CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE ANTIENT FRATERNITY OF

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

UNDER THE

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

CONTAINING THE GENERAL CHARGES
LAWS AND REGULATIONS
ETC., ETC.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE UNITED GRAND LODGE

LONDON
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2026

The following are the principal editions of the Book of Constitutions to have been published since the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England:

1815	1858	1896	1940	1984	2007	2025
1819	1861	1901	1947	1989	2009	
1827	1863	1911	1955	1995	2012	
1841	1867	1917	1960	1999	2014	
1847	1871	1919	1965	2001	2016	
1853	1873	1922	1970	2003	2019	
1855	1884	1926	1979	2005	2023	

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RECORD OF AMENDMENTS TO
THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS 2026

Change No.	Date approved by Grand Lodge	Date of Insertion

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Supreme Grand Chapter

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UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

THE GRAND LODGE

having approved of this Revised Edition of the Book of Constitutions, the Board of General Purposes has accordingly superintended its publication.



GRAND SECRETARY

Freemasons' Hall, London

Summary of the

Antient Charges and Regulations

to be read by the Secretary (or acting Secretary),

to the Master Elect, *prior to his*

Installation into the Chair of a Lodge

1. You agree to be a good Man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.

2. You are to be a peaceable Subject, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.

3. You promise not to be concerned in plots or Conspiracies against Government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the Supreme Legislature.

4. You agree to pay a proper respect to the Civil Magistrate, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honourably by all Men.

5. You agree to hold in veneration the original Rulers and Patrons of the Order of Free-Masonry, and their regular Successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their Stations; and to submit to the Awards and Resolutions of your Brethren in general Lodge convened, in every case consistent with the Constitutions of the Order.

6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels and to guard against intemperance and excess.

7. You agree to be cautious in your carriage and behaviour, courteous to your Brethren, and faithful to your Lodge.

8. You promise to respect genuine and true Brethren, and to discountenance Impostors and all Dissenters from the original Plan of Free-Masonry.

9. You agree to promote the general good of Society, to cultivate the Social Virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the Mystic Art as far as your influence and ability can extend.

10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his Officers when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every Edict of the Grand Lodge.

11. You admit that it is not in the power of any Man or Body of Men to make any Alteration or Innovation in the Body of Masonry without the consent first obtained of the Grand Lodge.

12. You promise a regular attendance on the Communications and Committees of the Grand Lodge, upon receiving proper notice thereof, and to pay attention to all the duties of Free-Masonry upon proper and convenient occasions.

13. You admit that no new Lodge can be formed without permission of the Grand Master or his Deputy, and that no countenance ought to be given to any irregular Lodge, or to any person initiated therein; and that no public processions of Masons clothed with the Badges of the Order can take place without the special Licence of the Grand Master or his Deputy.

14. You admit that no person can regularly be made a Free-Mason or admitted a Member of any Lodge without previous notice and

due inquiry into his character; and that no Brother can be advanced to a higher Degree except in strict conformity with the Laws of the Grand Lodge.

15. You promise that no Visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and producing proper Vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge.

At the conclusion the Installing Officer addresses the Master Elect as follows: 'Do you submit to and promise to support these Charges and Regulations as Masters have done in all ages?' *Upon his answering in the affirmative the Ceremony of Installation proceeds.*

AIMS AND RELATIONSHIPS OF THE CRAFT

Accepted by the Grand Lodge, September 7, 1949

In August, 1938, the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland each agreed upon and issued a statement identical in terms except that the name of the issuing Grand Lodge appeared throughout. This statement, which was entitled 'Aims and Relationships of the Craft', was in the following terms:

1. From time to time the United Grand Lodge of England has deemed it desirable to set forth in precise form the aims of Freemasonry as consistently practised under its Jurisdiction since it came into being as an organized body in 1717, and also to define the principles governing its relations with those other Grand Lodges with which it is in fraternal accord.

2. In view of representations which have been received, and of statements recently issued which have distorted or obscured the true objects of Freemasonry, it is once again considered necessary to emphasize certain fundamental principles of the Order.

3. The first condition of admission into, and membership of, the Order is a belief in the Supreme Being. This is essential and admits of no compromise.

4. The Bible, referred to by Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law, is always open in the Lodges. Every Candidate is required to take his Obligation on that book or on the Volume which is held by his particular creed to impart sanctity to an oath or promise taken upon it.

5. Everyone who enters Freemasonry is, at the outset, strictly forbidden to countenance any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; he must pay due obedience to the law of any state in which he resides or which may

afford him protection, and he must never be remiss in the allegiance due to the Sovereign of his native land.

6. While English Freemasonry thus inculcates in each of its members the duties of loyalty and citizenship, it reserves to the individual the right to hold his own opinion with regard to public affairs. But neither in any Lodge, not at any time in his capacity as a Freemason, is he permitted to discuss or to advance his views on theological or political questions.

7. The Grand Lodge has always consistently refused to express any opinion on questions of foreign or domestic state policy either at home or abroad, and it will not allow its name to be associated with any action, however humanitarian it may appear to be, which infringes its unalterable policy of standing aloof from every question affecting the relations between one government and another, or between political parties, or questions as to rival theories of government.

8. The Grand Lodge is aware that there do exist Bodies, styling themselves Freemasons, which do not adhere to these principles, and while that attitude exists the Grand Lodge of England refuses absolutely to have any relations with such Bodies, or to regard them as Freemasons.

9. The Grand Lodge of England is a Sovereign and independent Body practising Freemasonry only within the three Degrees and only within the limits defined in its Constitution as 'pure Antient Masonry'. It does not recognize or admit the existence of any superior Masonic authority, however styled.

10. On more than one occasion the Grand Lodge has refused, and will continue to refuse, to participate in Conferences with so called International Associations claiming to represent Freemasonry,

which admit to membership Bodies failing to conform strictly to the principles upon which the Grand Lodge of England is founded. The Grand Lodge does not admit any such claim, nor can its views be represented by any such Association.

11. There is no secret with regard to any of the basic principles of Freemasonry, some of which have been stated above. The Grand Lodge will always consider the recognition of those Grand Lodges which profess and practise, and can show that they have consistently professed and practised, those established and unaltered principles, but in no circumstances will it enter into discussion with a view to any new or varied interpretation of them. They must be accepted and practised wholeheartedly and in their entirety by those who desire to be recognized as Freemasons by the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Grand Lodge of England has been asked if it still stands by this declaration, particularly in regard to paragraph 7. The Grand Lodge of England replied that it stood by every word of the declaration, and has since asked for the opinion of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland. A conference has been held between the three Grand Lodges, and all unhesitatingly reaffirm the statement that was pronounced in 1938: nothing in present-day affairs has been found that could cause them to recede from that attitude.

If Freemasonry once deviated from its course by expressing an opinion on political or theological questions, it would be called upon not only publicly to approve or denounce any movement which might arise in the future, but would sow the seeds of discord among its own members.

The three Grand Lodges are convinced that it is only by this rigid adherence to this policy that Freemasonry has survived the constantly

changing doctrines of the outside world, and are compelled to place on record their complete disapproval of any action which may tend to permit the slightest departure from the basic principles of Freemasonry. They are strongly of opinion that if any of the three Grand Lodges does so, it cannot maintain a claim to be following the Antient Landmarks of the Order, and must ultimately face disintegration.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION

Accepted by the Grand Lodge, September 4, 1929

The M.W. The Grand Master having expressed a desire that the Board would draw up a statement of the Basic Principles on which this Grand Lodge could be invited to recognize any Grand Lodge applying for recognition by the English Jurisdiction, the Board of General Purposes has gladly complied. The result, as follows, has been approved by the Grand Master and it will form the basis of a questionnaire to be forwarded in future to each Jurisdiction requesting English recognition. The Board desires that not only such bodies but the Brethren generally throughout the Grand Master's Jurisdiction shall be fully informed as to those Basic Principles of Freemasonry for which the Grand Lodge of England has stood throughout its history

1. Regularity of origin; i.e. each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges.

2. That a belief in the G.A.O.T.U. and His revealed will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

3. That all Initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated.

4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of those who were made Masons as men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic association of any kind with bodies which make women Masons.*

5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; i.e. that it shall be a responsible, independent,

self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) within its Jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to, or divide such authority with, a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely, the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work, the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

7. That the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.

8. That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

** Amended wording of paragraph 4 adopted 12 September 2018.*

GENERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE CRAFT

Preliminary Declaration

By the solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free-Masons of England in December 1813, it was 'declared and pronounced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'.

PRELIMINARY

Headings

1. The headings are for convenience of reference only, and are not to affect the construction of these Laws and Regulations nor to form any part thereof.

THE GRAND LODGE

The Grand Lodge

2. The interests of the Fraternity are managed by a general representation of all private Lodges on the Register, the Grand Stewards for the year and the Grand Officers, present and past, with the Grand Master at their head. This collective body is styled THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND, and is hereinafter referred to as 'The Grand Lodge'.

General powers of all substituted authorities

3. Every Brother who shall, in accordance with the laws and procedure of Masonry, preside or act in the Grand Lodge, or in any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, or in any private Lodge, or on any Board or Committee for, or in the place of, any Officer or Brother who may be absent, shall, while so presiding or

acting, have all the rights, powers, and duties of the Officer or Brother whose substitute he shall be or in whose place he shall act; he shall enforce all rules and regulations, and his acts shall have the same validity in all respects as those of such Officer or Brother, unless the contrary is expressly provided for in these laws and regulations.

Powers of the Grand Lodge

4. The Grand Lodge possesses the supreme superintending authority, and alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the antient Landmarks of the Order be preserved.

The Grand Lodge has also the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft, or to particular Lodges, or to individual Brothers, which power it may exercise either of itself or by such delegated authority as in its wisdom and discretion it may appoint. The Grand Lodge, while retaining authority to expel a Brother or to erase a Lodge, delegates its judicial and disciplinary authority to Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, the Board of General Purposes and Appeals Courts as hereinafter provided.

Rank and precedence of members

5. The members of the Grand Lodge rank in the following order:

1. The Grand Master.
2. The Pro Grand Master.
3. Past Grand Masters.
4. Past Pro Grand Masters.
5. Deputy Grand Master.
6. Past Deputy Grand Masters.
7. Assistant Grand Masters.
8. Past Assistant Grand Masters.
9. Metropolitan Grand Masters.

10. Past Metropolitan Grand Masters.
11. Provincial and District Grand Masters.
12. Past Provincial and District Grand Masters.
13. Senior Grand Warden.
14. Past Senior Grand Wardens.
15. Junior Grand Warden.
16. Past Junior Grand Wardens.
17. President of the Board of General Purposes.
18. Past Presidents of the Board of General Purposes.
19. Grand Chaplain.
20. Past Grand Chaplains.
21. Grand Registrar.
22. Past Grand Registrars.
23. Grand Secretary.
24. Past Grand Secretaries.
25. Grand Chancellor.
26. Past Grand Chancellors.
27. President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
28. Past Presidents of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
29. Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes.
30. Past Deputy Presidents of the Board of General Purposes.
31. Deputy President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
32. Past Deputy Presidents of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
33. Past Presidents of the Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Masonic Samaritan Fund.
34. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
35. Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
36. Grand Sword Bearer.
37. Past Grand Sword Bearers.
38. Grand Superintendent of Works.
39. Past Grand Superintendents of Works.
40. Grand Inspectors.

41. Past Grand Inspectors.
42. Grand Treasurer.
43. Past Grand Treasurers.
44. Deputy Grand Chaplain.
45. Past Deputy Grand Chaplains.
46. Deputy Grand Registrar.
47. Past Deputy Grand Registrars.
48. Deputy Grand Secretaries.
49. Past Deputy Grand Secretaries.
50. Deputy Grand Chancellor.
51. Past Deputy Grand Chancellors.
52. Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
53. Past Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
54. Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.
55. Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearers.
56. Deputy Grand Superintendents of Works.
57. Past Deputy Grand Superintendents of Works.
58. Deputy Grand Treasurer.

58a. Past Deputy Grand Treasurers.

59. Past Grand Orators.
60. Senior Grand Deacons.
61. Past Senior Grand Deacons.
62. Junior Grand Deacons.
63. Past Junior Grand Deacons.
64. Assistant Grand Chaplains.
65. Past Assistant Grand Chaplains.
66. Assistant Grand Registrars.
67. Past Assistant Grand Registrars.
68. Assistant Grand Secretaries.
69. Past Assistant Grand Secretaries.
70. Assistant Grand Chancellors.
71. Past Assistant Grand Chancellors.
72. Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.

73. Past Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
74. Assistant Grand Sword Bearers.
75. Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearers.
76. Assistant Grand Superintendents of Works.
77. Past Assistant Grand Superintendents of Works.
78. Grand Organist.
79. Past Grand Organists.
80. Grand Standard Bearers.
81. Past Grand Standard Bearers.
82. Assistant Grand Standard Bearers.
83. Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearers.
84. Deputy Grand Organist.
85. Past Deputy Grand Organists.
86. Grand Pursuivant.
87. Past Grand Pursuivants.
88. Assistant Grand Pursuivants.
89. Past Assistant Grand Pursuivants.
90. The Grand Stewards for the year.
91. Grand Tyler.
92. Past Grand Tylers.
93. Such Past Grand Stewards as are Masters or Past Masters qualified under Rule 9 of private Lodges.
94. The Master, Past Masters qualified under Rule 9, and Wardens of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and of every other private Lodge

Two or more members of the Grand Lodge holding or having held identical rank therein shall as between themselves rank according to the order in which they were appointed to that rank.

Members of the Grand Lodge who at 1st August 1999 held the rank of Past Grand Treasurer shall continue to take precedence immediately after Past Junior Grand Deacons.

Titles, prefixes, and abbreviations

6. The prefixes to be accorded to and used by Brethren are as follows:

Most Worshipful (M.W.):
The Grand Master and Pro Grand Master, and Past Grand Masters and Past Pro Grand Masters.

Right Worshipful (R.W.):
Present and Past Deputy Grand Masters, Assistant Grand Masters, Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, Pro Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, Grand Wardens and Presidents of the Board of General Purposes.

Very Worshipful (V.W.):
Present and Past Grand Chaplains, Grand Registrars, Grand Secretaries, Grand Chancellors, Presidents of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Deputy Presidents of the Board of General Purposes, Deputy Presidents of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Presidents of the Grand Charity, Presidents of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, Presidents of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Presidents of the Masonic Samaritan Fund, Grand Directors of Ceremonies, Grand Sword Bearers, Grand Superintendents of Works, and Grand Inspectors.

Worshipful (W):
Other Grand Officers, present and past, and Masters of Lodges, present and past. All other Brethren shall have the style of "Brother" only.

Salutes

The Salutes when given shall be as follows:

M.W. Brethren, eleven; the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, present and past, nine; other R.W. Brethren, seven; V.W. Brethren, five; other Grand Officers, present and past, three.

Within their own Metropolitan areas, present Deputy and Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters and Metropolitan Grand Inspectors five,* and holders of Metropolitan Grand Ranks (together with Metropolitan Grand Stewards, present and past) and Metropolitan Rank, three.

Within their own Provinces and Districts, present Deputy and Assistant Provincial and District Grand Masters, five,* and other Provincial and District Grand Officers, present and past, three; and, in Lodges abroad not under Districts, holders of Overseas Grand Ranks and Overseas Rank, three.

Additional members may be appointed

7. Brethren of eminence and ability, members of recognised Constitutions, who have rendered service to Freemasonry may, by appointment of the Grand Master, be constituted members of the Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as he may think proper.

Representatives

8. The Grand Master may, by warrant, appoint any Brother to represent him in a recognised Grand Lodge, and may constitute him and also any Brother regularly deputed from a recognised Grand Lodge, a member of the Grand Lodge, with such rank as the Grand Master may deem appropriate.

* The past holders of such offices shall be given five, if they have for at least two years served as such in the particular Metropolitan Area, Province or District, or for that period partly in one such office and partly in the other.

Qualification of Past Masters

9. Every Brother regularly elected and installed as Master of a Lodge under the Grand Lodge, who has filled that office for a year in accordance with Rule 105, shall, so long as he continues a subscribing member of any Lodge under the Grand Lodge be a member of the Grand Lodge, but, when he is no longer a subscribing member of any Lodge under the Grand Lodge, he shall cease to be a member of the Grand Lodge.

If he has resigned from his Lodge in good standing he will on becoming a subscribing member of the same or another Lodge under the Grand Lodge again become a member of the Grand Lodge, but, if he has been excluded or has resigned without having paid his subscriptions, he cannot become a member of the Grand Lodge as a Past Master until he has again duly served the office of Master.

Visitors to the Grand Lodge

10. A visiting Brother can only attend the Grand Lodge by permission of the Grand Master, and if admitted he shall not speak to any question without leave of the Grand Master; nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.

Regular Meetings

11. Four Grand Lodges shall be holden for Quarterly Communication each year, namely, on the second Wednesday in the months of March, June, September and December. These meetings shall be holden in London, but the Grand Master may order that one of these meetings shall be holden in such other place as he shall determine.

Grand Festival

12. There shall be a Grand Festival annually, on the Wednesday next following St. George's Day, to which all regular Masons who

shall provide themselves with tickets from the Grand Stewards for the year shall be admitted.

Especial Meetings

13. The Grand Master, or failing him the Pro Grand Master, or failing him the Deputy Grand Master, or failing him an Assistant Grand Master, or failing an Assistant Grand Master, the two Grand Wardens may summon Especial Grand Lodges whenever the good of the Craft shall, in their opinion, require it. The particular reason for convening such Especial Grand Lodge shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.

Nomination, election and installation of Grand Master

14. The Grand Master shall, according to antient usage, be nominated at the Grand Lodge in December in every year, and at the ensuing Grand Lodge in March the election shall take place. The Grand Master, so elected, shall be installed on the day of the Grand Festival, or, in the case of his first election, either on that day or some other day to be selected by him.

Should the Grand Master die or resign, the Pro Grand Master, or failing him the Deputy Grand Master, or failing him an Assistant Grand Master, or failing him the Grand Wardens, shall, as soon as may be practicable, summon the Grand Lodge 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 shall exercise the powers and prerogatives of the office.

Vacancy in office of Grand Master

During the vacancy in the Grand Mastership, the Pro Grand Master shall act as Grand Master until a new Grand Master is elected. If there be no Pro Grand Master then the Deputy Grand Master and, if there be no Deputy Grand Master, then an Assistant Grand Master, shall act.

Abuse of power by Grand Master

15. **(a)** If the Grand Master should abuse his power and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto, the Antient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that in the event of national emergency, pandemic, war, general strike or similar event the Grand Master has, inherent in his office, the power, if he be of the view that the existence or wellbeing of the Craft is thereby placed under threat

(i) to suspend meetings of Lodges for such period or periods, and to introduce such emergency measures to regulate Lodges and individual Brethren, as to him shall seem fit;

(ii) to authorise District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors similarly to suspend meetings of Lodges under their jurisdiction.

Pro Grand Master

16. The Grand Master, if a Prince of the Blood Royal, or the son of a Prince of the Blood Royal, may appoint a Pro Grand Master.

Communications to the Grand Master

17. No communication on any Masonic matter shall be made to the Grand Master, except through the Grand Secretary.

Appointment of Grand Officers

18. Upon the annual installation of the Grand Master he shall appoint the following Grand Officers, who are thereupon to be installed or invested in antient form:

Pro Grand Master (subject to Rule 16).
Deputy Grand Master.

Assistant Grand Master or Masters.
Senior Grand Warden.
Junior Grand Warden.
President of the Board of General Purposes.
Grand Chaplain.
Grand Registrar.
Grand Secretary.
Grand Chancellor.
President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes.
Deputy President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.
Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Grand Sword Bearer.
Grand Superintendent of Works.
Grand Treasurer.
Deputy Grand Chaplain.
Deputy Grand Registrar.
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.
Two Deputy Grand Superintendents of Works.
Four Senior Grand Deacons.
Four Junior Grand Deacons.
Two Assistant Grand Chaplains.
Two Assistant Grand Registrars.
Eight Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
Two Assistant Grand Sword Bearers.
Two Assistant Grand Superintendents of Works.
Grand Organist.
Two Grand Standard Bearers.
Four Assistant Grand Standard Bearers.
Deputy Grand Organist.
Grand Pursuivant.
Three Assistant Grand Pursuivants.
Nineteen Grand Stewards.

He may also appoint not more than two Deputy Grand Secretaries, a Deputy Grand Chancellor, a Deputy Grand Treasurer, not more than two Assistant Grand Secretaries and not more than two Assistant Grand Chancellors.

Casual vacancies among the Grand Officers may be filled by the Grand Master.

Note. Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, Pro Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors, though not subject to annual reappointment, are by virtue of their offices Grand Officers. They become Past Grand Officers upon relinquishing their appointments and take precedence in accordance with Rule 5.

Appointment to Past Rank

19. The Grand Master is empowered to confer the rank of a Past Grand Officer on any Brother of ability who is a member of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 9.

The Grand Master is also empowered to confer on Brethren, who have rendered special service to the Craft, a distinction to be known as The Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry.

Rules 20 and 21 were deleted in toto *in June 1999*

Appointment of Grand Secretary

22. The Grand Secretary shall be appointed by the Grand Master as a vacancy occurs, and thereafter annually at the annual installation of the Grand Master.

Appointment of Grand Tyler

23. The Grand Tyler shall be an Installed Master. He shall be appointed by the Grand Master as a vacancy occurs, and shall continue in office during the pleasure of the Grand Master.

Removal of Grand Officers

24. Should the Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his Grand Officers, who are annually appointed, he may displace such Grand Officer and deprive him of his rank and privileges. The Grand Master has power in a like case to deprive a Past Grand Officer of his rank and privileges. No such action, however, shall in either case be taken by the Grand Master without the approval of the Grand Lodge, unless within the twelve months preceding such action the Brother concerned shall have been subjected by Masonic authority to the penalty of admonition or suspension.

No Brother to hold more than one office

25. No Brother shall hold more than one office in the Grand Lodge at one and the same time, but this provision is not to prevent the holder of the office of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Grand Steward from holding one other office in addition thereto.

Deputy Grand Master

26. The Deputy Grand Master, in the absence of the Grand Master and Pro Grand Master, shall possess all the powers and privileges of the Grand Master.

Assistant Grand Masters

27. The Assistant Grand Master, in the absence of the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master, shall possess all the powers and privileges of the Grand Master. If there be more than one Assistant Grand Master, they shall act in the order of seniority.

Grand Wardens in Grand Lodge

28. When the Grand Wardens are in the Grand Lodge no others can supply their places, but, if a Grand Warden be absent, the Grand

Master or other presiding Officer may direct any Grand Officer or other member of the Grand Lodge to act as Grand Warden for that occasion.

Grand Wardens to attend Grand Master

29. The Grand Wardens, whenever commanded, are to attend the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or an Assistant Grand Master, and, while he presides in any Lodge, are to act there as his Wardens if so commanded.

Grand Chaplains

30. The Grand Chaplains shall attend the Quarterly Communications and other meetings of the Grand Lodge, and there offer up solemn prayer, suitable to the occasion, as established by the usage of the Fraternity.

Duties of Grand Registrar

31. The Grand Registrar is the adviser of the Grand Lodge. He shall have the custody of the seals of the Grand Lodge, and shall affix, or may authorise the Grand Secretary to affix, the same to all patents, warrants, certificates, and other documents issued by the authority of the Grand Lodge, as well as to such as the Grand Master, in conformity with the established laws and regulations of the Craft, may direct.

