington and Auckland, as well as other smaller communities such as Hamilton, Christchurch and Nelson,
 - (c) the previous two *Machanot*,
 - (d) the movement's international standing, including *Shnat*, relations with Federal Bnei Akiva and the AZYC, and relations with Bnei Akiva Olami, and –
 - (e) recommendations and direction that the *Tnua* might benefit from and implement in ensuing years.
- (2) The report from the *Gizbar Artzi* shall include but shall not be limited to –
- (a) a report of the general financial position of the movement,
 - (b) a financial report of the previous two *Machanot*,
 - (c) a report on the status of trusts, grants and other donors,
 - (d) intended resource allocation for any future projects.
- (3) The report from the *Roshei Snif* shall include but shall not be limited to –
- (a) a report on the development and position of their *sniffim*, including *chanich* participation,
 - (b) a report of major events that their *snif* has organized or been involved in,
 - (c) a report on the content and effectiveness of the *Chinuch* over the past year,
 - (d) a report on the co-operation and effectiveness of their respective *Madrich* body,
 - (e) a report on relations with their respective communities,
 - (f) recommendations and direction that the *Tnua* might benefit from and implement in ensuing years.

- (4) The report from the *Shlichim* may be a compilation of reports written by individual *Shlichim* or may be a single report written by one or more *Shlichim* and agreed to by all *Shlichim*.
- (5) The report from the *Shlichim* shall include but shall not be limited to –
 - (a) a report of their involvement with Bnei Akiva New Zealand, both the national *Tnua* and the individual *Sniffim*,
 - (b) a report on the content and effectiveness of the *Chinuch* over the past year,
 - (c) a report on the co-operation and effectiveness of the *Madrich* body,
 - (d) a report on relations with the communities and organisations with which Bnei Akiva New Zealand has interactions, particularly with parents in the communities,
 - (e) recommendations and direction that the *Tnua* might benefit from and implement in ensuing years.

43 Written Report in Event of Apology

(Amended 30/1/2005) Officers of the *Mazkirut Artzit* must present a written report to be read aloud by the Chairperson at the Annual General Meeting if giving apologies to the *Veidah Artzit*.

44 Minutes

Minutes must be taken and typed and made available to all *Madrichim* and Members of the *Mazkirut Artzit*, whether they were present at *Veidah Artzit* or not.

45 Dissolution

Each *Veidah Artzit* ends with the singing of *Yad Achim* and *Hatikva*.

Subpart 2

Mazkirut Artzit

46 Officers

- (1) The *Mazkirut Artzit* shall consist of –
 - (a) the *Mazkir Artzi* who shall be the President of the *Mazkirut Artzit*,
 - (b) the *Roshei Snif* from the respective *Sniffim*,
 - (c) the *Gizbar Artzi*
 - (d) All *Shlichim*
- (2) No *Shlichim* shall have the power to vote on any decisions made by the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (3) The *Mazkirut Artzit* shall consist of four (4) persons excluding the *Shlichim*.

47 Election of Officers

- (1) The *Mazkir Artzi* and *Gizbar Artzi* shall be elected by the *Veidah Artzit* from its voting members.
- (2) The *Roshei Snif* shall be elected by their respective *Sniffim*.
- (3) *Shlichim* shall be appointed by the *Mazkir Artzi*.
- (4) Election of Officers of the *Mazkirut Artzit* shall take place by vote.

48 Appointment of Interim Replacements

In the situation where an Officer of the *Mazkirut Artzit* becomes unable to fulfil their role, the remaining Officers of the *Mazkirut Artzit* shall communicate and appoint a suitable temporary replacement until such time as a new Officer can be elected.

Subpart 3

Sniffim

49 Location

There shall be two *Sniffim*, one based in Auckland and the other based in Wellington.

50 Affiliation

The *Sniffim* are affiliated to their respective Orthodox Hebrew Congregations.

51 Officers

- (1) The Officers of the *Sniffim* shall be –
 - (a) the *Rosh Snif*,
 - (b) the *Gizbar Snifi*.
- (2) The *Rosh Snif* shall be responsible to the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (3) The *Gizbar Snifi* shall be responsible to the *Madrich* Meeting of their *Snif* whose decision is final.

52 Election of Officers

Officers shall be elected by vote by the respective *Sniffim* at a *Madrich* Meeting.

53 Appointment of Interim Replacement

In the situation where an Officer of the *Snif* becomes unable to fulfil their role, the other Officer shall appoint a suitable temporary replacement until such time as a new Officer can be elected.