Duties of Grand Secretary

32. The Grand Secretary shall issue summonses for meetings of the Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes and its Committees, and attend and take minutes of their proceedings, receive the returns of the several Lodges and enter them in the books of the Grand Lodge, receive the fees and contributions payable by Lodges or Brethren to the Fund of General Purposes and other Funds, and pay or cause the same to be paid to the appropriate banking accounts. He shall transmit to the proper quarters the reports of the proceedings of the Quarterly Communications, and all other documents which may be ordered to

be transmitted, and lay them before the proper authority. He shall attend the Grand Master, and take to him any books and papers he may direct, and generally do all such things as heretofore have been done or ought to be done by a Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary's Clerks

33. The clerks on the Grand Secretary's staff must be Master Masons.

(Suspended by Grand Lodge until further directed, 7th September 1949.)

Grand Director of Ceremonies

34. The Grand Director of Ceremonies shall have the arrangement and direction of all processions and ceremonies of the Grand Lodge, and shall have charge of the regalia, clothing, insignia and jewels belonging to the Grand Lodge.

Grand Superintendent of Works

35. The Grand Superintendent of Works shall advise the Board of General Purposes when required on any matter in connection with the building and works. He shall furnish reports on the state of repair of the properties of the Grand Lodge when required.

Grand Stewards

36. **(a)** Upon the annual installation of the Grand Master, he shall appoint nineteen Grand Stewards, and for this purpose one Brother shall be recommended annually to the Grand Master for appointment by each of the nineteen Lodges which enjoy the privilege of recommendation for that office. Every Brother so recommended must have been a subscribing member of the recommending Lodge for not less than five years at the time of the commencement of his Grand Stewardship and must have attained the rank of Master. The name, address, and Masonic rank of every Brother recommended shall be transmitted by his Lodge to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st

March, and should any Brother decline the office, or be incapable of discharging the duties thereof or fail to receive the approval of the Grand Master, the Lodge which recommended him, when informed of the circumstance, shall within fourteen days transmit the name, address, and Masonic rank of another Brother to supply his place. If any Lodge possessing the privilege of recommendation shall neglect to recommend a Grand Steward as required by this rule that Lodge (unless it is otherwise directed by the Grand Master) shall forfeit its privilege and the Grand Master shall nominate some other Lodge to have such privilege in future.

(b) The Grand Stewards shall rank as Grand Officers during their year of office.

(c) The duties of the Grand Stewards are to regulate the Grand Festival under the direction of the Grand Master, and to assist in the arrangements for the Quarterly Communications and other meetings of the Grand Lodge under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. They shall so regulate the Grand Festival that no expense shall fall on the Grand Lodge and no Lodge shall, under the penalty of forfeiting the privilege of recommendation, contribute towards the expense to be incurred by any Grand Steward in the discharge of his duties. Any Grand Steward who shall accept of moneys towards such expenses, or shall neglect to pay his proportion of the necessary expenses, shall forfeit all privilege or distinction acquired in consequence of his serving that office

Grand Stewards' Lodge

(d) Only those Brethren who hold or have held the office of Grand Steward shall have the privilege of becoming members of the Grand Stewards' Lodge. The Grand Stewards' Lodge, being constituted as a Master Mason's Lodge, has no power of making, passing or raising Masons.

Past Grand Stewards' places in the Grand Lodge

37. At meetings of the Grand Lodge such Past Grand Stewards as are members of the Grand Lodge, but are not Past Grand Officers, shall have set apart for them the front bench on each side in the body of the hall.

Business to be communicated to the Grand Secretary

38. Business to be brought under the consideration of the Grand Lodge, at any Quarterly Communication or other meeting thereof, shall be communicated to the Grand Secretary in writing not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes immediately preceding such Quarterly Communication or meeting.

This Rule shall not apply to any business which the Board of General Purposes shall authorise to be placed on the paper of business of any Quarterly Communication or other meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Notices of Motion

39. Any member of the Grand Lodge desiring to make a motion therein, or to submit any matter for its consideration at any Quarterly Communication, or other meeting thereof, shall give notice in writing to the Grand Secretary of the terms of such intended motion (if any) and the precise nature of the matter not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes immediately preceding such Quarterly Communication or meeting. No such motion or matter shall be dealt with in the Grand Lodge, unless such notice has been given, except by special leave of the Grand Master or Officer presiding in the Grand Lodge.

Notices of Motion for amendments of the Book of Constitutions, etc.

40. Notice of any motion which proposes to make any addition to, or alteration or amendment of, these general Laws and Regulations, or to alter or affect the general practice of the Craft, shall be delivered

to the Grand Secretary in writing not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes immediately preceding a Quarterly Communication in order that it may be printed in the paper of business for such Quarterly Communication. Any member of the Grand Lodge desiring to move an amendment to such motion shall give notice in writing to the Grand Secretary of his intention to move and of the precise terms of his proposed amendment not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes immediately preceding the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge next following. The original motion and any such proposed amendments to it shall be printed in the paper of business for that Quarterly Communication and be thereat brought under consideration and decided upon.

Board of General Purposes may reject notices of motion

41. The Board of General Purposes shall direct that any notice of motion which in its sole judgment is

(a) scandalous, frivolous, vexatious, or irregular; or

(b) an abuse of these general Laws and Regulations or of the procedure of the Grand Lodge; or

(c) not within the cognizance of the Grand Lodge; or

(d) not in the interests of the Craft

shall be omitted from the paper of business, and in such case the President is to report the same to the Grand Master with a copy of the notice. If on receiving any such notice the Grand Secretary considers that its terms are such that a direction under this Rule is likely to be given he shall, if time and circumstances make it reasonably possible to do so, arrange that at the meeting of the Board at which the matter is to be considered the member of the Grand Lodge who has given the notice may attend for the purpose of showing cause why the direction should not be given, and in every case, before giving such direction, the Board shall if reasonably possible give such member an opportunity to attend at its meeting for such purpose. When any

such notice of motion has been directed by the Board to be omitted as aforesaid, the member of the Grand Lodge who gave such notice of motion shall forthwith be informed by the Grand Secretary of such direction, and of the right of such member to submit in writing a statement on the matter for consideration by the Grand Master.

Urgent business

42. The Grand Master or Officer presiding in the Grand Lodge may allow to be introduced or discussed at any Quarterly Communication or other meeting of the Grand Lodge, without notice, any business or motion which he shall consider to be urgent.

Exception

43. Nothing in the foregoing Rules shall require notice to be given of any motion to adopt or otherwise deal with any report or recommendation, not coming within the provisions of Rule 40, of any Board or Committee of the Grand Lodge.

Matters already decided

44. No motion, the substance of which the Grand Lodge has already considered and decided upon, shall again be brought forward or otherwise discussed, save at the instance of the Grand Master, until after the expiration of one year from the date of such consideration or decision.

Nominations for Board or Committees

45. Every nomination of a candidate for any Board or Committee to be elected by the Grand Lodge, must be made in writing to the Grand Secretary at least fourteen days previous to the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes to be held next before the Quarterly Communication at which such election is to take place. The proposer must be a member of the Grand Lodge, and the nomination must state the number of the Lodge and the Masonic rank both of himself and the candidate.

Business papers

46. A paper of the business to be transacted in the Grand Lodge at each Quarterly Communication shall be prepared by the Grand Secretary, and submitted to the Board of General Purposes for approval at the regular meeting immediately preceding such Quarterly Communication.

To whom business papers and reports to be transmitted

47. A copy of the paper of business so approved, together with a printed report of the proceedings at the immediately preceding Quarterly Communication and at any intervening meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be forwarded to all Grand Officers, present and past, Deputy Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, Assistant Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Secretaries, and the members of the Board of General Purposes, at least ten days before the Quarterly Communication. At the same time two copies of the paper of business and printed report or reports shall be sent to the Secretary of each Lodge at his address as given on the annual list of members returned in accordance with Rule 151. On receipt of these copies the Secretary shall immediately forward one of them to the Master of the Lodge for the better informing by him of the members of his Lodge. Copies of the paper of business shall be provided for the members of the Grand Lodge attending the meeting.

Brethren entitled on payment

Any subscribing Master Mason of a Lodge under the Grand Lodge may have such papers of business, notices and reports forwarded to him by post on registering his address with the Grand Secretary and paying such fee as from time to time shall be fixed by the Board of General Purposes.

Scrutineers for the porch

48. Not less than fourteen days before each Quarterly Communication, the Grand Secretary shall nominate a sufficient number of Masters or Past Masters who shall attend within the Porch of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of ascertaining whether Brethren seeking admission to the Grand Lodge are qualified to attend.

The Grand Secretary shall nominate Brethren for similar duties at the Grand Festival and, if required, for any Especial Meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Priority of admission to Grand Lodge

49. Whenever the Grand Master shall so direct, priority of admission to the Grand Lodge shall be accorded to those Brethren entitled to attend who applied for and received tickets of admission.

The applications, if exceeding the available accommodation, shall be dealt with by ballot to be conducted by, or under the direction of, the Grand Secretary.

Absence of the Grand Master from Grand Lodge

50. If, at any meeting of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master be absent, the Grand Lodge shall be ruled by the Pro Grand Master, or failing him by the Deputy Grand Master, or failing him by an Assistant Grand Master, or failing him by the member of the Grand Lodge present who shall be highest in rank, according to the table of precedence in Rule 5.

Opening and Closing of Grand Lodge

51. The Grand Lodge is to be declared opened and declared closed in ample form when the Grand Master or Pro Grand Master presides, in due form when a Past Grand Master or the Deputy or an Assistant Grand Master presides, and in form on all other occasions, yet with the same authority.

Minutes of Grand Lodge

52. At each Quarterly Communication, the Grand Lodge being opened, the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication and of any intervening meeting of the Grand Lodge are to be put for confirmation as a correct record of the proceedings, and no part of the said minutes nor any matter appearing on the paper of business shall be read in extenso unless the Grand Lodge shall so direct, or a Brother, supported by not less than five other Brethren, shall so desire, with a view to founding a motion thereon.

Communications from the Grand Master

53. Communications, if any, from the Grand Master shall be received before the business set forth in the paper of business is considered.

Memorials and petitions

54. No memorial, petition, or other document shall be presented to the Grand Lodge if it contains improper matter, or offensive or indecorous language.

Irregular propositions

55. If it shall appear to the Grand Master that any proposed resolution contains anything contrary to the antient Landmarks of the Order, he may refuse to permit the same to be discussed.

No member to speak twice

56. The proposer of an original motion shall have the right of reply, but no other Brother shall speak twice to the same question, unless by permission. This rule shall not apply to the Grand Registrar.

Misbehaviour in the Grand Lodge

57. If any member shall behave in the Grand Lodge in a manner disrespectful to the Chair or otherwise unbecoming a Mason, the Grand Master or Officer presiding may peremptorily order him to quit the Grand Lodge, which he shall thereupon do, and further the Grand Lodge may declare him to be no longer a member of the Grand Lodge until the Grand Master shall have granted him grace.

Motions for erasure or expulsion

58. No motion for the erasure of a Lodge for misconduct, or for the expulsion of a Brother, shall be made, unless the Master and Wardens of the Lodge, or the Brother concerned, shall have been summoned to answer the complaint in person in the Grand Lodge, or to make answer in writing, as they or he may desire.

Voting

59. All matters are to be decided by a majority of votes, each member having one vote, and the Grand Master or Officer presiding a second or casting vote, unless the Grand Lodge think proper to leave any particular subject to the determination of the Grand Master or Officer presiding. Except in elections by ballot or voting papers, the votes are to be signified by each member holding up one hand, and the motion is then to be declared carried or lost; but if two members demand that the votes be counted, and such demand appear reasonable to the Grand Master or Officer presiding, the counting shall be conducted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Formation of Metropolitan Grand Lodges

60. (a) The Grand Master has power to form London or any other specified area in England and Wales into a Metropolitan Area, whereupon a Metropolitan Grand Lodge shall be formed and given jurisdiction within such area, the Metropolitan Grand Master acting therein by the authority vested in him under his Patent of Appointment from the Grand Master.

The Grand Master has also power to rearrange boundaries of Metropolitan Areas, and to combine any Metropolitan Area with another Metropolitan Area or with one or more Provinces or sub-divide any Metropolitan Area as he may think fit.

Unattached Lodges within a Metropolitan Area

The Grand Master has also power to declare that any Lodge meeting within the area of a Metropolitan Grand Lodge's jurisdiction shall nevertheless be an unattached Lodge subject to the direct jurisdiction of the Grand Master.

(b) Save as expressly provided in paragraph (d) of this Rule or where a particular Rule makes express provision for Metropolitan Areas, the provisions of the Book of Constitutions, and of any rules made under the authority of any provision of the Book of Constitutions, relating to Provinces, Provincial Grand Masters and Provincial Grand Lodges and their Officers shall apply equally, *mutatis mutandis*, to Metropolitan Areas, Metropolitan Grand Masters and Metropolitan Grand Lodges and their Officers.

Appointment of Deputy and Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters and Metropolitan Grand Inspectors

(c) (i) A Metropolitan Grand Master by patent under his hand and seal or otherwise may appoint such number of Deputy Metropolitan Grand Masters, Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters (to take rank immediately after the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Masters) and Metropolitan Grand Inspectors (to take rank immediately

after the Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters) as the Grand Master may from time to time authorise, to hold office during his pleasure and to execute forthwith all the powers and duties of such office in his name.

Qualification for office

(ii) No Brother may be so appointed unless he shall have previously served the office of Master in a Lodge under the Grand Lodge.

(iii) The Metropolitan Grand Master within one month of the appointment must transmit, in writing, the name and address of his Deputy, of his Assistants and of any Metropolitan Grand Inspectors to all the Lodges of his Metropolitan Area, and also to the Grand Secretary for registration.

(iv) A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master or a Metropolitan Grand Inspector may be invested either in the Metropolitan Grand Lodge or in a private Lodge within the Metropolitan Area.

(d) Rules 62, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72 and 129 of the Book of Constitutions shall not apply to Metropolitan Areas, Metropolitan Grand Masters and Metropolitan Grand Lodges and their Officers.

Metropolitan Grand Rank

61. (a) (i) A Metropolitan Grand Master may once a year confer Metropolitan Grand Rank, designated by reference to the name of his Metropolitan Area (e.g. London Grand Rank), on Past Masters in Lodges of his Metropolitan Area, who have rendered long and meritorious service to the Craft in the Metropolitan Area and are members of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 9, to a number not exceeding one for every Lodge in his Metropolitan Area registered in the books of the Grand Lodge on 1 September of the preceding year.

Masonic Celebrations

(ii) On such occasions as shall seem to him proper either for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the Grand Master may authorise a Metropolitan Grand Master to confer Metropolitan Grand Rank on an additional number of qualified Brethren.

Metropolitan Rank

(iii) A Metropolitan Grand Master, to the extent that the numbers permitted to be appointed to Metropolitan Grand Rank under this Rule have not been exceeded, may confer the rank designated Metropolitan Rank on Master Masons in Lodges of the Metropolitan Area who have rendered long and meritorious service to the Craft in the Metropolitan Area, the holders of such ranks to take precedence immediately after Past Metropolitan Grand Stewards; and any holder of Metropolitan Rank shall, in the event that he becomes a Past Master and thereby a member of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 9, thereupon become a Holder of Metropolitan Grand Rank without the need for further appointment.

Additional Metropolitan Grand Ranks

(iv) A Metropolitan Grand Master may also at his discretion and without regard to the above limitation confer Metropolitan Grand Rank on Past Masters in Lodges of his Metropolitan Area who have rendered long and meritorious service to the Craft in his Metropolitan Area and who are Officers (present or past) of Provincial or District Grand Lodges or holders of Metropolitan Grand Rank (in another Metropolitan Area) or Overseas Grand Rank.

Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank

(v) A Metropolitan Grand Master may annually at his discretion appoint Brethren who already hold Metropolitan Grand Rank or any Overseas Grand Rank, or Past Provincial or District Grand Officers, to be holders of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank.

(vi) The holders of such respective ranks shall be entitled to wear at all Masonic meetings the distinctive regalia prescribed under Rules 246, 249, 260, 265 and 268, but can claim precedence as such only within their Metropolitan Area.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that any Brother who before 1 October 2003 was a holder of Senior London Grand Rank, London Grand Rank, or London Rank shall in all respects be treated as a holder of the equivalent Metropolitan rank, notwithstanding that he may no longer be a subscribing member of a Lodge within that Metropolitan Area or of any Lodge under the Grand Lodge.

Metropolitan Grand Officer

(c) A Metropolitan Grand Master is also empowered to appoint annually from among the Installed Masters in Lodges of his Metropolitan Area such Metropolitan Grand Officers as are specified in the schedule to this Rule. The Brethren appointed to such Offices, other than that of Metropolitan Grand Steward, shall, if not already holders of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank, or Metropolitan Grand Rank (as the case may be), be appointed to such of those ranks (and shall be counted against the quota, if any, provided in paragraph (a) above), and shall rank amongst themselves for investiture and otherwise in the order, specified in the schedule. Metropolitan Grand Stewards appointed to that office after 31 December 2021 shall rank immediately after the Holders of Metropolitan Grand Rank, and on ceasing to hold office shall be designated Past Metropolitan Grand Stewards and shall rank immediately after the Metropolitan Grand Stewards. With the exception of Metropolitan Grand Masters and Pro Metropolitan Grand Masters, present and past, Metropolitan Grand Officers can claim precedence as such only within their own Metropolitan Area. They and past Metropolitan Grand Officers are, however, entitled to wear their regalia as defined in Rules 247, 248, 249, 256, 260, 265 and 268 at all Masonic meetings.

SCHEDULE TO RULE 61:
APPOINTMENTS AS METROPOLITAN GRAND OFFICERS

Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank:

Metropolitan Senior Grand Warden
Metropolitan Junior Grand Warden
Metropolitan Grand Chaplain
Metropolitan Grand Treasurer – elected
Metropolitan Grand Registrar
Metropolitan Grand Secretary
Metropolitan Grand Director of Ceremonies
Metropolitan Grand Sword Bearer
Metropolitan Grand Superintendent of Works
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Chaplain
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Registrar
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Secretary
Three Metropolitan Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
Not more than one hundred and fifty Metropolitan Assistant Grand Inspectors
Metropolitan Grand Almoner
Metropolitan Grand Charity Steward
Metropolitan Grand Membership Officer
Metropolitan Grand Communications Officer
Metropolitan Grand Mentor
Metropolitan Grand Learning and Development Officer
Five Metropolitan Senior Grand Deacons

Metropolitan Grand Rank:

Five Metropolitan Junior Grand Deacons
Two Metropolitan Assistant Grand Chaplains
Two Metropolitan Assistant Grand Registrars
Two Metropolitan Assistant Grand Secretaries
Ten Metropolitan Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies
Two Metropolitan Assistant Grand Sword Bearers
Two Metropolitan Assistant Grand Superintendents of Works
Metropolitan Grand Organist
Two Metropolitan Grand Standard Bearers

Four Metropolitan Assistant Grand Standard Bearers
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Organist
Metropolitan Grand Pursuivant
Three Metropolitan Assistant Grand Pursuivants
Metropolitan Grand Tyler

Metropolitan Grand Stewards:
Twenty Metropolitan Grand Stewards

Metropolitan Grand Treasurer to be elected annually

(d) The Metropolitan Grand Officers shall be annually appointed in the Metropolitan Grand Lodge, and such Officers whenever practicable shall be then invested together with the Metropolitan Grand Treasurer who shall be elected annually.

Casual Vacancies

(e) Casual vacancies among Metropolitan Grand Officers may be filled by the Metropolitan Grand Master, and the rank, if any, required to be conferred in accordance with paragraph (c) above shall not be counted against the quota there referred to.

Removal of Metropolitan Grand Officers

(f) Should a Metropolitan Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his Metropolitan Grand Officers he may displace such Metropolitan Grand Officer and deprive him of his rank and privileges. A Metropolitan Grand Master has power in a like case to deprive a holder of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank, Metropolitan Grand Rank or Metropolitan Rank or a Past Metropolitan Grand Steward of his rank and privileges. No such action, however, shall in either case be taken by a Metropolitan Grand Master without the approval of his Metropolitan Grand Lodge, unless at the same time as or within the twelve months preceding such action the Brother concerned shall have been subjected by Masonic authority to the penalty of admonition or suspension.

Formation of Provincial and District Grand Lodges

62. The Grand Master has power to form any specified area in England into a Province and overseas into a District, whereupon a Provincial or District Grand Lodge shall be formed and given jurisdiction within such area, the Provincial or District Grand Master acting therein by the authority vested in him under his Patent of Appointment from the Grand Master.

The Grand Master has also power to rearrange boundaries of Provinces or Districts, and to combine any Provinces or Districts or sub-divide any Province or District as he may think fit.

Appointment of Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters

63. The appointment of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master is a prerogative of the Grand Master, by whom a patent may be granted, to hold during his pleasure, to any Brother whom he may think worthy of the appointment. By this patent the Brother is invested with appropriate authority in the particular Metropolitan Area, Province or District. He shall be installed at the first Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge which he may hold after his appointment, and, until such installation, he shall not be qualified to perform any of the functions of his office, except that of summoning the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge to meet for the purposes of his installation.

Appointment of Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Masters

If so requested by a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master who is a Prince of the Blood Royal, the Grand Master may appoint a Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master in respect of such Metropolitan Area, Province or District, to hold office during his pleasure; such Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall rank outside the Metropolitan Area, Province or District amongst Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters according to the date of his appointment, and within the Metropolitan Area, Province or District immediately after the Metropolitan,

Provincial or District Grand Master, and shall enjoy the same powers and be subject to the same duties in relation to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master as the Pro Grand Master does to the Grand Master; during a vacancy in the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Mastership, the Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall act as Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master until a new Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall have been installed.

Provision in the case of the death of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, and other contingencies

64. In the event of the death, resignation, suspension, or removal of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, the Deputy Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall, subject to Rule 63, exercise all the functions of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master until a Brother is duly appointed and has been installed as Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, but such Deputy shall not thereby acquire the right to any additional rank or distinction, but while so acting he shall be designated 'Deputy Metropolitan (or Provincial or District) Grand Master in Charge'.

If the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master be not available, the Deputy Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, or if there be no Deputy, or if he also be not available, then the senior Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer of such Metropolitan Area, Province or District next in rank and then available shall exercise the functions of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master subject to any directions of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.

Membership of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge

65. In addition to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master for the time being, a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge consists of the other present Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officers, and the Masters and Wardens of all Lodges under such

Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, and also (so long as they may respectively be both members of the Grand Lodge and subscribing members of a Lodge under such Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge) the Past Provincial or District Grand Officers and the Past Masters of any Lodge under the Grand Lodge.

Appointment of Deputy and Assistant Provincial or District Grand Masters

66. **(a)** Provincial or District Grand Master by patent under his hand and seal or otherwise may appoint a Deputy Provincial or District Grand Master, and (when so empowered by Rule 67) an Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master or Masters to hold office during his pleasure and to execute forthwith all the powers and duties of such office in his name.

(b) No Brother may be so appointed unless he shall have previously served the office of Master in a Lodge under the Grand Lodge.

(c) The Provincial or District Grand Master within one month of the appointment must transmit, in writing, the name and address of his Deputy and of his Assistant or Assistants, if any, to all the Lodges of his Province or District, and also to the Grand Secretary, for registration.

(d) A Deputy or Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master may be invested either in the Provincial or District Grand Lodge or in a private Lodge within the Province or District.

Assistant Provincial or District Grand Masters, Number of

67. A Provincial or District Grand Master may be empowered to appoint such number of Assistant Provincial or District Grand Masters, to take rank immediately after the Deputy Provincial or District Grand Master, as the Grand Master may from time to time authorise.

Provincial or District Grand Officers, Acting and Past

68. **(a)** A Provincial or District Grand Master is also empowered to appoint annually such acting Provincial or District Grand Officers as are specified in that column of the **schedule** to this Rule which is appropriate to the number of Freemasons in his Province or District registered in the books of the Grand Lodge on 1 September of the preceding year and in addition to make appointments to any past Provincial or District Grand Rank which he is empowered to confer as an acting office, except that of a Past Deputy or Past Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master; but so that the aggregate number of first appointments to acting offices and past ranks shall not in any one year exceed the number of Lodges in his Province or District registered on 1 September of the preceding year, subject only to the proviso that no Provincial or District Grand Master shall be prevented thereby from appointing the number of acting ranks indicated in the relevant column of the schedule.

Masonic celebration

(b) On such occasions as shall seem to him proper either for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the Grand Master may authorise Provincial and District Grand Masters to confer past ranks.

(c) (i) In addition to the foregoing a Provincial or District Grand Master may appoint a Provincial or District Grand Learning and Development Officer and a Provincial or District Grand Mentor.

(ii) In addition to the foregoing, a District Grand Master shall, subject to Rule 81, appoint a President of the District Board of General Purposes, and may appoint a President of the District Board of Benevolence instead of either a District Grand Almoner or a District Grand Charity Steward.

SCHEDULE TO RULE 68:
NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS TO ACTING RANK

No. of Craft Masons in Province/District	1-999	1000-1999	2000-2999	3000-3999	4000-4999	5000-5999	6000-6999	7000-7999	8000-8999	9000+
Provincial or District...										
Senior Grand Warden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Junior Grand Warden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Chaplain	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Treasurer (elected - Rule 68(d))	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Registrar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Secretary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Director of Ceremonies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Sword Bearer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Superintendent of Works	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Chaplain	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Registrar	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Secretary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grand Almoner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Charity Steward	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Membership Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Communications Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Grand Deacon	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Junior Grand Deacon	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Assistant Grand Chaplain	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	2
Assistant Grand Registrar	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2
Assistant Grand Secretary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	-	2	3	4	6	6	6	8	8	8
Assistant Grand Sword Bearer	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
Grand Organist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Standard Bearer	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Assistant Grand Standard Bearer	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	3	3	4
Deputy Grand Organist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Grand Pursuivant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Grand Pursuivant	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3
Grand Steward	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	17	18
Grand Tyler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	72	77

Additional District Grand Officers

(iii) Provided that in any District, if it shall appear to the Grand Master that the area of that District, the means of communication, or other sufficient reason renders such a provision desirable, he may authorise the District Grand Master to appoint such additional District Grand Officer or Officers as he may indicate without regard to the limitation hereinbefore stated.

Provincial or District Grand Treasurers to be elected annually

(d) The Provincial or District Grand Officers shall be annually appointed in the Provincial or District Grand Lodge, and such Officers whenever practicable shall be then invested together with the Provincial or District Grand Treasurer who shall be elected annually.*

Casual vacancies

(e) Casual vacancies among acting Provincial or District Grand Officers may be filled by the Provincial or District Grand Master.

Removal of Provincial and District Grand Officers

(f) Should a Provincial or District Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his Provincial or District Grand Officers he may displace such Provincial or District Grand Officer and deprive him of his rank and privileges. A Provincial or District Grand Master has power in a like case to deprive a Past Provincial or District Grand Officer of his rank and privileges. No such action, however, shall in either case be taken by a Provincial or District Grand Master without the approval of his Provincial or District Grand Lodge, unless at the same time as or within the twelve months preceding such action the Brother concerned shall have been subjected by Masonic authority to the penalty of admonition or suspension.

* A Brother who has held Provincial or District Grand Rank is not thereby rendered ineligible for election as Provincial or District Grand Treasurer.

Additional Past Ranks

69. **(a)** In addition to the entitlement under Rule 68, a Provincial or District Grand Master may at his discretion appoint to past Provincial or District Grand Ranks, Officers (present or past) of other Provincial or District Grand Lodges or holders of any Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Rank who have become members of his Provincial or District Grand Lodge.

(b) He may also, by dispensation from the Grand Master, appoint to past Provincial or District Grand Rank any Brother, not already qualified under Sub-Rule (a) above, who has rendered meritorious service to the Craft and has become a subscribing member of a Lodge in his Province or District, from elsewhere.

Promotions

70. A Provincial or District Grand Master may annually promote Provincial or District Grand Officers at his discretion to any acting office or past rank that he is entitled to confer under Rule 68 (a).

Precedence of Provincial and District Grand Officers

71. Provincial and District Grand Officers, present and past, take precedence amongst themselves in the order specified in the schedule to Rule 68 (a) save that Provincial or District Grand Mentors present or past shall rank immediately before the Provincial or District Grand Learning and Development Officer, Provincial or District Grand Learning and Development Officers present or past shall rank immediately before the Provincial or District Senior Grand Deacons, Presidents of a District Board of General Purposes present or past shall rank immediately before the District Grand Secretary, and Presidents of a District Board of Benevolence present or past shall rank immediately before the District Grand Director of Ceremonies.

72. With the exception of Provincial or District Grand Masters, present and past, and Pro Provincial or District Grand Masters, present and past, Provincial or District Grand Officers, present and past, can

claim precedence as such only within their Province or District. They are, however, entitled to wear their regalia as defined in Rules 247, 248, 249, 256, 260, 265 and 268 at all Masonic meetings.

Qualification for office

73. No Brother shall be appointed a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Warden unless he be the Master or a Past Master of a Lodge, and the same qualifications are required for appointments to Past Provincial or District Grand Warden.

Power to summon Officers and Brethren

74. The Disciplinary Authority may summon all or any of the Officers of any Lodge within his jurisdiction to attend him or some other Officer authorised by him and to produce the Warrant, books, papers and accounts of the Lodge, and may summon any Brother within his jurisdiction to attend him or such other Officer and to produce his Grand Lodge Certificate and any other Masonic documents in his possession. If any such summons be not complied with and no explanation is offered or the Disciplinary Authority is not satisfied with the explanation (if any), he may require such Officers or any of them or any such Brother as the case may be to show cause in writing within a time stated why the case should not be treated as one of contempt of Masonic authority and, unless within such time a written explanation be given to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Authority, he may inflict upon the Officer or Officers so required and in addition or alternatively upon the Lodge or upon such Brother as the case may be the penalty of admonition or suspension, in which event a report of the case with all necessary particulars shall be forwarded as soon as practicable to the Grand Secretary, unless in the case of an admonition the Disciplinary Authority shall consider the case of insufficient importance to require this to be done. The Disciplinary Authority may retain any Warrant, books, papers, accounts or Grand Lodge Certificates produced pursuant to a summons made under this Rule.

Power to determine complaint

75. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

75A. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

No power to erase or expel

76. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

To report proceedings to the Grand Secretary

77. The Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall transmit to the Grand Secretary annually an account, in writing, of his proceedings, and of the state of Masonry within his Metropolitan Area, Province or District. He is to forward to the Grand Master a summary of the minutes of every Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge within one month of the holding thereof, together with the names of all Brethren appointed to Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Office, and the names and numbers of the Lodges to which they belong.

Meetings of Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Lodges

78. A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall hold an annual Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, at which the appointment of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officers shall be made, and shall also hold such other meetings of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge as he shall consider necessary. All such meetings shall be held within the Metropolitan Area, Province or District, unless a dispensation is granted by the Grand Master.

Opening and Closing of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge

79. The Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge is to be declared opened and declared closed in due form when the

Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master presides, and in form on all other occasions, yet with the same authority.

By-laws and regulations of Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Lodges

80. The Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge has the power of framing and revising suitable by-laws for its own government, which may provide for the appointment or constitution of Committees and the definition of their powers, and of making and altering regulations to be observed by the private Lodges and Brethren in the Metropolitan Area, Province or District, but no such by-law or regulation nor any revision or alteration thereof shall be in conflict with or contrary to anything contained in these Rules nor be valid until submitted to, and approved by, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master and the Grand Master.

District Boards of General Purposes

81. **(a)** In every District of less than seven Lodges there may be, and in every District consisting of seven or more Lodges there shall be, a Board of General Purposes composed of a President, appointed annually by the District Grand Master, and the holders, not exceeding seven in number, of such offices in the District Grand Lodge as may be specified by the by-laws, ex officio, and of such a number of other members of the District Grand Lodge, not exceeding sixteen, as may be so specified, of whom one-half shall be elected, in such a manner as the by-laws may prescribe, by the District Grand Lodge, and the other half shall be appointed by the District Grand Master.

(b) The Board shall be entrusted with such administrative powers, authorities and duties as may be specified in the by-laws or may from time to time be delegated to it (subject to revocation and review) by the District Grand Master, and it shall also act in an advisory and consultative capacity by making recommendations to

the District Grand Master or the District Grand Lodge, as the case may require, for the welfare of the Craft and the better regulation of the District.

District Boards of Benevolence

(c) In every District there may also be a District Board of Benevolence composed of a President, appointed annually by the District Grand Master, and of such a number of other members, not exceeding eight in number, as may be specified in the by-laws, of whom one-half shall be elected, in such a manner as the by-laws may prescribe, by the District Grand Lodge, and the other half shall be appointed by the District Grand Master.

(d) In respect of both Boards, the by-laws may provide for the retirement of the elected and appointed members in rotation, and for the filling of vacancies. No election or appointment of any such member shall be for a period exceeding three years, but this shall not render him ineligible for re-election or re-appointment if thought fit.

Minutes

82. Correct minutes of the proceedings of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge or of any Board or Committee thereof shall be properly kept in suitable books, which shall be produced by the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, for the inspection of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, whenever required.

Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Lodge Funds

83. **(a)** Each Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge may establish a local fund for Charitable and other Masonic purposes, and may direct payments (all of which shall be shown in the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge by-laws) to be made by the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Officers and the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area or Province for this purpose.

(b) This fund cannot be established without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members present in the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge, nor unless each Lodge in the Metropolitan Area or Province shall have had due notice of the meeting, and of the intention to propose its establishment, nor until the decision shall have been confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge, of which meeting due notice shall have been given.

(c) If such fund be established, the scales of payments shall in no circumstances be increased except as hereinafter provided, though the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge may diminish any of the payments, or exact only part of them at its discretion.

(d) Provided always that any Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge may increase the payments thus established under the following regulations:

(i) That notice in writing of the intention to amend the relevant Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge by-laws and of the increases proposed, and also of the day of meeting of the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge for the discussion of the subject, be sent to each Lodge in the Metropolitan Area or Province three months at least prior to such meeting.

(ii) That the proposed amendment be agreed to by two-thirds at least of the members present at the meeting of the Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Lodge.

(e) When an amendment has been thus agreed to, a copy thereof shall be transmitted to the Grand Master for his approval.

(f) When the Grand Master shall have given his approval, any increase of annual dues shall be operative from the commencement of the annual period next following the date on which such approval was given and any increase of fees shall be operative from the date of such approval.

District Grand Lodge Funds

84. Each District Grand Lodge may establish a similar fund and the provisions of Rule 83 shall in all respects apply to it, with the substitution of the word District for the words Provincial and Province throughout. Provided that any District Grand Lodge may in its by-laws provide that any Lodge whose officers are unable to attend the relevant meeting by reason of distance from the place of meeting (or other cause considered satisfactory by the District Grand Master) shall be permitted to send to the District Grand Secretary, not later than one month before the date appointed for the meeting, its written opinion on the proposed amendment, and such opinion shall be read in full at the meeting.

Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge Accounts and Audit

85. Regular accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge Funds shall be kept in accordance with the rules laid down in the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge by-laws. These accounts must be audited once in each year by an auditor or auditors, elected annually in Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, who must, unless a firm of auditors recognised under the Companies Acts, be a Master Mason or Master Masons. Such accounts must be produced annually at the meeting of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge specified in the by-laws for that purpose, and a copy thereof transmitted to the Lodges under the Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

Returns and issue of Certificates in Districts

86. In order to avoid delay, and for the accommodation of Lodges under a District Grand Master, those Lodges may make their Grand Lodge returns and payments to the District Grand Master or such Brother as he may direct, but for the due remittance of which to the Grand Lodge the District Grand Master shall be personally

responsible; the District Grand Master is thereupon to issue Grand Lodge Certificates furnished to him for the purpose, which Certificates are to be countersigned as specified in the following Rule.

Blank forms of certificate to be provided

87. The Grand Secretary is to furnish to District Grand Masters Grand Lodge Certificates, with the necessary alterations in the form, signed and sealed, but in other respects left blank; the blanks to be filled up by the District Grand Master, or by his order. Such Grand Lodge Certificates shall have attached to them the seal of the District Grand Lodge, and be countersigned by the District Grand Master, or his Deputy, and by the District Grand Secretary.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

87. The Grand Secretary may furnish to District Grand Masters Grand Lodge Certificates, with the necessary alterations in the form, signed and sealed, but in other respects left blank; the blanks to be filled up by the District Grand Master, or by his order. Such Grand Lodge Certificates shall have attached to them the seal of the District Grand Lodge, and be countersigned by the District Grand Master, or his Deputy, and by the District Grand Secretary.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Cyprus, Eastern Archipelago, Hong Kong and the Far East.*

Quarterly return of Certificates issued by District Grand Masters

88. The District Grand Master shall send to the Grand Secretary every three months on a Register Form to be provided by the Grand Secretary a list of Grand Lodge Certificates issued by him during the period covered by the Form for inclusion in the Registers of the Grand Lodge.

Remittance of dues

89. The District Grand Master shall, with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary the returns received from the several Lodges in his District, together with the amount payable thereon, so that the money may be placed to the credit of the respective Lodges in the Grand Lodge accounts.

Dispensation to confer degrees at short intervals

90. In Lodges abroad a Brother may be advanced to a higher degree at an interval of not less than one week instead of four weeks, as provided by Rule 172, but only if and so far as authorised by a dispensation granted by the District Grand Master in the case of a Lodge under a District, or by or under the authority of the Grand Master in the case of a Lodge not under a District.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

90. In Lodges abroad a Brother may be advanced to a higher degree at an interval of not less than one week instead of four weeks, as provided by Rule 172, but only if and so far as authorised by a dispensation granted by or under the authority of the Grand Master.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Cyprus, Eastern Archipelago, Hong Kong and the Far East.*

Groups of Overseas Lodges and Grand Inspectors

91. In the case of Overseas Lodges not under a District, the Grand Master shall have power to form them, or any of them, into a group or groups, and to confer upon a Brother or Brethren appointed by him such jurisdiction as he may think fit in respect of any such group, or of any such Overseas Lodges. The Grand Master shall, at any time, and from time to time, have power to alter such groups, to extend or limit such jurisdiction, and to remove any Brother so appointed, and to appoint any other Brother in his place. A Brother while holding such appointment shall be styled Grand Inspector.

OVERSEAS GRAND RANK

Overseas Grand Rank

92. (a) The Grand Master may once a year confer the rank designated Overseas Grand Rank on Past Masters in Lodges abroad not under a District who are members of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 9, to a number not exceeding one for every such Lodge registered in the books of the Grand Lodge on 1 September of the preceding year. On such occasions as shall seem to him proper either for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the Grand Master may confer Overseas Grand Rank on an additional number of qualified Brethren. The Grand Master, to the extent that the numbers permitted to be appointed to Overseas Grand Rank under this Rule have not been exceeded, may confer the rank designated Overseas Rank on Master Masons in Lodges abroad not under a District, the holders of such rank to take precedence immediately after the Holders of Overseas Grand Rank; and any such Brother shall, in the event that he becomes a Past Master and thereby a member of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 9, thereupon become a Holder of Overseas Grand Rank without the need for further appointment.

The Grand Master may also at his discretion and without regard to the above limitation confer Overseas Grand Rank on Past Masters in Lodges abroad not under a District who are Officers (present or past) of Provincial or District Grand Lodges or holders of London Grand Rank. He may annually at his discretion appoint Brethren who already hold Overseas or London Grand Rank, or Past Provincial or District Grand Officers, to be holders of Senior Overseas Grand Rank. The holders of such respective ranks shall be entitled to wear at all Masonic meetings the distinctive regalia prescribed under Rules 246, 249, 260, 265 and 268, but can claim precedence as such only within the Lodges in which Senior Overseas Grand Rank, Overseas Grand Rank and Overseas Rank are conferred.

(b) Should the Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any holder of Senior Overseas Grand Rank, Overseas Grand Rank or Overseas Rank, he may deprive him of his rank and privileges in the manner provided in Rule 24.

Overseas Grand Rank registration fee

93. A Registration Fee shall be paid into the Fund of General Purposes by each Past Master upon whom Overseas Grand Rank is conferred.

Petition for Warrant for new Lodge

94. Every application for a warrant to hold a new Lodge must be by petition to the Grand Master, signed by not less than seven Master Masons regularly registered under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. Provided that in the case of petitions for Lodges to meet in Districts, or abroad not within the territory of any District Grand Lodge, it shall suffice if at least four-sevenths in number of the signatories are Brethren so registered, but no Brother not so registered shall sign any petition unless he be regularly registered under the Constitution of a Grand Lodge recognised by the Grand Lodge, and shall at the same time declare in writing his adherence to the Book of Constitutions, and promise due obedience to the Grand Master and the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. The petition must specify every Lodge to which each signatory belongs and every Lodge to which he has at any time belonged, and in respect of each of the signatories be accompanied by a Certificate in accordance with Rule 175 from every such Lodge showing that he is not indebted to it. To every such petition must be added a recommendation, signed in open Lodge by the Master and Wardens of a regular Lodge under the Grand Lodge with the approval of a majority of the Brethren then present, and notice that the petition is to be submitted for approval must have been given on the summons convening the meeting at which it is to be considered. The petition must then be transmitted to the Grand Secretary for the decision of the Grand Master, provided that, if the Lodge is proposed to be holden in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the petition, with the Certificates and recommendation, is in the first instance to be forwarded to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, as the case may be, who is to transmit the same with his observations thereon to the Grand Secretary for such decision as before mentioned.

Provisional Warrant for Lodges in Districts

95. The Grand Master, upon receipt of a Petition presented in accordance with Rule 94 and recommended by a District Grand Master, may authorise such District Grand Master to grant a provisional warrant for the formation of the new Lodge pending the issue of a regular warrant of constitution.

Form of petition for Warrant

96. The following is the form of petition for a warrant to hold a new Lodge:

> 'To the M.W. The Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of England:
>
> We, the undersigned, being regularly registered Master Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the art; and for the conveniency of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new Lodge, to be named ..... In consequence of this desire, we pray for a warrant of constitution, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge, at ..... on the ....., and there to discharge the duties of Masonry, in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order and the laws of the Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend Brother <A.B.>, who has served the office of Warden in a regular Lodge to be the first Master, Brother <C.D.> to be the first Senior Warden and Brother <E.F.> to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. Should the prayer of this petition be granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the Grand Master and the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.'

New Lodge must be regularly constituted

97. Every new Lodge shall be solemnly constituted according to antient usage, by the Grand Master or by some other Grand Officer or

Master or Past Master of a Lodge appointed to act for him. No Brother shall be installed as Master or invested as a Warden except the Brother named in the warrant for such office, unless by sanction of the Grand Master. No Lodge shall be acknowledged, nor its Officers admitted as such into the Grand Lodge, or a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, nor any of its members as such entitled to enjoy any Masonic privilege, unless such Lodge has been regularly constituted and registered.

Lodge to bear name and number

98. Every Lodge must be distinguished by a name or title, as well as a number, and no Lodge shall be permitted to make any alteration in its name or title without the approval of the Grand Master, and, in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces or Districts, that of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master also.

Precedence of Lodges

99. Lodges shall rank in precedence in the order of their numbers as registered in the books of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Stewards' Lodge shall not have a number, but shall be registered in the books of the Grand Lodge, and placed in the printed list at the head of all other Lodges, and rank accordingly.

Local precedence of Lodges in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

100. Every Lodge shall have a local as well as a general rank, so that if any Lodge be removed from one Masonic area into another, although it is to retain its original number in the Grand Lodge books, and preserve the same rank in the Grand Lodge, and in all public meetings out of the area into which it may have been removed, yet within such area it is to rank immediately after the last Lodge registered therein at the time of such removal, both at any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge or at any public ceremony within the area,

unless the Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or an Assistant Grand Master presides. The seniority of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Lodges in their particular Metropolitan Areas, Provinces or Districts is to be determined by the date of their registry in the books of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge.

A Lodge not to act without a Warrant

101. Except under the provisions of Rule 95, no Lodge may meet without a warrant of constitution from the Grand Master, which is to be specially entrusted to each Master at his installation, to be held by him in safe custody on behalf of the Grand Master. The Master shall produce it at every meeting of the Lodge. This regulation does not apply to the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. 4, and the Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland, No. 12, which act under immemorial constitutions.

Warrant not to be sold or irregularly procured

102. The warrant of a Lodge is the property of the Grand Master. It must be retained for the sole use of the Lodge to which it is granted. Any Lodge concerned in transferring or improperly disposing of any warrant shall be liable to be erased, and every Brother so concerned shall be deemed to have committed a Masonic offence. The warrant must not bear any endorsement or other inscription except with the authority of the Grand Master.

Certificate of Amalgamation

102A. If two or more Lodges desire to amalgamate into a single Lodge, the Grand Master may at his discretion and upon such conditions as he shall see fit grant a Certificate of Amalgamation.

Warrant lost or withheld

103. If a warrant be lost or improperly withheld from those lawfully entitled to hold or use the same, or withheld by competent Masonic authority, the Lodge must suspend its meetings until a warrant of

confirmation has been applied for and granted by the Grand Master, or until the warrant so lost or withheld be found or restored, in which case the warrant of confirmation, if any, shall be returned forthwith to the Grand Master.

Officers of a Lodge

104. **(a)** The regular Officers of a Lodge shall be the Master and his two Wardens, a Treasurer, a Secretary, two Deacons, an Inner Guard and a Tyler. The Master shall appoint as additional officers an Almoner and a Charity Steward, and may also appoint as additional officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, a Membership Officer, a Mentor, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Secretary and a Steward or Stewards, but no others. No Brother can hold more than one regular office in the Lodge at one and the same time, but the Master may appoint a Brother who is holding a regular office to one additional office also.

(b) A Brother who is not a subscribing member of the Lodge may not hold any office therein except that of Tyler.

(c) A Lodge in its by-laws may provide that the services of its Secretary be equivalent to the appropriate subscription to the Lodge, but shall remit to the Grand Lodge and to Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge the requisite payments due in respect of his membership of the Lodge.

(d) The Officers of a Lodge shall take precedence for investiture and otherwise in the following order: Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain (if any), Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies (if any), Almoner, Charity Steward, Membership Officer (if any), Mentor (if any), Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Assistant Director of Ceremonies (if any), Organist (if any), Assistant Secretary (if any), Inner Guard, Steward (if any) and Tyler.

(e) No Brother has any right to claim advancement. The appointment of all Officers, except the Master, the Treasurer, and (if elected) the Tyler, is in the sole discretion and power of the Master.

(f) The Immediate Past Master, as such, is not an officer of the Lodge. He holds his position and responsibilities by virtue of his Mastership, and retains that position until a succeeding Master becomes Immediate Past Master. He reoccupies the position if such succeeding Master should die or cease to be a member of the Lodge while holding the position of Immediate Past Master.

(g) The Immediate Past Master takes precedence in the Lodge immediately in front of the Chaplain, or, if there be no Chaplain, then immediately in front of the Treasurer.