54 Tochniot

(Amended 30/1/2005) Both *Sniffim* should endeavour to do at least two (2) *Tochniot* every year with a focus on *Tzedakah* or social activism

55 *Madrich* Meetings

Madrich meetings shall take place at least once a month.

Part V

Finances of Bnei Akiva New Zealand

56 Division of Expenses

- (1) Expenses incurred by the *Mazkirut Artzit* shall be divided among the *Sniffim* on the basis of usage.
- (2) All items of expenditure not so divisible shall be equally divided.

57 Bank Accounts

- (1) The expenses of each *Snif* shall be paid from the Bank Account of the *Snif*. The Account is controlled by the *Gizbar Snifi*.
- (2) Additional bank accounts may be opened to establish special funds, such as those to assist with senior *Chanichim's* trips to Australian *Machanot*.
- (3) The two *Machanot* shall be funded from the National Camp Bank Account and not from *Snif* accounts.
- (4) (*Repealed 04/07/2016*)

58 Powers and Duties of the *Gizbar Artzi*

The *Gizbar Artzi* shall administer the Camp Account and shall be responsible to the *Mazkirut Artzit*. This administration includes grant applications and donation funds.

59 Borrowing Money

There shall be no power of Bnei Akiva New Zealand to borrow money.

60 Reporting at *Veidah Artzit*

The *Gizbar Artzi* Report at *Veidah* shall remain general. Consultation shall remain amongst the *Shlichim*, *Mazkir Artzi* and the *Gizbar Artzi*.

61 Prerequisites to be *Gizbar Artzi*

- (1) *Gizbar Artzi* shall require to have accounting skills.
- (2) The previous *Gizbar Artzi* should train and prepare the new *Gizbar Artzi*.

Part VI

Special Interests

Subpart 1

Machanot

62 Frequency

Machanot shall occur twice each year.

63 Location

- (1) *Machanot* shall be shared between Wellington and Auckland depending ultimately on availability of campsites and at the final discretion of the *Rosh Machane*.
- (2) *Rosh Machane*, the location, and approximate dates of *Machane* shall be decided at least one year before each *Machane*.

64 Officers

- (1) The Officers of *Machane* shall be –
 - (a) *Rosh Machane*,
 - (b) *Rosh Tochnit*, and –
 - (c) *Rosh Tziud* (formally called *Rosh Tech*).
- (2) The *Rosh Machane* shall be responsible to –
 - (a) select and communicate with the campsite,
 - (b) create the menu,
 - (c) create and distribute the brochure,
 - (d) run advertising for *Machane*,
 - (e) organise transport for *Madrachim* and *Chanichim* to and from *Machane*,
 - (f) create the budget for *Machane*, and –
 - (g) generally facilitate and administer all needs of the *Machane*.
- (3) The *Rosh Tochnit* shall be responsible –
 - (a) for the *Chinuch* component and the theme of *Machane*, and –
 - (b) to create a *Tochnit* Brief that shall be delivered to *Madrachim* no later than two (2) months prior to *Machane*.
- (4) *Rosh Tziud* shall be responsible for the organisation, collection, creation and purchase of all *Tziud* required for *Machane*.

65 Election and Appointment of Officers

The *Rosh Machane* shall be elected by the *Veidah Artzit* and shall appoint the *Rosh Tochnit* and the *Rosh Tziud*.

66 Matters for the consideration of the *Rosh Machane*

Before the winter *Machane* preceding their own, *Rosh Machane* of a winter *Machane* must decide, based on reasonable prediction, whether those *Chanichim* who will be Junior *Madrachim* during the year of their winter *Machane* should be considered *Chanichim* for that winter *Machane* or whether they should be considered *Madrachim*. This decision should be made considering the needs of *Machane* balanced by a consideration for the experience of those *Chanichim* and

their *Shevet*. This latter consideration is particularly important where considering those *Chanichim Madrichim* for Winter *Machane* will split a *Shevet*.

67 Discounts to Members of Important Affiliated Organisations (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

- (1) Bnei Akiva New Zealand recognises the value of stalwart Orthodox and Zionist organisations in our community and wishes to encourage membership in these important organisations.
- (2) Bnei Akiva New Zealand shall offer discounts from *Machane* to children whose parent or parents are members of at least one of the following organisations with which Bnei Akiva New Zealand is officially affiliated –
 - (a) Zionist Federation of New Zealand,
 - (b) The Auckland Hebrew Congregation, or –
 - (c) The Wellington Jewish Community Center.
- (3) This discount shall be in the order of 5 percent.
- (4) This discount shall not stack.
- (5) This discount should be published in the brochure for *Machane*.