Election and Installation of Master

105. (a) Every Lodge shall annually, on the day named in its by-laws for the purpose, proceed to elect a Master by ballot from among those of its members who have, or previously to the installation of such Master shall have, served for one year (that is to say from one regular installation meeting until the next regular installation at the corresponding period in the following year) the office of Master, or of Senior Warden or of Junior Warden, in a regular Lodge warranted under the Grand Lodge, or who shall have been rendered eligible by dispensation under Rule 109. The ballot shall be declared in favour of the member thus qualified who has received the largest number of votes of the members present and voting.

If there be only one nomination and if no other member duly qualified shall have indicated to the Secretary that he wishes to be considered and if no member present calls for a ballot then it shall be permissible for the Master to declare the election in favour of the nominated member; provided that the election shall not be so declared unless notice of the intention so to do and the identity of the sole Brother nominated shall have been given on the summons convening the meeting at which the election is to take place.

(b) At the next regular meeting the Master so elected shall be duly installed according to antient usage, provided that no motion that the Master Elect be not installed has been moved and carried in the

manner herein provided. A motion to this effect shall be entertained by the Lodge only if written notice thereof, signed by the Proposer and Seconder, and a separate statement, similarly signed, of the reasons for moving the motion, shall have been given to the Secretary of the Lodge at least fourteen days previously to the meeting. In that case copies of the proposed motion and of the separate statement shall be forwarded forthwith to the Master Elect by the Secretary, and a copy of the proposed motion, but not a copy of the separate statement, shall be printed on the summons convening the meeting. Should the motion, on a ballot being taken, receive the support of three-fourths of the members present, the election shall be void and the members shall forthwith proceed to elect some other qualified Brother as Master. The installation of the Master then elected, shall, subject to the foregoing proviso, take place within five weeks of the date of election either at the next regular meeting of the Lodge, if such be held within that period, or at an emergency meeting specially called for that purpose. The Master Elect, shall, subject to the foregoing proviso, then be duly installed, and he and the Wardens invested by him shall, at the date of the next regular installation meeting, be deemed to have filled the offices of Master and Wardens respectively for one year, in compliance with the provisions of Rule 9 and this Rule.

(c) No Master Elect shall assume the Master's Chair until he has been regularly installed.

Death or incapacity of Master Elect

106. If not less than seven days before the day appointed for the regular installation meeting of the Lodge, the Master Elect should die or become disqualified or incapacitated, or send to the Master a notice in writing of his intention not to accept the office of Master, then a summons shall be issued to each member of the Lodge stating the fact and intimating that on the said day the Brethren will again proceed to elect a Master. The installation of the Master then elected shall, subject to the provisions of Rule 105, take place within five weeks of the date of election either at the next regular meeting of the Lodge, if

such be held within that period, or at an emergency meeting specially called for the purpose. The Master Elect shall then be duly installed, and he and the Wardens then invested shall at the date of the next regular installation meeting be deemed to have filled the offices of Master and Wardens respectively for one year, in compliance with the provisions of Rules 9 and 105.

Provided that, where there is a period of not less than two months between the regular days of election and installation of Master, and any of the events before mentioned (rendering the election of the Master ineffective) occur not less than six weeks before the regular day of installation, then the Master may summon an emergency meeting, to be held not less than three weeks before such day of installation, for the purpose of electing another Master, and the Master then elected shall, subject to the provisions of Rule 105, be installed on the regular day of installation, as if he had been elected on the regular day of election.

In the event that a Lodge shall fail for any reason, whether through neglect or otherwise, to elect a Master on the day named in its by-laws, the foregoing provisions of this Rule shall apply as though the Master Elect had died on the day immediately following that on which the election should have taken place.

Continuation in office of Master

107. If less than seven days before the day appointed for the regular installation meeting of the Lodge the Master Elect should die or become disqualified or incapacitated, or send to the Master a notice in writing of his intention not to accept the office of Master, then the outgoing Master shall continue as Master of the Lodge until the end of the period for which the Master Elect was elected, and shall at such meeting invest the Wardens and other Officers (if any) selected by the Master Elect, or, as to any not so selected, to be appointed by himself, together with the Treasurer and Tyler.

Postponement of installation of Master

108. **(a)** If on the day appointed for the regular installation meeting of the Lodge the Master Elect (though ready and willing to act as such) is unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, the installation shall be postponed and shall take place within five weeks of the date of such regular installation meeting, either at the next regular meeting of the Lodge, if such be held within that period, or at an emergency meeting specially called for the purpose. The Master Elect shall be installed, and he and his Wardens then invested shall at the date of the next regular installation meeting be deemed to have filled the offices of Master and Wardens respectively for one year, in compliance with the provisions of Rules 9 and 105.

(b) Provided that if the Master Elect does not attend at the regular or emergency meeting last above mentioned his election shall be void, and the outgoing Master shall continue as Master of the Lodge until the end of the period for which the Master Elect was elected, and shall at such meeting invest the Wardens and other Officers (if any) selected by the Master Elect, or, as to any not so selected, to be appointed by himself, together with the Treasurer and Tyler, and the Wardens then invested shall at the date of the next regular installation meeting be deemed to have filled the offices of Wardens for one year, in compliance with the provisions of Rules 9 and 105.

(c) If on the day appointed either for the regular installation meeting or for a postponed meeting under this Rule, a Board of Installed Masters cannot be constituted, the provisions of this Rule shall apply as if the Master Elect were not in attendance.

Qualification of Warden for Master's Chair

109. If the investiture of a Warden shall not have taken place at the meeting at which the Master was installed, and thereby the member appointed has not served the office for one year as aforesaid, he cannot be included among those eligible for election as Master of the Lodge except by dispensation from the Grand Master or in a Metropolitan

Area, Province or District the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, which can only be granted on petition setting forth the circumstances in which the investiture was delayed, the actual service of the member in the Warden's Chair, and the special reasons for asking the Grand Master's or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master's intervention. The Installing Master shall not proceed to the installation of a Master unless satisfied that the requirements of Rule 105 have been complied with, or unless such dispensation shall have been produced to him.

Deputy Master

110. Should a Prince of the Blood Royal honour any private Lodge by accepting the office of Master, he may appoint a Deputy Master, qualified in compliance with the provisions of Rule 105, who shall be regularly installed, and be entitled, when in office, to all the privileges of Master, and, after he has served his period of office, to those of a Past Master.

Should the Grand Master, being a Prince of the Blood Royal, so honour any private Lodge which has been declared under Rule 60(a) to be an unattached Lodge subject to his direct jurisdiction he shall be entitled to assume the Mastership of such Lodge without taking the formal obligation of Master Elect.

Master's obligation

111. Every Master Elect, before being placed in the Chair, shall solemnly pledge himself to preserve the Landmarks of the Order, to observe the antient usages and established customs, and strictly to enforce them within his own Lodge.

Election of Treasurer

112. (a) The Treasurer shall be elected by the members on the regular day of election of the Master and in the same manner.

(b) The Grand Master or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master may,

upon the representation of the Master that the Treasurer by reason of ill health, absence likely to be protracted, or other special circumstances, is unable to discharge his duties to the reasonable convenience of the Lodge, grant a dispensation to the Lodge to elect a member, not serving a regular office in the Lodge, to discharge the duties of the Treasurer until the Treasurer is able to resume the normal discharge of his duties or until the next regular period of election, whichever shall first occur.

(c) Ten days' notice of intention to propose such an election together with a statement that the requisite dispensation has been obtained must appear on the summons for the meeting at which the election is to take place and such meeting may be either an ordinary meeting or an emergency meeting duly authorised pursuant to Rule 140.

Tyler of a Lodge

113. The Tyler shall be elected by the members on the regular day of election of the Master. A Lodge, however, may resolve that a subscribing member of the Lodge shall be Tyler without emolument, in which case he shall be appointed with the other Officers by the Master.

In cases where the Tyler is elected by the members, he may at any time be removed for cause deemed sufficient by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting of the Lodge.

Every Tyler must be a Master Mason and registered as such in the books of the Grand Lodge.

Master responsible for observance of laws

114. The Master is responsible for the due observance of the laws by the Lodge over which he presides.

Master's period of office

115. Except when required to do so by Rule 107 or Rule 108, no Brother shall continue Master of the same Lodge for more than two

years in succession, unless by a dispensation, which may be granted by the Grand Master, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District by the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, in cases of necessity; but he may again be elected after he has been out of office one year.

This regulation shall not apply to a Prince of the Blood Royal who appoints a Deputy, but it shall apply to the Deputy.

Master of more than one Lodge at same time

No Brother shall be Master of two or more Lodges at the same time without a dispensation from the Grand Master, or, if the Lodges are in the same District, then from the District Grand Master.

Appointment and Investiture of Officers

116. Upon his installation the Master shall appoint his Wardens and other Officers, other than those elected and shall invest all the Officers present.

Proprietor of Meeting Place

117. No proprietor or manager of the tavern or house at which a Lodge meets shall hold any office in the Lodge without a dispensation from the Grand Master or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District from the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.

Brethren to attend summonses

118. The Master and Wardens and members of every Lodge when summoned to do so shall attend the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant and if required shall produce the Warrant, books and papers of the Lodge and each Brother so summoned his Grand Lodge Certificate, all or any of which may be retained by the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant.

Failure to comply with the terms of a summons under this Rule shall render any Brother liable to suspension or admonition.

Death of Master and other contingencies

119. **(a)** If the Master shall die or be removed or if circumstances do not permit him to exercise the authority which devolves upon him by virtue of his office, the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden, or in the absence of both Wardens the Immediate Past Master, or in his absence the senior Past Master of the Lodge shall summon the Lodge until the next Installation of Master or until the Master shall be able once more to exercise his authority.

(b) Save as hereinafter provided, if the Master be not present, the Immediate Past Master, or if he be absent the senior Past Master of the Lodge present, or if no Past Master of the Lodge be present the senior Installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge shall take the Chair and rule the Lodge, or may request any other Installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge to do so. If no Installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge be present, then the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden, shall conduct the business of the Lodge but shall request an Installed Master to occupy the Chair to open and close the Lodge and to confer degrees.

(c) If, on the occasion appointed for any meeting of a Lodge, no Installed Master is present to occupy the Chair, the meeting shall be abandoned and the fact recorded in the Minute Book of the Lodge.

(d) If the Master's absence be only temporary and circumstances so permit, he may exercise such authority as devolves upon him by virtue of his office. He may request any Installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge to occupy the Chair and to rule the Lodge and confer degrees, or any Installed Master to occupy the Chair to confer degrees, as if he himself were present in the Lodge.

Removal of Officers

120. Should the Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of the Officers, he may lay the cause of complaint before the Lodge at a regular meeting. Particulars of the complaint shall be sent at least

seven days before such meeting to the Officer concerned. If it shall appear to the majority of the members present that the complaint be well founded, the Master shall have power to displace such Officer, and to appoint another.

Vacancies in regular Offices

121. If a vacancy shall occur in a regular office other than that of Master, such office shall be filled for the remainder of the year by the election or appointment (according to the normal method of filling the office) of a member not serving a regular office in the Lodge at the time the vacancy occurred. If an election be required, due notice thereof shall appear on the summons.

Official visitation of Lodges

122. The Grand Master has full authority to preside in any Lodge, and to order any of his Grand Officers to attend him. His Wardens, if present and so commanded, are to act as Wardens of the Lodge while he presides; but the Grand Master may Command the Wardens of the Lodge or any Master Masons to act as Wardens.

The Pro Grand Master, if the Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

The Deputy Grand Master, if the Grand Master and the Pro Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

An Assistant Grand Master, if the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

The Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master has the same authority in any Lodge he visits within his Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

The Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, if the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

The Deputy Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, if the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Master and the Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

An Assistant Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, if the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, the Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master and the Deputy Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master be not present, has the same authority.

A Metropolitan Grand Inspector, if the Metropolitan Grand Master, the Pro Metropolitan Grand Master, the Deputy Metropolitan Master and the Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters be not present, has the same authority.

The Grand Inspector has the same authority in any Lodge he visits within his Group.

In the case of a Lodge not within a Metropolitan Area, a Province or a District, if neither the Grand Master, nor the Pro Grand Master, nor the Deputy Grand Master, nor an Assistant Grand Master is available to preside in pursuance of this Rule, any one of them may by commission authorise a present Grand Officer of not less than Very Worshipful rank so to preside in his stead. A commission issued under this Rule shall be limited in its effect to a named Lodge and for a specified meeting.

In all the above cases the Master of the Lodge shall be placed on the immediate left of the Brother so presiding.

Grand Officers visiting by command

123. The Grand Master may send any of his Grand Officers, present or past, to visit any Lodge whenever he may think fit to do so, and such visiting Officer shall be placed on the immediate right of the Brother presiding.

Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Officers and holders of Metropolitan Grand Rank visiting by command

124. A Provincial or District Grand Master may send any of his Provincial or District Grand Officers, present or past, to visit any Lodge in his Province or District whenever he may think fit to do so, and such visiting Officer shall be placed on the immediate right of the Brother presiding. A Metropolitan Grand Master may send any of his present Metropolitan Grand Officers or any holder of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank or Metropolitan Grand Rank or any Past Metropolitan Grand Steward to visit any Lodge in his Metropolitan Area in a similar manner.

Admission of Visitors

125. (a) No Brother subject to the Grand Lodge shall be admitted into a Lodge unless he be personally known to, and vouched for, by one of the Brethren present, or unless he shall be well vouched for after due examination. He shall, if required, produce his Grand Lodge Certificate and proof of good standing in his Lodge or Lodges.

(b) No Brother who is not subject to the Grand Lodge shall be admitted unless his Certificate shows that he has been initiated according to the antient rites and ceremonies in a Lodge belonging to a Grand Lodge professing belief in T.G.A.O.T.U., such Certificate not to be regarded as valid unless granted by a Grand Lodge recognised by the Grand Lodge, nor unless he himself shall acknowledge that this belief is an essential Landmark of the Order, and is able to produce proof of his good standing in his Lodge or Lodges. It is incumbent on the Master of any Lodge to which a visitor from another Constitution seeks admission to satisfy himself by adequate enquiries, if need be, from the Grand Secretary, that such Constitution is recognised by the Grand Lodge.

(c) Every visitor during his presence in a Lodge is subject to its relevant by-laws.

Refusal of admission to visitors

126. It is within the power of the Master of every private Lodge to refuse admission to any visitor of known bad character or whose presence is in his opinion likely to disturb the harmony of the Lodge.

Disqualification to visit

127. In the case of a Brother who has ceased to be a subscribing member of every Lodge of which he has at any time been a member, the following provisions shall have effect, viz.:

(i) If he comes within the provisions of this Rule by reason of his exclusion under Rule 148 or Rule 181, he shall not be permitted to attend any Lodge or Lodge of Instruction until he again becomes a subscribing member of a Lodge.

(ii) If he comes within the provisions of this Rule by reason of his expulsion from the Craft or by reason of his resignation from the Craft under Rule 183A or the former Rule 277A, his right to attend any Lodge or Lodge of Instruction shall be forfeited.

(iii) In any other case he shall not be permitted to attend any one Lodge more than once until he again becomes a subscribing member of a Lodge, and upon such one attendance he shall append the word 'unattached' to his signature in the attendance book, stating therein the name and number of the Lodge of which he was last a subscribing member. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this paragraph he shall be permitted to attend one, but only one, Lodge on not more than two further occasions with a view to becoming a subscribing member of that Lodge; provided that (a) the Master of that Lodge shall have confirmed to the Secretary in writing that such is the purpose of his subsequent visit, and (b) his final visit to such Lodge shall take place not later than one year after the first visit.

Nothing in this Rule shall preclude the attendance of a Brother at any Lodge of which he is an Honorary Member.

London Lodges

128. Subject to the provisions of Rule 129, all Lodges held within five miles from Freemasons' Hall, London, are London Lodges.

Provincial or District Lodges

129. All Lodges held at a greater distance than five miles from Freemasons' Hall, London, are, subject to the provisions of Rules 60 and 91, Provincial or District Lodges, and are under the immediate superintendence of the Provincial or District Grand Master within whose jurisdiction they meet, provided always that a Lodge held between five and ten miles from Freemasons' Hall, London, may with the consent of the Grand Master be a London Lodge to which Rule 128 applies.

Military Lodge abroad

130. When any Military Lodge, under the Grand Lodge, shall meet out of England, it shall be conducted so as not to give offence to the Masonic authorities of the country or place in which it is holden, never losing sight of the duties it owes to the Grand Lodge, to which communication is ever to be made, and all fees and dues regularly transmitted.

Surrender or exchange of warrant of Military Lodge

131. If the military body to which a Lodge is attached be disbanded, the Brethren shall transmit the warrant to the Grand Secretary; but, if a competent number of the Brethren remain together, they may apply for another warrant of the same number, authorising a Lodge to be holden as a civil Lodge, at such place as may be convenient and approved by the Grand Master, such warrant to be granted without any additional expense.

Sanction for Lodge of Instruction

132. No Lodge of Instruction shall be holden unless under the sanction of a regular warranted Lodge, or by the licence and authority

of the Grand Master. The Lodge giving its sanction, or the Brethren to whom such licence is granted, shall be responsible for seeing that the proceedings are in accordance with the Antient Charges, Landmarks, and Regulations of the Order as established by the Grand Lodge.

Time and place of meeting of Lodges of Instruction to be approved

133. The times and places of meeting of Lodges of Instruction in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts shall be submitted for approval to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary.

Minutes of Lodges of Instruction

134. Lodges of Instruction shall keep minutes recording the names of all Brethren present at each meeting, and the Brethren appointed to hold office, and such minutes shall be produced when called for by the Grand Master, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, the Board of General Purposes, or the Lodge granting the sanction.

Any officer who is in possession of any property of a Lodge of Instruction shall, upon ceasing to hold his office, hand over such property to his successor, or to such person or persons as the Lodge giving its sanction, or the Grand Master, or other competent authority, shall direct.

Withdrawal of sanction from Lodge of Instruction

135. If a Lodge which has given its sanction for a Lodge of Instruction being held shall see fit, it may at any regular meeting withdraw that sanction by a resolution of the Lodge, provided that notice of intention to withdraw the sanction be inserted in the summons for that meeting, and at the same time be communicated to the Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction. A decision to withdraw the sanction of the Lodge shall be notified to the Lodge of Instruction, which shall thereupon cease to exist. The decision shall also be notified to the Grand Secretary or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary, as the case may be.

The Grand Master may at any time withdraw a licence given by him for a Lodge of Instruction, which shall thereupon cease to exist.

Whenever a Lodge of Instruction ceases to exist, the books, papers, and other documents become the property of, and must be handed over to, the Lodge under whose sanction it worked, or to the Grand Secretary on behalf of the Grand Master. The other property of the Lodge of Instruction shall be disposed of in such a manner as its members shall properly determine.

By-laws

136. Every Lodge has the power of framing proper by-laws for its government, but no by-law nor any alteration thereof shall come into operation until approved on behalf of the Grand Master. In the case of a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the by-laws and every alteration thereof shall be sent to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary for the approval of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, who may, in the case of by-laws or any alteration thereof conforming to the model by-laws from time to time issued on behalf of the Grand Master, also grant approval on behalf of the Grand Master. In every other case, the by-laws and every alteration thereof shall be sent or forwarded (as the case may be) to the Grand Secretary for the approval of the Grand Master.

When finally approved, the by-laws must be printed, and a copy sent to the Grand Secretary, and also in the case first beforementioned to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary.

Time and place of meeting – Adjournment prohibited

137. The by-laws shall specify the regular days and place of meeting of the Lodge, also the regular meeting for the election of Master, Treasurer and (if he is to be elected) Tyler, and the regular meeting for the installation of Master, which shall be the regular meeting next following that specified for his election. There is no power to cancel

any regular meeting, nor may any meeting of the Lodge be held other than at the specified place and on the specified day, except as otherwise provided in these Rules. No meeting of a Lodge may be adjourned.*

Submission to by-laws

138. A copy of the by-laws shall be delivered to the Master on his installation, and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed to be a solemn pledge on his part that he will observe and enforce them.

Every Brother shall be supplied with a printed copy of the by-laws of the Lodge when he becomes a member, and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed to be a declaration of his submission to them.

Prohibited days for Meetings

139. (a) In no case may a meeting of the Grand Lodge, or of any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, or of any private Lodge be held upon

(i) Christmas Day or Good Friday; or

(i) unless by prior dispensation of the Grand Master, a Sunday

and the provisions of this Rule are subject always to those days being prohibited days for any such meeting.

Meetings falling upon prohibited days or public holidays

(b) In case the specified day for the regular meeting of a Lodge shall fall upon Christmas Day, Good Friday, a Sunday, or a public holiday, then the meeting shall be held on such alternative day (being not more than seven days before nor more than seven days after the specified day) as the Master shall direct, save only that in the case of the specified day falling upon a Sunday or a public holiday the meeting may be held upon that day provided that it be not a prohibited day.

* Nor is an adjournment of any Masonic Meeting permissible.

Altering day of meeting by dispensation

(c) If in any Lodge it should be desired to hold a regular meeting upon a day other than the specified day then the Grand Master or, in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master may, on good cause shown, grant a dispensation for the holding of such meeting on an alternative day being not more than twenty-eight days before nor more than twenty-eight days after the specified day.

Computation of four weeks interval in Rule 172

(d) For the purpose of computing the interval of four weeks mentioned in Rule 172, a meeting shall always be considered as having been held on the actual day on which it was held, and not on the specified day for which such actual day was substituted. For all other purposes a meeting held on an alternative day shall be deemed to have been held on the specified day.

Emergency Meetings

140. Not more than one meeting of a Lodge may be held on one and the same day. When, on good cause shown, a dispensation shall first have been granted by the Grand Master, or, in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, an emergency meeting of a Lodge may be called by the authority of the Master, or, if he be not available, then of the Senior Warden, or, if he also be not available, then of the Junior Warden, but on no pretence without such authority. No business which these Rules require to be transacted only at a regular meeting shall be transacted at an emergency meeting, and the business to be transacted thereat shall not include any business whatsoever except such as is mentioned on the summons convening the meeting nor shall the minutes of any previous meeting be read or confirmed at an emergency meeting, except in so far as any such minutes relate to or affect the validity of the business so mentioned.

Removal of Lodges

141. Without prejudice to any power conferred by its warrant any Lodge may be removed from one house to another, if the following provisions are strictly complied with:

(i) If at any regular meeting a notice of motion for the removal of the Lodge signed by not fewer than seven subscribing members be given, the Master shall cause such motion, which may also propose a consequential alteration of the days of meeting, to be placed on the summons for the next regular meeting or for an emergency meeting called for the sole purpose of considering and finally deciding the motion, for either of which not less than seven days' notice shall be given.

(ii) The motion shall not be carried unless two-thirds of the members present and voting shall vote in favour of it, and, if carried, shall effect, subject to all necessary approvals, the appropriate alterations in the by-laws of the Lodge.

Consent to removal

(iii) No Lodge shall be removed without the consent of the Grand Master, and, if the removal be to or from or within a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the consent of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master concerned must first be obtained.

Removal to be recorded

(iv) When a Lodge shall have resolved to alter its place or day of meeting, a copy of the alterations of the by-laws shall forthwith be submitted for approval in accordance with Rule 136, together with a copy of the minutes relating to such alterations.

Temporary removal

(v) If it is desired permanently to remove the Lodge, and it is not possible at once to specify a particular place of future meeting, the Master shall apply for an appropriate dispensation

or appropriate dispensations in accordance with Rule 142. The dispensation, if granted, shall be for such period as is specified therein and shall authorise the Lodge to meet and carry on its business until the provisions of these Rules have been complied with.

Removal of Lodges for one meeting

142. If any meeting of a Lodge at its regular place should for any reason be impracticable or undesirable, the Master shall forthwith apply to the Grand Master or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, as the case may be, for a dispensation to meet at a specified place to carry on the general business of the Lodge, and, if the specified place be outside the area of jurisdiction in which the Lodge regularly meets, a dispensation shall be applied for from each of the authorities concerned.

Property, Furniture, Jewels, Books, Papers, etc., of a Lodge

143. All property of a Lodge not vested in special trustees belongs to, and is the property of, the subscribing members of the Lodge for the time being, in trust for themselves. If any Lodge shall pledge its jewels and furniture or any part thereof, or permit or suffer any charge or lien thereon to arise or to be created, then its warrant is liable to be forfeited. Every member of a Lodge is bound on ceasing to hold an office in the Lodge forthwith to hand over to his successor in such office all books, papers, documents, and other property, if any, in his possession or under his control by virtue of his having held such office.

Minutes

144. Every Lodge shall keep a Minute Book in which the Master or the Secretary shall regularly enter from time to time:

(i) The names of all persons initiated, passed, or raised in the Lodge, or becoming members thereof, with the dates of their proposal, initiation, passing, and raising or admission respectively, together with their ages, addresses, titles, and professions or occupations.

(ii) The names of all members present at each meeting of the Lodge, and of all visiting Brethren with the names and numbers of their Lodges and their Masonic ranks.

(iii) Minutes of all the proceedings of the Lodge. The minutes of each meeting of a Lodge shall at the regular meeting next following be read (unless an exact copy has been sent to each member of the Lodge with the summons to the meeting) and submitted for confirmation as a true record of fact.

Lodge Subscriptions

145. All members entitled to the same privileges of a Lodge must pay annually the same amount of subscription, save that, if the by-laws so provide, a smaller rate of annual subscription may be fixed for members who, for some cause satisfactory to the Lodge, are not in a position to enjoy such privileges regularly.

No Lodge may by its by-laws or otherwise provide that any subscribing member thereof shall not be entitled to receive summonses, or be disqualified from holding office therein, but a Lodge may in its by-laws provide that members who are in default in the payment of their subscriptions for some specified period, not less than three months after their becoming due, shall be deprived while so in default of all or any of the rights of voting, proposing or seconding candidates, and being appointed or elected to office.

Annual Return of Members

146. (i) Every Lodge, by its Secretary, shall within one month after the end of each of its subscription years, if the Lodge meets in London or in a Province, or three months after the end of each of its subscription years, if the Lodge meets elsewhere, transmit to the Grand Secretary, upon a printed form which he will provide, a return of the persons, who were during such year its subscribing members. Particulars shall also be given in the return of the dates of election to Honorary membership, and of the deaths, resignations, cessations

under Rule 148 and exclusions under Rule 181 of subscribing members which have occurred during such year. Such returns shall be signed by the Master and the Secretary.

(ii) It shall also be the duty of every Lodge to keep a register of its present and past members, containing particulars of their dates of Initiation, Passing and Raising, or joining or re- joining, as the case may be, their ages, addresses, titles, and professions or occupations and the dates of and reasons for their ceasing to be members.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

146. (i) Every Lodge, by its Secretary, shall within one month after the end of each of its subscription years transmit to the Grand Secretary, in such format as the Board of General Purposes shall from time to time prescribe, a return of the persons, who were during such year its subscribing and Honorary members. Particulars shall also be given in the return of the dates of election to Honorary membership, and of the deaths, resignations, cessations under Rule 148 and exclusions under Rule 181 of members which have occurred during such year. Such returns shall be authenticated by the Treasurer and the Secretary.

(ii) It shall also be the duty of every Lodge to keep up to date the information in the register maintained by the Grand Secretary of its present and past members, containing particulars of their dates of Initiation, Passing and Raising, or joining or re- joining, as the case may be, their ages, addresses, titles, and professions or occupations and the dates of and reasons for their ceasing to be members.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Remittance of fees, etc.

147. Every Lodge when it makes the return required by the preceding Rule shall remit the proper fees payable pursuant to Rule 269 in respect of every member whose name appears thereon, irrespective of whether his subscription has been paid or not. In the case of a member who has not paid his subscription the date to which he is clear on the books of the Lodge shall be stated in the appropriate place on the return form.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

147. Every Lodge when it makes the return required by the preceding Rule shall remit the proper fees payable pursuant to Rule 269 in respect of every member whose name appears thereon, irrespective of whether his subscription has been paid or not. In the case of a member who has not paid his subscription the date to which he is clear on the books of the Lodge shall be stated in the appropriate place in the return.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Cessation of membership when two years in arrear

148. Should the subscription of a member to his Lodge remain unpaid for two full years, at the expiration of that period he shall cease to be a member of the Lodge, which fact shall be reported to the Lodge at the next regular meeting, and recorded on the minutes. He can only become a member again by regular proposition and ballot according to Rule 163, and the Lodge shall require payment of the arrears as a condition precedent to his election. Notwithstanding any provision contained in the Lodge's by-laws, the Lodge shall be

entitled to proceed against any of its members under Rule 181 in respect of sums due for a period of six months.When a Brother ceases to be a member under this Rule, and also when a Brother subsequently pays his arrears of subscription the fact shall be notified to the Grand Secretary and, if the Lodge be within a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, also to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary. The provisions of Rules 9, 163, 175 and 182 shall apply in the case of a Brother ceasing to be a member under this Rule as if he had been excluded by vote.

Returns by Lodges in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

149. If a Lodge be in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, it shall make returns similar to those required to be made to the Grand Secretary once in each year, or oftener if required, to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary, and transmit therewith all moneys payable to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge.

Rights of Brethren not prejudiced by neglect to make returns, etc.

150. To prevent injury to individuals, by being excluded from the privileges of Masonry through neglect in not registering their names or not paying their Grand Lodge dues, any Brother so circumstanced, on producing sufficient proof that he has paid the full fees to his Lodge, including the registration fee, shall not suffer any disability by reason of such neglect, and the offending Lodge shall be reported to the Board of General Purposes for detaining moneys which are the property of the Grand Lodge.

Annual Installation Return

151. Every Lodge, by its Secretary, shall annually, immediately after the installation of the Master, make a return to the Grand Secretary of the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge, and of all members who claim to be entitled to attend the Grand Lodge as Past Masters, under Rule 9, having served the office of Master in some

other Lodge, specifying the Lodge in which each of them has served the office of Master; and no Brother shall be permitted to attend the Grand Lodge unless his name shall appear in such return. This return shall also contain the full names and addresses of the Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Almoner and Charity Steward. The Master and Secretary shall sign the return.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

151. Every Lodge, by its Secretary, shall annually, immediately after the installation of the Master, make a return to the Grand Secretary of the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge, and of all members who claim to be entitled to attend the Grand Lodge as Past Masters, under Rule 9, having served the office of Master in some other Lodge, specifying the Lodge in which each of them has served the office of Master; and no Brother shall be permitted to attend the Grand Lodge unless his name shall appear in such return. This return shall also contain the full names and contact details (which shall, at least in the case of the Master, Treasurer and Secretary, include an e-mail address) of the Master, Wardens and all other Officers appointed. The Master and Secretary shall authenticate the return.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Penalty for neglect to make returns

152. If any Lodge shall neglect to make its return and payments to the Grand Lodge for a period of six months after the same are due according to these regulations, it shall be liable to erasure or to a lesser penalty under Paragraph 4 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions and in addition the Board of General Purposes may impose such penalty as it considers fitting upon any of the members of the Lodge

who have been responsible for the neglect. The Master, Wardens, and Past Masters shall not be permitted to attend the Grand Lodge or sit upon any Board or Committee by virtue of any qualification derived from a Lodge until the proper returns and payments to the Grand Lodge from that Lodge have been made.

Treasurer's Duties and Lodge Accounts

153. **(a)** Save where a payment is made direct into the bank account of the Lodge, all moneys due to, or held for, the Lodge shall be paid or remitted, to the Treasurer direct, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an account in the name of the Lodge at a bank to be approved by resolution of the Lodge. The Treasurer, but on no pretence any other Brother acting either alone or in conjunction with another Brother, may make payments from the Lodge's account by electronic means; in the absence of the Treasurer all payments from Lodge funds shall be made by cash or by cheque.

(b) The Treasurer, if available to do so, shall make such payments as are duly authorised, or have been sanctioned by the Lodge. All cheques must bear the signature of the Treasurer and (unless the Lodge resolves to the contrary) at least one other member authorised by the Lodge, provided that if it be impracticable for the Treasurer to sign any cheque it shall be sufficient for such cheque to bear the signature of two members authorised by the Lodge.

(c) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all moneys passing through his hands in the proper books of account, which shall be the property of the Lodge, and which, together with all Lodge funds and property in his possession, shall be transferred to his successor upon investiture. He shall prepare a statement of accounts annually, at a date to be determined by the members, showing the exact financial position of the Lodge, which statement shall be verified and audited by a Committee of members of the Lodge annually elected for that purpose.

(d) Copies of the accounts and of the certificate signed by this Audit Committee that all balances have been checked and that the accounts have been duly audited shall be sent to all members of the Lodge together with the summons convening the meeting at which they are to be considered. Such meeting shall be not later than the third after the date to which the accounts are made up. The books of account shall be produced for inspection in open Lodge at such meeting, and on any other occasion if required by a resolution of the Lodge.

(e) The same procedure of annual accounts, audit and presentation to members of the Lodge shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be followed in relation to any other funds maintained by or in connection with the Lodge (whether by the Treasurer or by a Charity or other Steward or by any other member of the Lodge) such as, but not limited to, a Lodge Benevolent Fund, the funds of a Charity or Benevolent Association, Dining Fund, Charity Box collections or other moneys receivable from individual members of the Lodge or any of its Officers.

Lodge Committees

154. A Lodge, if authorised by its by-laws, may appoint a Committee of its members for the purpose of considering and reporting upon proposals for membership of the Lodge. The Lodge by resolution may specifically refer any other matter to such Committee (or other Committee specially appointed in open Lodge) for consideration and report, or with power to act within such limits as the Lodge may define, but no Committee can be invested with any general executive powers. Any Committee may submit to the Lodge for consideration any matter which it may deem to be for the benefit of the Lodge. The Master ex officio shall belong to, and be entitled to preside over, every Committee of the Lodge.

Lodge may regulate its own proceedings

155. The members present at any Lodge duly summoned have an undoubted right to regulate their own proceedings, provided they are consistent with the general laws and regulations of the Craft; but a protest against any resolution or proceeding, based on the ground of its being contrary to the laws and usages of the Craft, and for the purpose of complaining or appealing to a higher Masonic authority, may be made, and such protest shall be entered in the Minute Book if the Brother making the protest shall so request.

Voting

156. Whenever it shall happen that the votes are equal upon any question to be decided by a majority, either by ballot or otherwise, the Master in the chair or the Warden ruling the Lodge shall give a second or casting vote.

Qualifications for Initiation

157. No person shall on any pretence whatsoever be made a Mason while under the age of eighteen years nor at the age of eighteen before he shall have finally ceased to be in full time secondary education or training. Every candidate must be a free man, and in reputable circumstances.

Enquiries as to candidates from other localities

158. If a candidate for initiation seeks admission to a Lodge in a locality in which he has neither a permanent residence nor a regular place of business or employment, he shall state in writing his reasons for so doing, and his reason for not seeking admission to a Lodge in the locality of his residence or principal place of business. In such a case the Lodge to which he seeks admission, upon the receipt of a proposal form for initiation, shall forthwith make enquiries as to the candidate's suitability from the Masonic Authority having jurisdiction over the locality of his residence or principal place of business. A

candidate coming within the provisions of this Rule shall not be proposed in open Lodge until the Masonic Authority has replied to the enquiries.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

158. Except in a case to which Rule 161 applies if a candidate for initiation has neither a permanent residence nor a regular place of business or employment in a state or country where a Lodge under the Grand Lodge meets, the matter shall be referred to the Grand Secretary in order that he may make such enquiries as he deems appropriate as to the candidate's suitability. A candidate coming within the provisions of this Rule shall not be proposed in open Lodge until the Grand Secretary shall have confirmed that there is no objection to the candidate.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Candidates for Initiation

159. Except as provided by Rule 160, a candidate for initiation may be proposed at a regular or emergency meeting, and he must be balloted for at the next regular meeting. No proposal shall be made at an emergency meeting unless there will be an interval of not less than four weeks between that meeting and the ballot. If the ballot be not taken for any reason or the interval between meetings be less than four weeks the proposal shall lapse. The particulars required of the candidate, as well as of his sponsor, shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge, previously to the meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be made. For this purpose the printed form of application approved by the Board of General Purposes and for the time being in use, must be employed. Copies of such printed form

will be supplied by the Grand Secretary. The sponsor of a candidate must be a subscribing member of the Lodge; the candidate must be personally known to him and he must be able to state that he is a man of good reputation and well fitted to become a member of the Lodge. When a candidate is not initiated on the day of his election, the date of such election shall be stated on the summons for the meeting at which the initiation is to take place. If a candidate is not initiated within one year after his election, the election shall be void. Every Brother upon initiation shall be supplied with a copy of the Book of Constitutions, and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a declaration of his submission to its contents.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

159. Except as provided by Rule 160, a candidate for initiation may be proposed at a regular or emergency meeting, and he must be balloted for at the next regular meeting. No proposal shall be made at an emergency meeting unless there will be an interval of not less than four weeks between that meeting and the ballot. If the ballot be not taken for any reason or the interval between meetings be less than four weeks the proposal shall lapse. The particulars required of the candidate, as well as of his sponsor, shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge, previously to the meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be made. For this purpose the candidate and his proposer and seconder shall supply such information, and in such format, as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of General Purposes. The sponsor of a candidate must be a subscribing member of the Lodge; the candidate must be personally known to him and he must be able to state that he is a man of good reputation and well fitted to become a member of the Lodge. When a candidate is not initiated on the day of his election, the date of such election shall be stated on the summons for the meeting at which the initiation is to take place. If a candidate is not initiated within one year after his election, the election shall be void. Every Brother upon initiation shall be supplied with a copy of the Book of Constitutions, and his

acceptance thereof shall be deemed a declaration of his submission to its contents.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Initiation in cases of urgency

160. In cases where the length of the procedure under Rule 159 would impose serious hardship upon a prospective candidate, any subscribing member of a Lodge may send in writing to the Master, the name, age, profession or occupation (if any), and place of abode of the candidate, and the circumstances which in his opinion render it desirable that such candidate, who must be personally known to him, should be initiated as a matter of urgency. If in the opinion of the Master the urgency be real, and that hardship upon the candidate would be serious, he shall require the candidate and his sponsor to furnish the appropriate particulars to the Secretary of the Lodge on the printed form of application mentioned in Rule 159, not less than fourteen days previously to the regular or emergency meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be submitted, and the ballot taken. No such action shall be taken without the previous grant of a dispensation (for which no charge shall be made) by the Grand Master or, in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master. The candidate, if elected, is to be thereupon initiated.

A statement by the Master of the cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship shall in every case be specified in the summons (issued in accordance with Rule 164) for the regular or emergency meeting at which the proposal is to be submitted. The Master, previously to the ballot being taken, shall state in open Lodge the

cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship, and such matters shall be recorded in the Lodge minutes.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

160. In cases where the length of the procedure under Rule 159 would impose serious hardship upon a prospective candidate, any subscribing member of a Lodge may send in writing to the Master, the name, age, profession or occupation (if any), and place of abode of the candidate, and the circumstances which in their opinion render it desirable that such candidate, who must be personally known to them, should be initiated as a matter of urgency. If in the opinion of the Master the urgency be real, and that hardship upon the candidate would be serious, he shall require the candidate and his sponsor to furnish the appropriate particulars to the Secretary of the Lodge in accordance with Rule 159, not less than fourteen days previously to the regular or emergency meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be submitted, and the ballot taken. No such action shall be taken without the previous grant of a dispensation (for which no charge shall be made) by the Grand Master or, in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master. The candidate, if elected, is to be thereupon initiated.

A statement by the Master of the cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship shall in every case be specified in the summons (issued in accordance with Rule 164) for the regular or emergency meeting at which the proposal is to be submitted. The Master, previously to the ballot being taken, shall state in open Lodge the cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship, and such matters shall be recorded in the Lodge minutes.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Candidates from Ireland and Scotland

161. No Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall initiate any candidate whose usual place of residence is in Ireland or Scotland or any place where the Grand Lodge of Ireland or the Grand Lodge of Scotland has exclusive Masonic jurisdiction without first communicating with the Grand Secretary in order that he may make enquiries of the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction from which the candidate comes, before a ballot is taken for his election.

This Rule shall not apply to members of Her Majesty's Forces on the Active List, or to members of any University who are candidates for initiation in a Lodge specially associated with that University.

Declaration by Candidate

162. Every candidate before his initiation must subscribe his name at full length to a declaration of the following import, viz.:

To the Master, Wardens, Officers and Members of the Lodge of .... No. ..... I, ..., being a free man, and of the full age of eighteen years, do declare that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motive, I do freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry; that I am prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the institution, and a desire of knowledge; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the antient usages and the established customs of the Order.

Witness my hand, this ..... of .....
Witness .....

162A. It shall be incumbent on every Lodge to make adjustments, if reasonably practicable, to accommodate a disabled person.

Joining Members

163. (a) A Brother desiring to become a joining or rejoining member of a Lodge must be proposed and seconded at a regular

meeting only. He must be balloted for at the next regular meeting. If the ballot be not so taken, the proposal shall be void. If elected, he must take up his membership within one year, and if he fails to do so the election shall be void.

(b) The particulars required of the candidate, as well as of his sponsor, shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge previously to the meeting of the Lodge at which the proposition is to be made. For this purpose the printed form of application mentioned in Rule 159 must be employed. The sponsor of a candidate must be qualified in the same manner and fulfil the same requirements as are mentioned in Rule 159 with respect to the sponsor of a candidate for initiation.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

(b) The particulars required of the candidate, as well as of his sponsor, shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge previously to the meeting of the Lodge at which the proposition is to be made. For this purpose the candidate and his sponsor shall supply such information, and in such format, as may from time to time be prescribed in accordance with Rule 159. The sponsor of a candidate must be qualified in the same manner and fulfil the same requirements as are mentioned in Rules with respect to the sponsor of a candidate for initiation.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Certificate to be produced

(c) Before the ballot is taken the candidate must produce to the Secretary of the Lodge his Grand Lodge Certificate, and the

Secretary must satisfy himself that the candidate is in good standing in each of the Lodges of which he is a member and that all dues have been paid; he must also ascertain whether the candidate is indebted to any Lodge of which he has ceased to be a member and (unless he shall have resigned in good standing) the circumstances in which he left such Lodge, and whether at that time all dues were paid, or have since been paid. If any of such Lodges has ceased to exist, the Secretary shall ascertain from the Grand Secretary all relevant facts so far as they are known.

(d) If a Lodge accepts as a joining member a Brother who has been excluded from a Lodge or who has resigned without having complied with its by-laws or the general regulations of the Craft, it shall be liable for any arrears that may be owing by him to the Lodge or Lodges from which he has been excluded or has resigned. The circumstances of such exclusion or resignation shall be stated to the Lodge before the ballot is taken, the better to enable the Brethren to exercise their discretion as to his admission, but the failure to make such a statement shall not exonerate the Lodge from its liability for such arrears, unless the Secretary shall be able to demonstrate that prior to the ballot he had taken all reasonable steps to satisfy himself in accordance with paragraph (c) of this Rule that the Brother was not at the time of the ballot indebted to any Lodge of which he was or had been a member.

Joining Members from other Jurisdictions

(e) In the event of a Brother who has been initiated in a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge applying to join a Lodge under the Grand Lodge, the Secretary of the Lodge shall, before the ballot is taken, apply to the Grand Secretary (or in the case of a District Lodge, to the District Grand Secretary) to ascertain that the Grand Lodge under which the Brother was initiated is recognised by the Grand Lodge.

(f) Upon election or within one year after his election, and previously to being admitted for the first time as a member of the Lodge, the joining Brother shall make the following declaration:

'I, ..., initiated in Lodge ....., No. ..... on the Register of the Grand Lodge of ..... do solemnly declare that if I am admitted a member of this Lodge I will adhere to the Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, and promise due obedience to the Grand Master thereof and to all the Rules and Regulations of such United Grand Lodge.'

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

(f) Before election, upon election or within one year after his election, and previously to being admitted for the first time as a member of the Lodge, the joining Brother shall make the following declaration:

'I, ..., initiated in Lodge ....., No. ..... on the Register of the Grand Lodge of ..... do solemnly declare that if I am admitted a member of this Lodge I will adhere to the Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, and promise due obedience to the Grand Master thereof and to all the Rules and Regulations of such United Grand Lodge.'

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

(g) The declaration shall be made in the Lodge which the Brother is joining or in some other Lodge under the Grand Lodge, or in writing witnessed by a Brother, who shall state the name, number and Jurisdiction (which must be the Grand Lodge or a Jurisdiction recognised by the Grand Lodge) of the Lodge to which he himself belongs. The declaration validates the election retrospectively and must be recorded in the Lodge minutes.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

(g) The declaration shall be made in the Lodge which the Brother is joining or in some other Lodge under the Grand Lodge, or in writing witnessed by a Brother, who shall state the name, number and Jurisdiction (which must be the Grand Lodge or a Jurisdiction recognised by the Grand Lodge) of the Lodge to which he himself belongs. The declaration validates the election retrospectively and must be recorded in the Lodge minutes.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

(h) A copy of the Book of Constitutions must be presented to each such joining Brother.

(j) A Lodge, may enact in its by-laws that, in addition to the joining or rejoining fees, the candidate shall pay to the Lodge such registration fees as are payable to Grand Lodge and, if applicable, Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, together with any tax thereon, and the candidate shall before becoming a member be informed of the total amount due.

Election of candidates for initiation or joining

164. (a) (i) The particulars required by Rules 159, 160 and 163 shall be inserted in the printed form of application and considered by the appropriate committee of the Lodge or, if there be no such Committee, by the Master. The certificate to that effect in the form shall be signed by the Master, and the particulars with the Master's Certificate shall be read in open Lodge immediately before the ballot is taken. If the Candidate is elected and subsequently is Initiated in or joins or rejoins the Lodge, the form shall immediately be signed by the Secretary and sent with the appropriate fee to the Grand Secretary for registration. In a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master may direct that

a duplicate thereof shall be sent to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary.

(ii) If a candidate for Initiation, or a candidate for joining or re-joining who is unattached in accordance with Rule 127, is unable to make the declaration required of him in the form without qualification, the form with the Master's Certificate duly signed together with an account of the circumstances shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall certify, if such be the case, that the matters disclosed in connection with the application do not constitute a bar to Initiation (or joining or re-joining, as the case may be). His certificate together with any additional statement that he may require shall be read in open Lodge immediately before the candidate is proposed and seconded and again immediately before the ballot is taken, and shall be entered in the Minutes of the respective meetings. If the Grand Secretary shall decline to grant a certificate, the Master may, if authorised by a resolution of the Lodge following notice on the summons, seek a ruling from the Board of General Purposes under Rule 184.

(iii) A candidate's sponsor, or the Secretary of the Lodge, who knowingly makes or leaves uncorrected such a false statement shall be liable to the same penalty.