68 Tochniot

Madrichim shall endeavour to complete and submit *Tochniot* no later than a month before *Machane*.

69 Madrichim Seminar

- (1) All *Madrichim* attending *Machane* shall attend a *Madrichim* Seminar before Camp.
- (2) The *Madrichim* Seminar shall be run in the city nearest to which the camp will take place, subject to the final discretion of the *Rosh Machane*.
- (3) The *Madrichim* Seminar shall take place a few days before *Machane*, subject to the final discretion of the *Rosh Machane*.
- (4) Permission for absence from the *Madrichim* Seminar is at the discretion of the *Rosh Machane*.
- (5) The National Account shall cover *Madrichim* travel costs to the Seminar.

70 Overseas Madrichim (*Amended 04/07/2016*)

All endeavours shall be made to bring at least two (2) *Madrichim* from overseas to *Machane*.

71 Leaving Campsite

No *Madrichim* or *Chanichim* are allowed to leave the campsite without express permission from the *Rosh Machane*.

72 Exemption from Machane

A *Madrich* who will lose their job as a consequence of attending *Machane* may be excused from attending *Machane* at the discretion of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.

73 Letters of Recommendation

(Amended 6/2/2004) *Roshei Machane* shall endeavour to get a letter of recommendation from the caretakers of successful campsites.

74 Rosh Machane Seminar (Amended 04/07/2016)

- (1) As soon as practicable following *Winter Machane*, a *Rosh Machane* Seminar shall be held.
- (2) The *Rosh Machane* Seminar shall be a training seminar run by previous *Roshei Machane* which shall take the prospective *Roshei Machane* chronologically through a *Rosh Machane's* responsibilities – from the initial planning stages through to the post camp phase. It shall outline necessary tasks and possible methods for achieving the best possible results.
- (3) The *Rosh Machane* Seminar shall be a means of increasing collaboration, innovation and transparency amongst the future *Roshei Machane* of the movement. It shall dispel some of the mystique and misinformation surrounding the role of *Rosh Machane*, and shall give the opportunity for novel methods to be discussed and considered so as to prevent the movement from stagnating.
- (4) Unless justifiably absent, the three future *Roshei Machane* shall attend the *Rosh Machane* Seminar.
- (5) It shall be the responsibility of the *Mazkir Artzi* to organise the *Rosh Machane* Seminar.

Subpart 2 Israel Candidates

75 Candidacy

The final decision as to whether a candidate goes to Israel as a representative of Bnei Akiva New Zealand is that of the *Veidah Artzit* or a group appointed by them.

76 Interview

- (1) Prior to the decision, candidates must have an interview with the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (2) This interview shall be given with a *Shaliach* and another member of the *Mazkirut Artzit*.
- (3) Israel Candidates may also be asked to give an interview with the New Zealand Zionist Federation or any other organisation that donates funds to their trips.

77 Bond

- (1) All successful candidates shall sign a Bnei Akiva New Zealand bond.

- (2) In doing so, they declare their full intention and understanding that they will serve Bnei Akiva New Zealand appropriately for at least two years following their programme in Israel.
- (3) The bond applies whether the candidate participates in a Bnei Akiva Programme, a programme sponsored by Bnei Akiva or a programme approved by Bnei Akiva.
- (4) Candidates should show some dedication to Bnei Akiva and the Ideology and a willingness to set an appropriate *Dugmah*.

Part VII

Disposition of Bnei Akiva

78 Winding up

In the unlikely event that Bnei Akiva New Zealand is put into liquidation (voluntary or otherwise), Bnei Akiva New Zealand may be wound if –

- (a) the *Veidah Artzit* passes a resolution requiring Bnei Akiva New Zealand to be wound, and –
- (b) this resolution is confirmed at a subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting called for that specific purpose, which shall be at least 30 days apart.

79 Division of Assets

- (1) Upon winding up, after the payment of all liabilities, any assets shall be the property of the Auckland or Wellington Orthodox Hebrew Congregations.
- (2) The property shall be divided in accordance with the number of Members of Bnei Akiva New Zealand who are residents of each city at the date of the resolution to dissolve. Residents of the South Island and all residents of the North Island south of Taupo, shall be considered residents of Wellington and all residents of the North Island north of Taupo, including Taupo, shall be considered members of Auckland.
- (3) Upon dissolution no payment in money, or distribution of assets, or any other benefits whatsoever shall be paid, applied, or distribution to any Member or Members of Bnei Akiva New Zealand, past or present, for the personal benefit of such Member or Members.