(b) In the case of a candidate for initiation his

(i) full name,
(ii) age,
(iii) profession or occupation (if any),
(iv) place or places of abode,
(v) business address or addresses,
(vi) the name of his sponsor; and
(vii) the date of his proposal in open Lodge,

and, in the case of a candidate for joining or rejoining, the same particulars (except of age), together with the name and number of the Lodge or Lodges of which he is and has been a member, shall be

specified in the summons for the meeting at which the ballot is to take place, and a copy of such summons shall be sent to each member of the Lodge at least ten days before the day of such meeting.

(c) It is competent for a Lodge to specify in its by-laws that the form containing the particulars of a candidate shall be deposited with the Secretary for a reasonable number of days before the meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed, such number being specified in the by-laws, but the period of fourteen days mentioned in Rule 160 shall in no case be abridged.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

164. (a) (i) The particulars required by Rules 159, 160 and 163 shall be considered by the appropriate committee of the Lodge or, if there be no such Committee, by the Master. The Master shall confirm, if such be the case, that he has made due enquiry with regard to the character and qualifications of the Candidate and that in his opinion, or in the opinion of a Committee of members of the Lodge as the case may be, the Candidate is a fit and proper person to be admitted as a member of the Lodge; and the particulars with the Master's statement shall be read in open Lodge immediately before the ballot is taken. If the Candidate is elected and subsequently is Initiated in or joins or rejoins the Lodge, the Secretary shall immediately inform the Grand Secretary and shall when required remit the appropriate fee to the Grand Secretary for registration. In a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master may direct that the same information and any appropriate fee shall be sent to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary.

(ii) If a candidate for Initiation, or a candidate for joining or re-joining who is unattached in accordance with Rule 127, or a candidate for joining from a recognised Grand Lodge, is unable to make any declaration required of him in accordance with Rule 159 without qualification, the matter shall be referred to the Grand Secretary together with an account of the circumstances and a

statement from the Master in accordance with sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph, duly signed . The Grand Secretary shall certify, if such be the case, that the matters disclosed in connection with the application do not constitute a bar to Initiation (or joining or re-joining, as the case may be). His certificate together with any additional statement that he may require shall be read in open Lodge immediately before the candidate is proposed and seconded and again immediately before the ballot is taken, and shall be entered in the Minutes of the respective meetings. If the Grand Secretary shall decline to grant a certificate, the Master may, if authorised by a resolution of the Lodge following notice on the summons, seek a ruling under Rule 184; provided that if a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master be of opinion that a certificate should have been granted, he shall cause the matter to be dealt with in accordance with Rule 184(b).

(iii) A candidate's sponsor, or the Secretary of the Lodge, who knowingly makes or leaves uncorrected such a false statement shall be liable to the same penalty.

(b) In the case of a candidate for initiation his

(i) full name,
(ii) age,
(iii) profession or occupation (if any),
(iv) place or places of abode,
(v) business address or addresses,
(vi) the name of his sponsor; and
(vii) the date of his proposal in open Lodge,

and, in the case of a candidate for joining or rejoining, the same particulars (except of age), together with the name and number of the Lodge or Lodges of which he is and has been a member, shall be specified in the summons for the meeting at which the ballot is to take place, and a copy of such summons shall be sent to each member of the Lodge at least ten days before the day of such meeting.

(c) It is competent for a Lodge to specify in its by-laws that the particulars of a candidate shall be communicated to the Secretary a

reasonable number of days before the meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed, such number being specified in the by-laws, but the period of fourteen days mentioned in Rule 160 shall in no case be abridged.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Rejection on ballot

165. No person shall be made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, a Lodge, if, on the ballot, three black balls appear against him; but the by-laws of a Lodge may enact that two black balls or one black ball shall exclude a candidate; and the by-laws may also enact that a reasonable period therein prescribed shall elapse before any rejected candidate can be proposed again in that Lodge.

Transfer of membership on Amalgamation

165A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 163, 164 and 165, where the Grand Master grants a Certificate of Amalgamation between two or more Lodges under Rule 102A compliance with the following procedure shall, subject to the proviso below, be sufficient to effect the transfer of membership to the continuing Lodge of members of the other Lodge or Lodges (the "Amalgamating Lodge(s)") that are party to the amalgamation:

(a) there shall be completed in respect of each Amalgamating Lodge a joint Registration Form (as approved from time to time by the Board of General Purposes) giving the full name, place of abode, date of birth and occupation of each member of the Lodge desirous of transferring his membership;

(b) the joint Registration Form shall be signed, against his name, by each such Brother and shall have appended thereto a certificate signed by the Master and Secretary of the Amalgamating Lodge that none of the Brethren therein named is indebted to the Lodge;

(c) the joint Registration Form shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the continuing Lodge in order that names of the Brethren listed therein and the particulars required above may be placed on the summons for a regular meeting of the Lodge, to be held not later than the date of the removal of the Amalgamating Lodge from the register of the Grand Lodge, at which the transfer of membership must be approved by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting;

(d) upon the removal from the register of the Grand Lodge of the Amalgamating Lodge the transfer of membership shall become effective provided that the foregoing procedure (i) shall not be used in the case of any Brother who is indebted to his Amalgamating Lodge or who has at any time ceased to be a member of any Lodge by the operation of Rule 148 or 181; and (ii) shall not be effective to transfer the membership of any Brother who shall prove to have been, at the date of the removal from the register of the Grand Lodge of the Amalgamating Lodge, indebted to any Lodge of which he then was or had at any time been a member.

Initiate becomes a member

166. Except in the case of a serving Brother, every candidate becomes a subscribing member of the Lodge upon initiation therein.

Honorary Members

167. A Lodge shall have power, after notice placed on the summons, to elect as an Honorary Member any Brother of good standing and

worthy of such distinction by reason of his services to the Craft, or to the particular Lodge, who is, or within the previous year has been, a subscribing member of a regular Lodge. The motion for his election shall be voted on by ballot and declared carried unless three or more black balls appear against it. Such Honorary Member, who shall not be liable for any fees payable to the Lodge, shall possess the right of attending the meetings of the Lodge, but not, unless he ceases to be an Honorary Member by becoming a subscribing member of the Lodge in accordance with Rules 163 and 164, of making or voting upon any proposition or holding any office in the Lodge. The Grand Lodge and Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge dues under Rules 83, 84 and 270 shall not be paid in respect of an Honorary Member, and his name shall not be included in the list of subscribing members returned to the Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 146 or the return required by Rule 151.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

167. A Lodge shall have power, after notice placed on the summons, to elect as an Honorary Member any Brother of good standing and worthy of such distinction by reason of his services to the Craft, or to the particular Lodge, who is, or within the previous year has been, a subscribing member of a regular Lodge. The motion for his election shall be voted on by ballot and declared carried unless three or more black balls appear against it. Such Honorary Member, who shall not be liable for any fees payable to the Lodge, shall possess the right of attending the meetings of the Lodge, but not, unless he ceases to be an Honorary Member by becoming a subscribing member of the Lodge in accordance with Rules 163 and 164, of making or voting upon any proposition or holding any office in the Lodge. The Grand Lodge and Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge dues under Rules 83, 84 and 270 shall not be paid in respect of an Honorary Member, but his name shall be included in the list of members returned to the

Grand Lodge in accordance with Rule 146; his name shall not be included in the return required by Rule 151.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Number of candidates on the same day limited

168. (*Rule deleted by Grand Lodge, 13 March 2024*)

Fee for Initiation

169. When a person is made a Mason (except as provided in the following Rule) he shall on or before the day of his initiation pay to the Lodge the initiation fee prescribed in the by-laws. No Lodge shall forgo or defer the payment of this sum or any part thereof.

A Lodge may enact in its by-laws that, in addition to the initiation fee, the candidate shall pay to the Lodge such registration fees as are payable to Grand Lodge and, if applicable, Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, together with any tax thereon, and the candidate shall before becoming a member be informed of the total amount due.

170. (a) A person may be initiated as a serving Brother without any fee by the Lodge in which he is to serve or by any Lodge for the service of the Grand Lodge or a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, subject to a dispensation first being obtained from the Grand Master or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.

Initiation and status of serving Brethren

(b) Every such initiation and the circumstances thereof shall be specially notified to the Grand Secretary in the return made to him and the serving Brother shall be registered free of expense, but

shall be obliged to pay for a special Grand Lodge Certificate the fee prescribed. A Brother initiated as a serving Brother can become a member of a Lodge only by being elected thereto as a joining member and paying thereto the same fee as an initiate therein, but from and after such election and payment he shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges to which he would have been entitled if he had been initiated in a Lodge otherwise than as a serving Brother. Upon the first registration of a serving Brother as a joining member of a Lodge the appropriate fee for the registration of an initiate shall be paid by such Lodge, and the Brother shall be entitled to return the special Grand Lodge Certificate originally issued to him, in exchange for a Grand Lodge Certificate of the same date as his original Certificate.

(c) (*Rule deleted by Grand Lodge, 10 September 2025*).

(d) A Tyler not initiated as a serving Brother is not qualified himself to pay the dues referred to in the preceding paragraph, neither may any Lodge pay such dues for him unless he is a subscribing member thereof.

Responsibility for fees

171. A member who sponsors a candidate for initiation or joining membership shall be responsible to the Lodge for all fees payable under its by-laws in respect of such candidate.

Interval between degrees

172. Except abroad as provided by Rule 90, no Lodge shall confer a degree on any Brother at a less interval than four weeks from his receiving the previous degree, and every ceremony performed in contravention of this provision (unless validated as mentioned below) shall be void. The Grand Master may if he thinks proper upon the recommendation of the Grand Secretary grant a dispensation validating any such ceremony retrospectively, subject to such (if any) conditions as he may consider proper.

Conferment of degrees by request

173. **(a)** No Lodge of which he is not a member shall pass or raise a Brother who has been initiated in another Lodge except at the written request of the Master (or in his absence a Warden) and the Secretary of the Lodge in which he was initiated.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

173. **(a)** No Lodge of which he is not a member shall pass or raise a Brother who has been initiated in another Lodge except at the written or electronically transmitted request of the Master (or in his absence a Warden) and the Secretary of the Lodge in which he was initiated.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

(b) In the case of a request by or on behalf of a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge to have a degree conferred on a Brother in a Lodge under the Grand Lodge, the request must be countersigned by the Grand Secretary of the recognised Grand Lodge and by him forwarded to the Grand Secretary for transmission to the Lodge, in which the degree is to be conferred.

(c) In the converse case of a request by or on behalf of a Lodge under the Grand Lodge to have a degree conferred on a Brother in a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge, the request must be countersigned by the Grand Secretary and by him forwarded to the Grand Secretary of the recognised Grand Lodge for transmission to the Lodge in which the degree is to be conferred.

(d) Whenever a Brother has been passed or raised under any of the provisions of this Rule a document certifying such passing or raising shall forthwith be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and to the Lodge to which the candidate belongs.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

(d) Whenever a Brother has been passed or raised under any of the provisions of this Rule such passing or raising shall forthwith be notified to the Grand Secretary and to the Lodge to which the candidate belongs.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Application for Grand Lodge Certificate

174. (a) Applications for Grand Lodge Certificates must be made by the Lodge in which the Brother has been initiated to the Grand Secretary, on the appropriate form provided by him, except in the case of District Lodges where the District Grand Master is authorised by Rule 87 to issue Certificates, in which case the application must be made to the District Grand Secretary.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

174. (a) Applications for Grand Lodge Certificates must be made by the Lodge in which the Brother has been initiated to the Grand Secretary, except in the case of District Lodges where a District Grand Master is authorised under Rule 87 to issue Certificates, in which case the application must be made to the District Grand Secretary.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Fee for Certificate must be paid

(b) The fee payable for the registration of a Mason, in accordance with Rule 270, shall be paid and sent, together with the proposal form, on the registration of a Brother's name by the Lodge in which he was initiated. No Certificate can be issued until the appropriate fee is paid and the proposal form duly completed is received.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

(b) The fee payable for the registration of a Mason, in accordance with Rule 270, shall be paid and sent by the Lodge in which he was initiated when next remitting the amounts due in accordance with Rule 147. No Certificate can be issued until the registration of initiation is received, and the Grand Secretary may refuse to issue a Certificate in the event that the registration fee is overdue and has not been paid.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Who entitled to Certificate

(c) Every Brother in good standing shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge Certificate immediately upon his being registered in the books of the Grand Lodge as having received the third degree; but a Brother may in special circumstances obtain a Certificate of the first or second degree, and, after he has been advanced to a superior degree, shall be entitled free of charge to exchange such Certificate for one of the superior degree.

Presentation of Certificate

(d) A Brother's Grand Lodge Certificate should be presented to him in open Lodge, and the fact entered on the minutes, but, in cases where this cannot conveniently be done, the Certificate shall be sent to him by registered post, and the Secretary shall report the fact at the next regular meeting of the Lodge so that it be duly recorded.

Certificate must be signed

(e) A Grand Lodge Certificate must immediately upon receipt be signed in the margin by the Brother to whom it is issued.

Lost Certificate

(f) In case a Certificate be lost or destroyed, of which satisfactory proof must be adduced, the Grand Secretary may issue a duplicate to the Brother to whom the original was issued upon payment of the fee prescribed in Rule 270.

Grants of Certificates by Private Lodges

175. A Lodge shall grant a Certificate free of charge to a Brother whenever required by him in each of the following cases:

(i) When he is a member of the Lodge, a Certificate to that effect and stating (if such be the case) that he is not indebted to the Lodge; and

(ii) When he has been but is no longer a member of the Lodge, a Certificate stating whether he ceased to be a member by resignation under Rule 183 or by exclusion, giving the date and circumstances thereof, and stating whether he was at the time indebted to the Lodge and, if so, whether and at what time such indebtedness was discharged by him.

If a Brother is under suspension, such information shall be included in the Certificate issued under this Rule. The Certificate shall be dated, and, unless handed to the Brother himself, shall be

transmitted by registered post, the envelope being plainly marked on the outside 'Private and Confidential'.

Except as provided by this Rule no Lodge shall grant a Certificate of any kind to a Brother. In particular, a Brother who has been expelled from the Craft, who has resigned from the Craft under the former Rule 277A or to whom Paragraph 6 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions applies shall not be granted a Certificate.

Membership of quasi-Masonic and other organisations

176. A person who has in any way been connected with any organisation which is quasi-Masonic, imitative of Masonry, or regarded by the Grand Lodge as irregular or as incompatible with the Craft, may not be initiated into the Craft except by leave of the Grand Master or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, as the case may be.

A Brother who subsequent to his initiation has in any way been or is connected with any such organisation as above- mentioned shall be bound to disclaim and finally to sever such connection, or on failure so to do when called upon to do so by any proper Masonic authority shall be liable to suspension or expulsion and shall not thereafter be entitled to a resumption of his Masonic privileges until he shall have petitioned the Grand Master, made due submission, and obtained grace.

Printing or publishing proceedings

177. No Brother shall publish or cause to be published anything which according to the established principles of Masonry ought not to be published.

No Brother, without the consent of the Grand Master or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master as the case may be, shall publish or cause to be published the proceedings of any Lodge.

No Brother, without the like consent, shall publish or circulate or cause to be published or circulated any document relating to any

case before a regularly constituted Masonic tribunal, except that copies of documents may be furnished for the use of such tribunal if sent through the Grand Secretary or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary or the Chairman or Secretary of the Board or Committee forming the tribunal, as the case may require.

Public appearance in Masonic Clothing

178. No Brother shall appear clothed in any of the jewels, collars or badges of the Craft, in any procession, meeting or assemblage at which persons other than Masons are present, or in any place of public resort, unless the Grand Master or the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, as the case may be, shall have previously given a dispensation for Brethren to be there present in Masonic clothing.

Duty to conform to law: reputation of Freemasonry: breaches of Regulations

179. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Report of custodial sentence and other conduct likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute

179A. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Suspension or Expulsion from the Royal Arch

179B. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Misbehaviour in Lodge

180. If any Brother behave in Lodge in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the Lodge, he shall be formally admonished by the Master and, if he persists in his irregular conduct, he shall be punished by censure or exclusion for the remainder of the meeting, according to the opinion of the majority of the members present, or the case may be reported to higher Masonic authority.

Permanent exclusion

181. **(a)** Any Lodge may by resolution exclude any member for sufficient cause, provided that

(i) a notice in writing shall have been served upon him by Registered Post, the envelope being plainly marked on the outside 'Private and Confidential', not less than fourteen days before the meeting at which the complaint is to be considered, together with particulars of the complaint made against him, stating the time and place appointed for the meeting and that he may attend to answer the complaint in person or make answer in writing if he prefers.

(ii) not less than ten days' notice in writing shall also have been served on the members of the Lodge of the intention to propose such a resolution.

(b) The notices shall be considered duly served if sent by post to the last known address of each member.

(c) The name of the Brother concerned shall not appear in the notice served upon the members of the Lodge, but must be made known to the Brethren when the resolution is moved at the meeting.

(d) The voting shall be by ballot.

(e) The resolution shall not be carried unless two-thirds of the members present vote in favour of it.

(f) If the resolution is carried, the exclusion shall be effective forthwith.

(g) The name of every Brother excluded from a Lodge, with the cause of the exclusion, shall forthwith be sent to the Grand Secretary and, if the Lodge be within a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, also to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary.

(h) When the cause of exclusion is non-payment of subscriptions for a period shorter than that prescribed in Rule 148 (if so provided in the Lodge's by-laws), the Grand Secretary, and if the Lodge be within a Metropolitan Area, Province or District, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary shall be notified if the Brother concerned subsequently pays the arrears of subscription.

(j) In this Rule to "exclude" a Brother means to terminate the Brother's membership of the Lodge, and the terms "exclude", "excluded", and "exclusion'' shall be construed accordingly.

N.B. the term expelled is used only where a Brother is removed from the Craft by the Grand Lodge.

Power to reinstate excluded Brethren

182. (a) If the Grand Master be satisfied that any Brother has been excluded without due cause or that the provisions of Rule 181 have not been complied with, he may, either of his own motion or on the complaint of the Brother who has been excluded, order him to be reinstated, and may suspend any Lodge which fails to comply with that order.

(b) A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master has the same power within his Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

(c) A complaint under this Rule must be made within three months after the exclusion of the Brother who makes it.

(d) No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Grand Master under this Rule, but an appeal may be made under Paragraph 15 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions against a decision of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master if the Grand Registrar shall be of opinion that such decision is one that requires further consideration.

Resignation

183. A member of a Lodge may at any time resign his membership (either immediately or as from some later date specified by him at the time), by notifying such resignation either by a written notice to the Secretary or orally to the Lodge at a regular meeting. If the resignation be so notified to the Secretary, he shall (unless it had in the meantime been withdrawn by a further written notice to him), communicate it to the Lodge at the next regular meeting thereof. The resignation, if notified to the Secretary and reported to the Lodge, takes effect from the time such notification in writing was received by the Secretary,

or, if communicated orally to the Lodge, takes effect forthwith, or (in either case) as from such later date (if any) as has been so specified as above-mentioned. No acceptance of the resignation is necessary, and, subject to the following provisions, it is, after notification or communication to the Lodge, irrevocable.

Provided first that if, when the resignation is notified or communicated to the Lodge as aforesaid, the member be desired by a majority of the members present and voting to withdraw his resignation, it shall, if within sixty days thereafter he does so withdraw it, be considered cancelled; and, secondly, the resignation of a Brother notified or communicated to a Lodge after a notice has been served upon him, in accordance with Rule 181, that a resolution is to be proposed to exclude him from the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn, and such resignation does not prevent the Lodge considering and voting upon such resolution if it so desires, but, unless the Lodge has resolved that the Brother shall be excluded, it may in such a case proceed in the manner indicated in the first proviso of this Rule.

**Until the Board of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Rule (above) will continue to apply.*

183. A member of a Lodge may at any time resign his membership (either immediately or as from some later date specified by him at the time), by notifying such resignation either by a written notice to the Secretary (which may be sent by electronic means) or orally to the Lodge at a regular meeting. If the resignation be so notified to the Secretary, he shall (unless it had in the meantime been withdrawn by a further written notice to him), communicate it to the Lodge at the next regular meeting thereof. The resignation, subject to the first proviso below, if notified to the Secretary and reported to the Lodge, takes effect from the time such notification in writing was received by the Secretary, or, if communicated orally to the Lodge, takes effect forthwith, or (in either case) as from such later date (if any) as has been so specified as above-mentioned. No acceptance of the resignation is necessary, and, subject to the following provisions, it is, after notification or communication to the Lodge, irrevocable.

Provided first that from the time when the resignation is notified to the Secretary or communicated to the Lodge as aforesaid the member shall have a period of sixty days in which to withdraw his resignation, which shall, if within that period he does so withdraw it, be considered cancelled; and, secondly, the resignation of a Brother notified or communicated to a Lodge after a notice has been served upon him, in accordance with Rule 181, that a resolution is to be proposed to exclude him from the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn, and such resignation does not prevent the Lodge considering and voting upon such resolution if it so desires, but, unless the Lodge has resolved that the Brother shall be excluded, the member shall nevertheless have a period of sixty days in which to withdraw his resignation.

**The above and amended Rule has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, East Lancashire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Guernsey and Alderney, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.*

Resignation from Craft

183A. (a) A Brother may at any time resign his membership of the Craft by notifying such resignation to the Grand Secretary in writing on such form or forms as may from time to time be prescribed for such purpose by the Board of General Purposes, accompanied by the Brother's Grand Lodge Certificate and, if he is a Royal Arch Mason, by his Grand Chapter Certificate. Such form or forms shall include *inter alia* a statement that the Brother

(i) has ceased to belong to all of the Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England and Chapters under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England of which he has at any time been a member;

(ii) resigns any Grand Rank, or Metropolitan, Provincial, District or Overseas Grand Rank or Rank which he holds; and

(iii) no longer considers himself, or wishes others any longer to consider him, a Freemason.

(b) The Grand Secretary may in his discretion (and on such conditions as he shall impose) on the written request of the Brother direct that the delivery of any such Certificate, or compliance with any other requirement imposed under this Rule, be waived, and shall have power to communicate to any Lodge or Chapter of which the Brother may be still a member his immediate and irrevocable resignation (which shall, as between the Brother and such Lodge or Chapter, take effect in accordance with the provisions of the first paragraph of Rule 183).

(c) Resignation from the Craft shall take effect from the date on which the Grand Secretary shall receive notice under paragraph (a) of this Rule or the date on which all such action as is required or permitted under the provisions of paragraph (b) shall have been taken whichever is the later. The Grand Secretary shall send to the Brother written acknowledgement that he has effectively resigned from the Craft.

(d) A Brother who has resigned under this Rule shall remain bound by the various Masonic Obligations entered into by him, but shall not be subject to any of the duties imposed, or entitled to any of the rights and privileges conferred, on a Freemason either under the provisions of the Book of Constitutions or in accordance with the general practice of the Craft.

(e) The Grand Secretary, if satisfied that the application is in order, shall return such Certificates to the Brother in order that he may be duly sponsored as a joining or rejoining member of a Lodge.

(f) *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Masonic questions

184. Any Masonic question other than one coming under Rule 181 or Rule 182 which cannot be settled between the parties to it shall be reduced into writing and delivered as follows:

Under Rule 164(a) or not in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

(a) If in relation to a refusal by the Grand Secretary to grant a certificate under Rule 164(a)(ii), or a question arising in, or in connection with a member of, a Lodge in a place where no Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master has jurisdiction to the Grand Secretary, who shall lay the same before the Board of General Purposes.

In Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

(b) Subject to (a) above if arising in, or in connection with a member of, a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary, who shall lay the same before the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.

Appeals

185. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Meeting to discuss formation of Sovereign Grand Lodge

186. In any territory in which a District Grand Lodge exists, if the District Grand Master shall think proper to grant a dispensation for that purpose, it shall be lawful for any Lodge to hold a special meeting, or meetings, to discuss and resolve on the question of the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge for or including the District or part thereof, or any neighbouring District or part thereof, or any Lodge or Lodges not in a District. Such dispensation may be granted subject to any conditions that the District Grand Master may deem proper, and also to provisions enabling two or more Lodges to unite in the special meeting; and if the District Grand Master should refuse to grant a dispensation, an appeal from such refusal may be made to the Grand Master. In a territory in which more than one District Grand Lodge exists the same procedure shall be adopted in each District, and before any Grand Lodge shall be recognised as having jurisdiction

over the whole of such territory the consent of each District Grand Lodge shall be certified by the District Grand Master thereof.

Regulations to be observed by Lodges in the jurisdiction of a new Sovereign Grand Lodge

187. Whenever the Grand Lodge shall, with the assent of the Grand Master, recognise a Grand Lodge as a regular and independent Sovereign Body, having jurisdiction in any territory where a District Grand Lodge or Lodges not in a District exist, and the Grand Master shall signify that it is not his intention to grant for the future any warrant for a new Lodge in that jurisdiction, the following rules shall apply:

(i) Within six months after recognition the Master of every Lodge in such jurisdiction shall convene a special meeting of the Lodge on not less than twenty-one days' notice to every member; failing the Master, the District Grand Master, or, failing him, his Deputy shall convene such meeting, and preside thereat.

(ii) The Brethren present at such meeting, whose names appear as subscribing members on the last return filed with the Grand Secretary, shall decide whether they desire that the Lodge shall continue under the Grand Lodge of England or join the new Grand Lodge. If the decision be to join the new Grand Lodge, the Brethren shall, at the same meeting, decide in whom the property and effects of the Lodge shall be vested, and the warrant shall be forthwith returned to the Grand Secretary to be delivered up to the Grand Master. A majority of two-thirds of the members present shall be required to carry such resolutions.

(iii) No questions shall be discussed or put at such meeting other than those above prescribed.

(iv) Immediately after such meeting a full copy of the minutes and a list from the signature book of all members attending, together with the numbers voting for or against, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, verified under the hand of the presiding Master, and countersigned by the Secretary of the Lodge.

(v) No second meeting shall be called to discuss the above-mentioned questions without the special leave of the Grand Master.

Lodge with less than five members

188. Whenever the number of subscribing members of any Lodge, as shown on the last return to Grand Lodge, shall be fewer than five, the Lodge shall cease to meet, and the warrant, books and papers shall be delivered up to the Grand Master, who may, nevertheless, if he thinks proper, grant a dispensation to enable the members to meet, subject to such conditions as he may deem expedient, until he has finally decided whether the Lodge shall be continued or erased.

Lodge failing to meet

189. Should a Lodge fail to meet for one year, it shall be liable to be erased.

Surrender of Warrant

190. Upon the dissolution of a Lodge, the warrant, together with all the books and papers relating to the affairs of the Lodge, must be delivered up to the Grand Master. Its other property shall be disposed of as the Lodge may, prior to its dissolution, have resolved, or in default of or subject to any such resolution, as the Grand Master may direct. A warrant cannot in any circumstances be transferred.

Petitions for relief

191. Every petition to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Grand Charity, the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick, and the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (or while they are in operation as individual bodies, the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution) submitted through a Lodge to which the petitioner belongs or belonged or to which the late member of the Craft on whom the petitioner depended or was dependent, as the case

may be, belonged, shall be considered by the Lodge. Every Lodge receiving such a petition shall forward it to the Charity concerned with a report thereon.

Service of Notice

191A. Wherever service of a notice on members of a Lodge is required in these Rules the Rules appertaining to such service shall be taken to apply to those members of the Lodge residing in the country in which the Lodge meets. All reasonable efforts shall be made to comply with such Rules in respect of members of the Lodge residing elsewhere but failure to do so in respect of such members shall not invalidate the service of such a notice.

Notice

191B. (a) Every Brother must supply to Masonic authority an email address and a postal address to which notices or other documents may be sent to him ("an address for service"). The address may be that of the Brother concerned, or of someone authorised by him to receive service on his behalf.

(b) Every Brother must thereafter ensure that any change to an address for service, including revocation or variation of any authority to receive service, is notified forthwith to Masonic authority.

(c) for the purposes of this rule only, notification to Masonic authority is made when:

(i) a Brother updates his Masonic record on the membership database operated by the Grand Secretary;

(ii) two days after his Lodge Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother; or

(iii) if he is not a member of any Lodge, two days after the Grand Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother.

(d) Any document within paragraph (e)(i) below must be in writing and bear the name of the person issuing it, but need not be signed, and will be sufficiently served if sent by email to an address

for service which is an email address and if sent by post to an address for service which is a postal address. A document within paragraph (e)(ii) below addressed to a Lodge or all its members will be sufficiently served if the same conditions are satisfied, but insofar as such a document is sent to an individual Brother under the respective Rules it must be sent by post. Service may be proved by a copy of a sent email or a copy of the letter certified by the individual who posted it.

(e) The documents to which Rule 191B(d) above applies are:

(i) any summons to any Lodge or Brother to appear before

(A) the Grand Lodge;

(B) the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant;

(C) the Board of General Purposes;

(D) any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or any Brother nominated by him); or

(E) any Grand Inspector; or

(ii) any notice or document to a Lodge or an individual Brother in connection with

(A) any motion under Rule 105(b) that the Master Elect be not installed;

(B) the removal of any Officer of a Lodge under Rule 120;

(C) the permanent exclusion of a Brother under Rule 181

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) to (e) above, if the Grand Secretary or any Lodge or Brother shall receive any such notice or summons or document and shall proceed to act upon it as though it had been issued in compliance with those provisions he or the Lodge as the case may be shall not thereafter be entitled to treat it as invalid in reliance only upon the fact that it was not in compliance with those provisions.

191C. Whenever any return or form is required by or in consequence of any Rule of the Book of Constitutions to be submitted to the Grand Secretary it shall be permissible if (but only if), and to the extent that, the Board of General Purposes from time to time so directs for that return or form to be submitted in such electronic format as the Board may approve.

191D. (a) Every petition or memorial to the Grand Master for a Warrant of Constitution, a Warrant of Confirmation, a Warrant (or Warrant of Confirmation) for a Centenary Jewel, a Warrant (or Warrant of Confirmation) for a Bi-Centenary Bar or a Certificate of Amalgamation shall be submitted in written form, using in every case in which it is applicable the printed form from time to time supplied by the Grand Secretary, and shall not be entertained unless the actual petition or memorial received by the Grand Secretary has been signed by every person subscribing to the same.

(b) Whenever it shall be necessary in accordance with any Rule:

(i) to summon any Lodge or Brother to appear before

(A) the Grand Lodge;

(B) the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant;

(C) the Board of General Purposes;

(D) any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or any Brother nominated by him); or

(E) any Grand Inspector; or

(ii) to send any notice or document to a Lodge or an individual Brother in connection with

(A) any summons under Rules 74 or 234;

(B) any motion under Rule 105(b) that the Master Elect be not installed;

(C) the removal of any Officer of a Lodge under Rule 120;

(D) the permanent exclusion of a Brother under Rule 181;

(E) any disciplinary proceedings or any dispute falling within the provisions of Rule 184;

(F) any appeal under Rule 185; or

(G) any plea for clemency

such notice, summons or document shall be sent in written form and shall not be valid unless the actual notice or summons or, in the case of any document, the letter covering the same, received by the Grand Secretary or the Lodge or Brother has been signed by the person issuing the same.

(c) Whenever in this Rule it shall be a requirement that any document be signed, the signature shall be an original signature personally affixed in his own handwriting by the individual concerned and in no case shall it be permissible to use a facsimile signature or to transmit the document by electronic means.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule, if the Grand Secretary or any Lodge or Brother shall receive any such notice or summons or document as is mentioned in paragraph (b) by electronic means and shall proceed to act upon it as though it had been issued in compliance with the provisions of such paragraphs, he or the Lodge as the case may be shall not thereafter be entitled to treat it as invalid in reliance only upon the fact that it was not issued in written form and duly signed.

The Rules concerning the Board of Benevolence (192 to 215) were deleted in toto *in 1980 when the Grand Charity came into being.*

The Rules concerning the Rulers' Forum (216 to 222) were deleted in toto *in 2012.*

Constitution of Board

223. The Board shall consist of the President, the Deputy President, the Grand Treasurer, the President of the Committee of General Purposes of Grand Chapter and not more than eight additional members, of whom at least two shall be Provincial Grand Masters and one shall be a Past Master of a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area eligible to attend Grand Lodge. The additional members shall be appointed from time to time by the Grand Master to serve during his pleasure. Any casual vacancy in the number of the appointed members may be filled by the Grand Master. The Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master, though not members of the Board, shall be entitled to receive all Board papers and to attend and speak at any of its meetings.

224. The Board may from time to time co-opt further members to a number not exceeding three to serve until the next Annual Installation of the Grand Master (or such earlier date as the Board may determine at the time of co-opting). Any such Brethren shall be Masters or Past Masters of Lodges eligible to attend Grand Lodge, and shall on retirement be eligible to serve again as co-opted members.

Meetings

225. The Board shall meet in each of the months of February, March, May, July and November, the dates of the meetings for each forthcoming year being notified in the Board's Report to the September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge. It may be convened at other times also by command of the Grand Master, by the authority of the President (or in his absence by the authority of the Deputy President) or by the Grand Secretary on the written requisition of no fewer than five members of the Board.

Quorum

226. Five members shall form a quorum and proceed to business. The President, or failing him the Deputy President, or failing him a Brother chosen for the occasion by those present shall preside. All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes, the presiding Brother, in case of equality, having a second vote.

Care of Property and affairs of the Grand Lodge

227. The Board has the administration and control of the property of the Grand Lodge, and has also the regulation of all the affairs of the Grand Lodge. Generally the Board shall take cognizance of all matters in any way relating to the Craft.

Control of Finances

228. (a) The Board shall have the control of the finances of the Grand Lodge. All moneys belonging to the Grand Lodge shall be deposited in such bank or banks or similar financial institutions and to such accounts as the Board may from time to time determine.

Power to inspect the Grand Lodge Books, etc.

(b) The Board has power to inspect all books and papers relating to the accounts of the Grand Lodge, and to give such directions as may be necessary, and to require the attendance of any Brother having possession of any books, papers, documents, or accounts belonging to the Grand Lodge.

Audit

(c) The accounts shall be balanced each year as at the 31st December, and shall be audited by a firm of auditors recognised under the Companies Acts elected annually in June by the Grand Lodge. These accounts when audited shall be circulated to every Lodge not later than 30th April next following for presentation and consideration at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge in June.

Recommendations, etc.

229. The Board may recommend or report to the Grand Lodge or to the Craft whatever it may deem conducive to the welfare and good government of the Craft, and every recommendation or report of the Board, or of any Committee appointed by the Board shall, when adopted by the Grand Lodge, be treated as an Edict of the Grand Lodge.

To conduct correspondence

230. The Board shall conduct the correspondence between the Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges and Brethren and communications with Sister Grand Lodges and Brethren of eminence and distinction throughout the world.

Committees

231. The Board may from time to time appoint Committees from among its members. These shall consider all matters referred to them, and shall report their proceedings to the Board at its next meeting. Each Committee shall have power to invite to any of its meetings, for purposes of consultation, persons (who need not be members of the Craft) possessed of special knowledge of the subjects with which such Committee has to deal.

Power to adjudicate

232. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Disciplinary powers

233. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Power to summon Officers and Brethren

234. See now Rule 74

Complaints affecting members

235. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Communications to the Board

236. All petitions or representations of any kind to the Board must be made in writing and duly signed.

Precedence of business

237. Any matter specially referred to the Board by the Grand Master shall have precedence of all other business.

Minutes

238. All transactions and resolutions of the Board shall be entered in the minute book.

Clothing and Insignia

239. The regalia, clothing, insignia and jewels to be worn are as hereinafter prescribed, and no Brother shall be admitted into any meeting of the Grand Lodge, or of any subordinate Lodge, without the clothing appropriate to his rank under the Grand Lodge.

Appendix

240. The Appendix is hereby declared to be part of these Laws and Regulations.

Unauthorised insignia

241. No Masonic jewel, medal, device, or emblem shall be worn in the Grand Lodge, or any subordinate Lodge, unless it appertains to, or is consistent with, those degrees which are recognised and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge in the preliminary declaration to these Rules, as part of pure Antient Masonry, and has been approved or allowed by the Grand Master.

JEWELS

Grand Officers' Jewels

242. The jewels of the Officers of the Grand Lodge (Plate Nos. 1 to 22) are composed of an emblem, which (other than those of the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, an Assistant Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden) is enclosed within two circles containing a wreath composed of a sprig of acacia and an ear of corn, except that in the case of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or a Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master the name of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District, in the case of a Grand Inspector the name of the Group and in the case of a Grand Steward the wording shown in Plate No. 21 replaces the wreath.

Order of Service to Masonry Jewel

243. The jewel of the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry is depicted in Plate No. 24.

Past Grand Officer's Jewel

244. The jewel of Past Grand Masters and Past Pro Grand Masters is described in Plate No. 1, and the jewels of Past Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Masters, Past Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Masters and Past Grand Inspectors are described in Plate Nos. 4 and 15 respectively. The jewel of every other Past Grand Officer is composed of the emblem of his Office on a blue enamelled oval medal surrounded by a wreath composed of a sprig of acacia and an ear of corn, as illustrated in Plate No. 25.

Past Grand Steward's Jewel

245. The jewel of a Past Grand Steward is the same as that of a Grand Steward save that the emblem is enclosed in a crimson enamelled oval medal instead of within a double circle.

Senior London, London and Overseas Grand Rank Jewels

246. The jewels of the holders of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank, Metropolitan Grand Rank, Metropolitan Rank, Senior Overseas Grand Rank, Overseas Grand Rank or Overseas Rank are described in Plates Nos. 26 and 26a.

Provincial and District Grand Officers' Jewels

247. (a) The jewels of Provincial and District Grand Officers (Plate No. 29) are composed of an emblem enclosed within a double circle on which the name of the Province or District, without any ornament, is to be engraved. The emblems are the same as those worn by the Officers of the Grand Lodge, except those of a Deputy Provincial or District Grand Master, and an Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master, which are described in Plate Nos. 27 and 28, and those of such other Provincial or District Grand Officers as are described in

Plate Nos. 29b, 29c, 29d, 29e and 29f and that of a Provincial Grand Learning and Development Officer which is the same as that of the Grand Orator.

Metropolitan Grand Officers' Jewels

(b) The jewels of Metropolitan Grand Officers (Plate No. 29) are composed of an emblem enclosed within a double circle on which the name of the Metropolitan Area, without any ornament, is to be engraved. The emblems are the same as those worn by the Officers of the Grand Lodge, except those of a Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, and an Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master, which are described in Plate Nos. 27 and 28, and those of such other Metropolitan Grand Officers as are described in Plate Nos. 29b, 29c, 29d, 29e and 29f and that of a Metropolitan Grand Learning and Development Officer which is the same as that of the Grand Orator.

Past Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Officers' Jewels

248. (a) The jewel of a Past Provincial or District Grand Officer is composed of the emblem of his office on a blue enamelled oval medal and over such emblem the name of the Province or District, as illustrated in Plate No. 30, save that in the case of a Past Provincial or District Grand Steward, the emblem shall be on a crimson enamelled oval medal.

(b) A Past Metropolitan Grand Officer, other than a Metropolitan Grand Steward appointed after 31 December 2021, may wear, instead of the jewel of a holder of Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank or Metropolitan Grand Rank (as the case may be), the jewel described in Plate No. 26b. A Past Metropolitan Grand Steward shall wear a jewel similar to that of a Past Provincial or District Grand Steward, bearing the name of the Metropolitan Area unless and until he is appointed to Metropolitan Grand Rank, whereupon he shall become entitled to wear the jewel described in Plate No. 26b.

(c) A Past Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, or a Past Metropolitan Grand Inspector, if a Grand Officer, may wear his Past Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer's Jewel suspended from a garter blue collarette, 1¼ inches wide, edged with gold cord. For the purposes of this Rule a Brother who before 14 March 2007 held the rank of Past Metropolitan Group Chairman shall be treated as though he were a Past Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master.

Jewel to be of gold or of metal gilt

249. All the before-mentioned jewels shall be of gold or of metal gilt.

Private Lodge Jewels

250. The jewels of the Officers and Past Masters of private Lodges (Plate Nos. 31 to 46) shall be of silver except in the case of the Officers of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, and of the British Lodge, No. 8 which are of gold or of metal gilt.

Hall Stone Lodge Jewel

251. The Hall Stone Lodge Jewel may be worn appended to a Collarette (Plate No. 58) on all Craft occasions by the Master of each Lodge qualified as a Hall Stone Lodge.

OPTIONAL JEWELS

Centenary Jewels and Bi-Centenary Bars

252. (a) Application for permission to wear a Centenary Jewel is to be made by petition or memorial to the Grand Master, in which memorial or petition the necessary particulars as to the origin and regular working of the Lodge are to be given, as well as proof of its uninterrupted existence for one hundred years.

(b) Application for permission to attach a Bi-centenary Bar to the ribbon of the Centenary Jewel must be similarly made and proof of two hundred years of uninterrupted existence established.

(c) Application for permission to suspend the Centenary Jewel with Bi-centenary Bar from a Tercentenary Bar must be similarly made and proof of three hundred years of uninterrupted existence established.

(d) When permission has been granted to a Lodge to wear a Centenary Jewel (or Bi-Centenary or Tercentenary Bar), the privilege of wearing the Jewel (or Bi-Centenary or Tercentenary Bar), is restricted to subscribing members being Master Masons and any Honorary Member who within the year before his election as such was a subscribing member.

(e) The designs for a Centenary Jewel, a Bi-centenary Bar and a Tercentenary Bar have been approved by the Grand Master (Plate No. 59).

Charity Jewels

253. (a) For serving the office of Steward to any two of the following Institutions, viz.:

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls,
The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys,
The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution,

a Brother has the privilege of wearing the charity jewel (Plate No. 60), provided he shall, at each time of so serving, have personally subscribed ten guineas (£10.50) at the least.

(b) The jewel shall be suspended from a ribbon of one and a half inches in width, the colours of which shall be white and blue, white and red, blue and red, or white, blue and red respectively, according to the Institutions for which the Brother has served the stewardships as above, viz.:

White, for the Institution for Girls,
Blue, for the Institution for Boys,
Red, for the Benevolent Institution.

(c) A Brother being, according to the foregoing regulation, entitled to wear the charity jewel, and who may have served the office of Steward to any of the Institutions a second time, may wear a bar attached to the ribbon, and an additional bar for each occasion of having served the office of Steward to any of the Institutions; but in no case shall he be entitled to wear such bar or bars, unless he shall, on each of those occasions, at the time of serving such stewardship, have personally subscribed a like amount as above named.

(d) A Vice-President of any one or more of the Masonic Institutions, being otherwise entitled to the charity jewel, may wear attached to the ribbon, immediately above the jewel, a rosette of the colour or colours before mentioned, or in combination, according to the Institution or Institutions of which he is a Vice-President.

(e) A Vice-Patron of any one or more of the Masonic Institutions, being otherwise entitled to the charity jewel, may wear the same suspended from a ribbon around his neck, of the like width and colour or colours respectively, or in combination, according to the Institution or Institutions of which he is a Vice-Patron.

(f) A Patron of any one or more of the Masonic Institutions may have embroidered on the right and left sides of the ribbon referred to in the preceding paragraph, a sprig of acacia one and a half inches long, meeting in the centre, over the colour appertaining to the Institution of which he is a Patron, and the Jewel ensigned with a representation of the Coronet of the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the time being; the sprig of acacia and the Coronet to be of Silver for a Patron of any one of the Institutions, of Gold for a Patron of two, and enamelled in their proper colours for a Patron of the three Institutions.

(g) None of the foregoing insignia shall be obtained except on production of the appropriate certificates furnished by the Secretaries of the respective Institutions.

Appropriate Jewel must be appended to Chain or Collar

254. In every case there shall be appended to the chain or collar the jewel appropriate to the office or rank to which such chain or collar relates, and no other.

Grand Officers' Chains

255. (a) A present Grand Officer (other than a Grand Steward) shall wear a chain of gold or of metal gilt (Plate No. 47) in the Grand Lodge and when ordered by the Grand Master to appear in an official capacity.

(b) A past Grand Officer when ordered by the Grand Master to discharge the duties of a present Grand Officer shall wear it likewise.

(c) A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or a Grand Inspector shall wear it also:

(i) at great ceremonials and consecrations, and on other special occasions authorised by the Grand Master;

(ii) in any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge; and

(iii) when officially present at any Lodge of his Metropolitan Area, Province, District or Group.

(d) A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master may wear it also when visiting a Lodge of another Metropolitan Area, Province or District, at which the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master is or would be required to wear a chain under paragraph (c) (iii) and has invited him to do so, but not otherwise.

Deputy and Assistant Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters' Chains

256. (a) A present Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall wear a chain of gold or of metal gilt (Plate Nos. 48 and 49):

(i) in the Grand Lodge;

(ii) at great ceremonials and consecrations, and on other special occasions authorised by the Grand Master;

(iii) in any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge; and

(iv) when officially present at any Lodge of his Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

Metropolitan Grand Inspectors' Chains

(b) A present Metropolitan Grand Inspector shall wear a chain of gold or of metal gilt (Plate No. 49a):

(i) in the Grand Lodge;

(ii) at great ceremonials and consecrations, and on other special occasions authorised by the Grand Master;

(iii) in any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge; and

(iv) when officially present at any Lodge of his Metropolitan Area.

Grand Officers' Collars

257. Unless required (or, in the case only of a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, specially invited under Rule 255(d)) to wear a chain as prescribed by Rule 255 a present Grand Officer (other than a Grand Steward) or a past Grand Officer shall wear a collar of garter-blue ribbon embroidered or plain as he so desires (Plate Nos.

50 and 51); except that, unless impracticable, an embroidered collar shall be worn:

(i) in the Grand Lodge;

(ii) at great ceremonials and consecrations, and on other special occasions authorised by the Grand Master; and

(iii) in any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge when desired by the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.

Grand Stewards' Collars

258. The Grand Stewards for the year shall wear collars of plain crimson ribbon, four inches wide, and, when attending the Grand Lodge and on other occasions when acting in their official capacity, they shall carry white wands.

Past Grand Stewards' Collars

259. Past Grand Stewards, so long as they continue subscribing members of a Lodge, shall wear collars of crimson ribbon, four inches wide, with narrow edging of silver cord.

Collars of Provincial and District Grand Officers and holders of London and Overseas Grand Rank

260. Subject to the provisions of Rule 257 as to Grand Officers:

(i) Unless required to wear a chain as prescribed by Rule 256 a present or past Provincial or District Grand Officer (other than a present or past Provincial or District Grand Steward) shall wear a collar of garter-blue ribbon edged with either gold lace or gold cord as he so desires (Plate Nos. 54 and 55).

(ii) A present Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Steward shall wear a collar of crimson ribbon, two and a half inches wide, and a past Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Steward shall wear a collar of crimson ribbon of the same width with a silver cord in the centre.