Schedule 2: Standards of *Tzniut*

Tzniut is one of Judaism's base of core values and as such central to Bnei Akiva New Zealand's world view. Deeper and more encompassing than legal precepts, Tzniut is about a way of life. It is a personal virtue that should pervade the outlook of every Jew. Tzniut is about modesty and humility as expressed in our personal interactions, speech and even thoughts.

Due to its all-encompassing nature, Bnei Akiva New Zealand is hesitant to draw specific attention to standards of dress as this has often been seen as the entirety of Tzniut. However,

whilst stressing that there is more to Tzniut than what we wear, Bnei Akiva New Zealand also feels that it is important to set clear standards of dress to bring clarity to this issue of particular interest. This Schedule constitutes an amendment to the Constitution and is a guide for what standards of dress are appropriate for the Tnua environment.

Although the Halacha is immutable, it is also flexible – its standards are applied differently to every age and locale, fitting the contours and the needs of that community in its context. These standards have been put together with the advice of local Rabbinic authorities and are particular to the needs of Bnei Akiva New Zealand. Members should not be surprised that standards may be different in other communities where the Halacha responds differently to different circumstances.

(1) Application

This Schedule shall apply to both men and women and shall be in force under all circumstances when men and women are mixed. At times when men and women are separate – like when swimming – these standards shall not apply.

(2) Neckline

The collar bone should serve as a guide for the neckline. Necklines should not be considerably lower than the collar bone. As such, low cut shirts or dresses are not acceptable and something else must be worn underneath if they are to be worn.

(3) Shoulders

The shoulders should be covered at all times. As such singlets shall not be acceptable for either men or women. Sleeves should reach no higher than a standard T-shirt sleeve length, that is approximately half way down the bicep.

(4) Torso

The entire torso should remain covered at all times. As such, shirts that are cut or ride up so as to expose the midriff are not acceptable.

(5) Thighs

From the waist to below the knee should be covered at all times for both men and women. Particular care should be taken regarding shorts and skirts that they should cover the knee. As such, short-shorts and stubbies and any other shorts that do not cover the knee are not acceptable.

(6) Fit of the Clothing

Even when clothing covers the right areas of the body, *Tzniut* may be compromised if that clothing is very tight fitting. As such clothes should be baggy enough so that form of the chest and thighs are somewhat obscured. Skinny jeans, leggings and pencil skirts are not acceptable without some other covering over the top.

(7) Clothing Specific to Men and Women

Both *Madrichot* and *Chanichot* shall be permitted to wear appropriate pants.

(8) Clothing Appropriate for Schule

- a. When entering a Schule, particularly for Davening, the seriousness of the occasion should be reflected in our comportment and dress. As such all Members should ensure that clothing worn for Schule is of a very respectable standard. Shorts should not be worn for Davening.
- b. These standards should be strictly adhered to for *Shacharit*. Some lenience may be made for *Mincha* and *Ma'ariv* under pressured situations as time may not allow a change of clothing.

(9) Clothing Appropriate for Shabbat

Shabbat is a day of elevated sanctity and Jews are obligated to honour it in the way that we dress. As such at any Bnei Akiva New Zealand event that occurs on Shabbat or on Shabbat on *Machane*, *Chanichim* shall be expected to wear nice, clean, respectable clothing which is more formal than clothes worn during the week. This includes men wearing nice and appropriate trousers and women wearing nice and appropriate dresses or skirts.

(10) Enforcement

- a. Discretion shall be afforded to the *Madrichim* in enforcing these standards of dress. *Chanichim* should not be denied participation to an activity or event on the basis of dress alone.
- b. On *Machane*, where it is more reasonable to expect a change of clothing, *Chanichim* should be asked to change if their dress falls significantly short of this standard.
- c. When dealing with failure to comply with dress standards, it should always be preferable that *Madrichim* deal with *Chanichim* and *Madrichot* deal with *Chanichot*.

This constitution was verified, approved and passed at *Veidah Artzit* held in room #13 of St Andrew's Lodge, Blenheim, New Zealand on Thursday 10th July 1997 which was the 10th of the month of *Tammuz* 5757, by the following delegates:

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Sarah Lawrence
Michael Lawrence
Sharon Paris

Jonathan Pitt
Shimon Phillips
Hannah Sedley
Bianca Paull
Josh Bolot
Aron Dresden
Adam Brami
Kimberly Alford
Josh Gluckman
David Max

Non-Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Roniel Lavi (*Auckland Shaliach*)
Katie Gluckman (*Rosh Tziud of Machane*)

Absent Delegates (Voting Rights but were not at *Veidah Artzit* to exercise those rights):

Jared Alford (*Merekez Artzit*)