(iii) Unless required to wear a chain as prescribed by Rule 256 a holder of Senior Metropolitan, Senior Overseas, Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Rank or Metropolitan or Overseas Rank shall wear a collar of garter-blue ribbon edged with either gold lace or gold cord as he so desires (Plate Nos. 54 and 55).

(iv) In the Grand Lodge a Brother entitled to wear any of the collars described above may instead wear the appropriate collar of the office or rank in right of which he is attending.

Collars of the Grand Stewards' Lodge

261. The Officers and Past Masters of the Grand Stewards' Lodge shall wear collars of crimson ribbon, four inches wide.

Collars of Officers of Private Lodges

262. The collars of Officers of private Lodges shall be of light blue ribbon four inches wide, with the exception of those of the Officers, Past Masters, and Past Deputy Masters of the three surviving Lodges of the four which founded the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, viz., the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. 4, and the Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland, No.12, who shall be permitted to wear a stripe of garter-blue one-third of its width in the centre of the collar.

In all cases where a chain is worn upon a collar it shall be fastened over the centre of such collar.

When Collars of private Lodges to be worn

263. The collars of the Officers of private Lodges are to be worn only in their own Lodges, or when representing their Lodges as Masters or Wardens in the Grand Lodge or in their Provincial or District Grand Lodges, or on any special occasion when ordered by the Grand Master.

Collars of Past Masters of private Lodges

264. Past Masters of private Lodges shall wear collars of light blue ribbon, four inches wide, with silver braid a quarter of an inch wide in the centre.

265. The following details of the aprons to be worn by the Craft are to be observed.

Entered Apprentices. A plain white lamb skin, from fourteen to sixteen inches wide, twelve to fourteen inches deep, rectangular and without ornament; fitted with white strings and a flap.

Fellow Crafts. The same, with the addition only of two light blue rosettes at the lower corners.

Master Masons. The same, with light blue lining and edging not more than two inches in width, and an additional rosette on the flap, and silver tassels, and with light blue strings. No other colour or ornament shall be allowed except to present Officers of Lodges who may have the emblems of their offices in silver or white (surrounded by a double circle in which may be inserted the name and number of the Lodge) in the centre of the apron; and except as to the members of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, No. 259, who are allowed to wear the internal border of the edging of garter-blue three-quarters of an inch wide.

Masters and Past Masters of Lodges. The same as Master Masons, but having in the place of the rosettes perpendicular lines upon horizontal lines, thereby forming three several sets of two right angles; the length of the perpendicular lines to be one inch each and of the horizontal lines to be two inches and a half each; these emblems to be of silver, or of ribbon of the same colour as the lining and edging of the apron, half an inch broad.

Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Stewards, present and past. The same, with crimson lining and edging not exceeding two inches in width, with Master's emblems in silver or crimson, or rosettes in crimson, as the case may be, and with crimson strings and silver tassels, and the emblem of their office in crimson in the centre within a double circle in which must be inserted the name of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

Metropolitan and Overseas Rank. The same, with garter-blue lining and edging not exceeding two inches in width, ornamented with either gold lace or gold cord corresponding to the collar, and with garter-blue strings of the same width and with gold tassels; having in the centre a double circle in which must be inserted the name of the Metropolitan Area or the word 'Overseas', as the case may be and the rosettes in garter-blue. If Masters, they shall have the Master's emblems in gold or garter-blue (Plates Nos. 56 and 57).

Senior Metropolitan, Metropolitan, Senior Overseas and Overseas Grand Rank. The same, with garter-blue lining and edging not exceeding two inches in width, ornamented with either gold lace or cord corresponding to the collar, and with garter-blue strings of the same width and with gold tassels; having the emblem of rank, described in Plate Nos. 26 and 26a, in gold or basically garter-blue in the centre within a double circle in which must be inserted the name of the Metropolitan Area, preceded if necessary by the word 'Senior', or the words 'Senior Overseas' or 'Overseas', as the case may be, and the Master's emblems in gold or garter-blue. (Plate Nos. 56 and 57.)

Present Metropolitan Grand Officers (other than Metropolitan Grand Stewards) when ordered by the Metropolitan Grand Master to appear in an official capacity. The same, with garter-blue lining and edging not exceeding two inches in width, ornamented with either gold lace or cord corresponding to the collar, and with garter-blue strings of the same width and with gold tassels; having the emblems of their offices in gold or basically garter-blue in the centre within a double circle, in which must be inserted the name of the Metropolitan Area. They shall have the Master's emblems in gold or garter-blue (Plate Nos. 56 and 57). The word 'Deputy' shall be embroidered in gold or garter-blue letters above, or the word 'Assistant' beneath, as the case may be, the emblem on the aprons of Metropolitan Deputy and Assistant Grand Officers other than Deputy and Assistant Metropolitan Grand Masters.

Provincial and District Grand Officers, present and past (other than Provincial and District Grand Stewards, present and past). The same, with garter-blue lining and edging not exceeding two inches in width, ornamented with either gold lace or cord corresponding to the collar, and with garter-blue strings of the same width and with gold tassels; having the emblems of their offices in gold or basically garter-blue in the centre within a double circle, in which must be inserted the name of the Province or District. If Masters or Past Masters, they shall have the Master's emblems in gold or garter-blue (Plate Nos. 56 and 57). The word 'Deputy' shall be embroidered in gold or garter-blue letters above, or the word 'Assistant' beneath, as the case may be, the emblem on the aprons of Provincial and District Deputy and Assistant Grand Officers, present and past, other than Deputy and Assistant Provincial and District Grand Masters, present and past.

Grand Stewards, present and past. The same, with crimson lining and edging not exceeding three and a half inches in width, with the Master's emblems or rosettes, as the case may be, in crimson, and with crimson strings and silver tassels; except present and past Grand Stewards representing the Prince of Wales's Lodge, No. 259, who wear the crimson edging two inches and three-quarters, and an internal border of garter-blue three-quarters of an inch in width.

Grand Officers, present and past, other than Grand Stewards and those hereafter specified. The same, with garter-blue lining and edging not exceeding three and a half inches in width, ornamented with gold lace, and with garter-blue strings and gold tassels, having the emblems of their offices in gold in the centre within a wreath composed of a sprig of acacia and an ear of corn, and having the Master's emblems in gold. (Plate Nos. 52 and 53.) The word 'Deputy' shall be embroidered in gold letters above, or the word 'Assistant' beneath, as the case may be, the emblem on the aprons of the Deputy and Assistant Grand Officers.

Grand Inspectors, present and past. As the Grand Officers, but with the name of the Group in gold above the emblem of office.

Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters (and Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Masters). As the Grand Officers, but with the name of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District in gold above the emblem of office, and with the pomegranate and lotus alternately embroidered in gold on the edging, and with the fringe of gold bullion.

Past Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters (and Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Masters). As Provincial and District Grand Masters, or as other Grand Officers, but with the name of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District in gold above the emblem of office.

Assistant Grand Masters, present and past. As the Grand Officers, but with the square and compasses in gold in the centre, and with the pomegranate and lotus alternately embroidered in gold on the edging, and with the fringe of gold bullion.

Deputy Grand Master, present and past. As the Grand Officers, but with the square and compasses enclosing a five-pointed star in gold in the centre, and with the pomegranate and lotus alternately embroidered in gold on the edging, and with the fringe of gold bullion.

Grand Master (and Pro Grand Master), present and past. As the Grand Officers, but with the blazing sun in gold in the centre, and on the edging the pomegranate and lotus with the seven-eared wheat at each corner and also on the fall, all embroidered in gold, and with the fringe of gold bullion.

When Grand Officers' Aprons not to be ornamented

On all occasions when a Grand Officer, present or past, wears a collar of plain garter-blue ribbon, the garter-blue edging of the apron shall not be ornamented and all the emblems and lettering shall be basically in garter-blue.

Wearing of Apron by a Provincial or District Grand Master or a Grand Inspector

266. A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, Pro Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or a Grand Inspector when officially present at any Lodge of his Metropolitan Area, Province, District or Group may wear the appropriate apron with plain garter-blue edging and all the emblems and lettering basically in garter-blue.

Wearing of Grand Officers' Apron by a present Provincial or District Grand Officer

267. A Grand Officer who is performing official duties as a present Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer may wear the appropriate chain or collar of such Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Rank with the apron of a Grand Officer.

Gauntlets

268. Grand Officers when wearing aprons ornamented with gold lace may wear garter-blue silk gauntlets with the emblems of their respective offices or past offices embroidered in gold. This applies also to holders of Senior Metropolitan, Metropolitan, Senior Overseas or Overseas Grand Rank and to Provincial and District Grand Officers, present and past, other than Provincial and District Grand Stewards, present and past, who may wear gauntlets of crimson silk with the emblems of their office in silver.

In private Lodges gauntlets of light blue silk with silver embroidery may be worn by the Officers.

Materials

268A. Save that the apron of an Entered Apprentice shall in every case be of white lambskin it shall be permissible for the items of regalia described in the foregoing Rules to be made wholly or partly of materials substantially indistinguishable from those prescribed therein.

Annual Dues payable

269. There shall be payable to the Fund of General Purposes annual dues in respect of each of its members by every Lodge (i) in England and Wales that is unattached, (ii) in a Metropolitan Area or a Province, (iii) in a District and (iv) abroad not in a District of such respective amounts as shall be fixed for each calendar year by resolution of the Grand Lodge in the preceding June.

Provided that any Lodge in a Metropolitan Area, Province, District or Group that is from time to time determined by the Board of General Purposes to be a Lodge the membership of which is restricted to Brethren who are Installed Masters but which is otherwise open without further restriction to all Brethren either within the relevant Metropolitan Area, Province, District or Group, or within a group of Lodges linked together by a common purpose or affiliation, shall pay annual dues in respect of those Brethren only who are not members of any other Lodge, and in the case of a Brother who is a member only of one or more such Lodges restricted to Installed Masters the Lodge of which he has been longest a member shall alone pay annual dues in respect of him. Such a Brother shall pay, by way of annual subscription, an additional amount equal to the dues payable in respect of him by such Lodge, but such additional amount shall be disregarded in determining for the purposes of Rule 145 whether all the members of the Lodge entitled to the same privileges pay the same subscription.

Fees payable to Fund of General Purposes

270. Fees shall be payable to the Fund of General Purposes in respect of

(a) the Registration of

1. A Grand Officer, present and past, on first appointment
2. A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master or a Metropolitan Grand Inspector (under Rule 60)
3. A Deputy or Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master (under Rule 66)

4. A holder of Overseas Grand Rank (under Rule 93)
5. A Mason, inclusive of Grand Lodge Certificate (initiation, or joining from a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge), exaltation into the Royal Arch under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and Grand Chapter Certificate

(i) in a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached

(ii) in a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province

(iii) in a Lodge in a District

(iv) in a Lodge abroad not under a District

(b) the replacement or amendment of a Grand Lodge Certificate

(c) a certificate for a Serving Brother

(d) a Dispensation by the Grand Master

of such respective amounts as shall be fixed for each calendar year by resolution of the Grand Lodge in the preceding June.

Fees payable for Patents, Warrants etc.

270A. Fees shall be payable to the Fund of General Purposes for a Warrant for a new Lodge or Warrant of Confirmation, a Warrant or Warrant of Confirmation for a Centenary Jewel or a Bi-Centenary or Tercentenary Bar, a Certificate of Amalgamation, and Enfacements (alterations) to any of these documents, of such amounts (based on the cost of producing the documents) as shall be published in the Board of General Purposes' Report to the Grand Lodge in March of each year to take effect from the first day of April immediately following.

270B. (a) The dues payable to the Fund of General Purposes under Rule 269 shall be reduced by 50 per cent in respect of any Brother initiated in the Lodge who was at any time during the relevant year under the age of twenty-five and his subscription to the Lodge shall

be reduced accordingly, but such reduction shall be disregarded in determining for the purposes of Rule 145 whether all the members of the Lodge entitled to the same privileges pay the same subscription.

(b) The fees payable under Rule 270 shall be reduced by 50 per cent in respect of any Brother under the age of twenty-five.

Fees payable to the Masonic Charitable Foundation

271. (*Rule deleted by Grand Lodge, 10 September 2025*)

Constitution

272. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Panel

273. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Disqualification

274. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Elected Members

275. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

276. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Recommendations for Erasure or Expulsion

277. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Rule 277A was deleted in toto *in September 2024*

Powers of Appeals Court

278. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

Rules of Procedure of Appeals Court

279. *See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions*

PANEL FOR CLEMENCY

Rule 280 was deleted in toto *in September 2024*

Rule 4 provides that Grand Lodge, while retaining authority to expel a Brother or to erase a Lodge, delegates its judicial and disciplinary authority to Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, the Board of General Purposes and Appeals Courts.

Disciplinary Offences

1. Every Brother has a duty not to:

(a) commit an offence contrary to the criminal law of any jurisdiction to which he may for the time being be subject;

(b) breach:

(i) any of the General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft; or

(ii) any edict of the Grand Lodge from time to time reproduced in the most recent edition of *Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft*; or

(c) engage in activity which may bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

Sub-paragraph (a) shall also apply to any offence committed before initiation unless that offence was a spent conviction at the date of initiation or was fully disclosed on a candidate's application form before initiation.

Reporting Obligations

2. (a) A Brother who is convicted of:

(i) an offence of a sexual nature or involving dishonesty or violence; or

(ii) any criminal offence

(A) for which he received a custodial sentence (immediate or suspended); or

(B) in respect of which he was made the subject of a Community Order by a Court in the United Kingdom;

shall report the fact within 28 days to the Master of his Lodge, or (if he be unattached) to the Grand Secretary.

(b) A Brother who comes under a duty to report his conviction under Paragraph 2(a), whether or not he has complied therewith, shall not attend any Lodge or Chapter until his case is determined by the Disciplinary Authority unless he has the written permission of the Disciplinary Authority having jurisdiction over such Lodge or Chapter.

(c) The Master shall report to the Disciplinary Authority within 28 days:

(i) the case of any member of his Lodge who is convicted of an offence falling within Paragraph 2(a); and

(ii) any conduct or activity by a member of his Lodge which is likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

(d) A Disciplinary Authority shall report to the Grand Secretary without delay:

(i) all reports the Disciplinary Authority receives which were made under Paragraph 2(a) or 2(c);

(ii) any other conduct or activity which, in the opinion of the Disciplinary Authority, is likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

Duty to assist Masonic Authority

3. It is the duty of every Brother to comment or provide information in relation to a complaint or allegation of misconduct (whether such complaint or allegation is made against him or another Brother or a Lodge) if so required by any Disciplinary Authority or Appeals Court.

Power to Determine Complaint

4. (a) The Disciplinary Authority shall determine all cases of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his jurisdiction.

(b) Where more than one Disciplinary Authority would otherwise have jurisdiction over a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting an individual Mason or Masons the jurisdiction over the case shall be assigned in accordance with Paragraph 23.

(c) When exercising jurisdiction in a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity the Disciplinary Authority may:

(i) Determine summarily that the case does not merit any action and dismiss the complaint;

(ii) Proceed to determine the case himself; or

(iii) Depute the duty of investigation and reporting to him upon the circumstances of the case to a Committee consisting of such Brethren of Lodges under his authority as the case may require for that purpose including if possible at least one legally qualified Brother. Within a reasonable period of receipt of the report of the Committee he shall determine the case and in doing so may accept or reject either in whole or in part the findings of the Committee and act either in whole or in part upon its recommendations or otherwise as he sees fit.

(d) The procedure adopted by a Disciplinary Authority determining the case himself under Paragraph 4(b) or by a Committee appointed under Paragraph 4(c) shall be fair and proportionate and be in accordance with the rules for the conduct of disciplinary cases from time to time prescribed, and any guidance given, by the Board of General Purposes.

(e) Findings of fact of the final Court of law or tribunal in relation to the matters under consideration shall be binding and not open to

review by the Disciplinary Authority or any Committee appointed by him, or, on any subsequent hearing, by an Appeals Court;

(f) If the Disciplinary Authority concludes that a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his jurisdiction has been established he may:

(i) impose no sanction;

(ii) impose an admonition;

(iii) impose the penalty specified by any applicable Rule;

(iv) impose a suspension of fixed length;

(v) write to the Mason recommending that he resign within 28 days or such longer period as he may allow, failing which he will recommend expulsion; or

(vi) recommend expulsion or erasure.

(g) If the Disciplinary Authority imposes an admonition or suspension he shall forward a report of the case with all necessary particulars as soon as practicable to the Grand Secretary, unless in the case of an admonition the Disciplinary Authority considers the case of insufficient importance to require this to be done.

(h) If the Disciplinary Authority recommends expulsion or erasure he shall make a special report to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall thereupon cause the matter to be laid before an Appeals Court pursuant to Paragraph 17. A recommendation that a Lodge be erased or a Brother be expelled or invited to resign shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until such time as the question of erasure or expulsion shall have been decided by an Appeals Court or the Brother shall have resigned.

(i) The decision of the Disciplinary Authority shall be final unless an appeal be made under Paragraph 15.

Effect of Suspension

5. (a) A suspension may apply to a Brother's membership of a particular 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.

(b) Suspension shall be for a fixed period except as provided in Paragraphs 4(h) and 16.

(c) If a Lodge is suspended its members remain collectively liable to pay the Lodge's dues to the Grand Lodge or Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge and each member is liable for his share of proper expenses incurred by the Lodge during the period of suspension.

(d) If new circumstances be proved to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Authority which imposed a penalty of suspension the suspension may be abbreviated or terminated.

Resignation in disciplinary circumstances

6. A Brother who has resigned at any time under Rule 183A and thereby avoided being the subject of Masonic disciplinary sanction shall not be entitled to resume any of the rights and privileges of a Freemason but shall be treated for all purposes as though he had been expelled from the Craft at the moment at which his resignation became effective save that it shall not be necessary for his name and the reason for his resignation to be reported to the Grand Lodge. For the purposes of this Paragraph a Brother shall have avoided being the subject of Masonic disciplinary sanction if at the time he resigned:

(a) he had been notified formally or informally that Masonic disciplinary proceedings had been or were likely to be commenced against him and either such proceedings had not been concluded or any period of suspension imposed as a result of such proceedings had not come to an end;

(b) he had during the period of his membership of the Craft:

(i) a conviction for a criminal offence; or

(ii) been disqualified by reason of misconduct from the practice of his profession by the body regulating such profession

in respect of which he had not been notified formally or informally either that Masonic disciplinary proceedings had been or were likely to be commenced against him or that it was not intended to take disciplinary action; or

(c) circumstances existed as a result of which proceedings were subsequently commenced following which he was convicted of a criminal offence or disqualified by reason of misconduct from the practice of his profession by the body regulating such profession.

Appeals Courts

Functions of Appeals Courts

7. An Appeals Court shall hear and determine:

(a) Any Appeal against a decision of a Disciplinary Authority made under Rules 74, 182(b), 184 or Paragraph 4 or any appeal arising out of the refusal of the Grand Secretary to grant a certificate under Rule 164(a)(ii); and

(b) Any recommendation by a Disciplinary Authority for expulsion of a Brother or the erasure of a Lodge.

Constitution of the Commission for Appeals Courts

8. The Commission for Appeals Courts shall consist of a Panel appointed under Paragraph 10 and ordinary Members appointed under Paragraph 11.

9. No Brother shall be eligible for membership of the Panel or to sit as an ordinary Member if and for so long as he is a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, a member of the Board of General Purposes, a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Grand Superintendent of a Royal Arch Province or District or a member of the Committee of General Purposes of Supreme Grand Chapter.

10. The Panel shall consist of not less than five Brethren from which the presiding officer of an Appeals Court shall be chosen and shall be appointed as follows:

(a) they shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master;

(b) they may so long as they remain eligible be reappointed as often as the Grand Master may see fit; and

(c) if a member of the Panel shall die or resign or become disqualified the Grand Master may appoint an eligible Brother to fill the vacancy.

11. The ordinary Members shall be appointed as follows:

(a) Up to eight Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge, being either Masters or Past Masters of Lodges in Metropolitan Areas or Provinces or of unattached Lodges in England and Wales, shall each year be appointed by the Grand Master, to serve for a term of three years from the next Annual Installation of the Grand Master, provided that a majority of the Brethren appointed in each year shall be selected from among Brethren nominated from Lodges in Provinces. Nominations by members of any of the aforesaid Lodges who are eligible to attend Grand Lodge, containing the names of the several Brethren, the names and numbers of their Lodges and their Masonic rank, shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary on or before the last day in November.

(b) Not more than one member of any Lodge shall be eligible, as such, for nomination as a candidate to be an ordinary Member; but this shall not prevent a duly qualified Brother, being a subscribing member of another Lodge, from being nominated in respect of his membership of such other Lodge.

(c) If any ordinary Member shall die, resign, be removed from office, become a member of the Panel or become ineligible by reason of Paragraph 9, the vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a duly qualified Brother as soon as convenient after the Grand Secretary receives notice that a vacancy has occurred.

(d) Ordinary Members shall be eligible for re-appointment after having served the term for which they were appointed.

Constitution of Appeals Courts

12. (a) An Appeals Court shall consist of one member of the Panel and not less than two ordinary Members.

(b) Whenever it is necessary to constitute an Appeals Court the Grand Master or a Brother acting on his behalf shall select a member of the Panel to preside and the ordinary Members, save that the Brother selected to preside shall be entitled to nominate the other members of the Court. All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes, the presiding Brother in case of equality having a second or casting vote.

Case Management Powers of Appeals Court

13. An Appeals Court has the powers conferred upon Disciplinary Authorities by Rule 74 (to summon to produce documents) and must deal with the case that is before it in a manner which is

(a) fair; and

(b) proportionate.

14. For this purpose an Appeals Court has the power to give case management directions in any case before it in any way it thinks fit, including, without limitation, the power to:

(a) impose limits on written submissions, evidence and documents, whether before or after their supply to the Appeals Court;

(b) exclude any written submissions, evidence and documents not compliant with those limits;

(c) exclude any issue from consideration;

(d) impose limits on oral evidence (where such evidence is permissible) and argument;

and in exercising this power an Appeals Court shall have regard to any rules or guidance issued from time to time by the Board of General Purposes. Prior to the hearing this power may be exercised by the member of the Panel appointed to preside, and at the hearing it shall be exercised by the Appeals Court then sitting.

Appeals

15. Any Lodge or Brother directly affected and feeling aggrieved by a decision given under Rules 74, 182(b), 184 or Paragraph 4 may appeal against such a decision to an Appeals Court. The Board of General Purposes, subject to Sub-paragraph (i), may similarly appeal against such a decision if it is of the view that it is unduly lenient. For this purpose the following provisions apply:

(a) The appeal must be made within three months after the decision appealed from or such, if any, longer period as the Grand Master may in his absolute discretion allow;

(b) The appeal must be made in writing, and so long as a prescribed form is laid down in the Appeals Court Rules it must be made in that form;

(c) The appeal must identify the particular grievance complained of and must be written in proper and respectful language, and if it is not, it will not be entertained and the Appeals Court may dismiss such appeal without further consideration;

(d) The appeal must be sent to the Grand Secretary, to the maker of the decision and to the opposite party, if any;

(e) The appeal must be accompanied by copies of all relevant documents, but the nature and number of documents supplied must comply with:

(i) The Rules of Procedure for Appeals Courts; and

(ii) Any Guidance given from time to time by the Board of General Purposes.

(f) The Appeal must be served in accordance with Paragraph 22;

(g) Any penalty of suspension or exclusion shall remain in force pending the determination of the appeal; provided that, in the case of a suspension imposed for a fixed period, any member of the Panel may, if of opinion that the appeal has a reasonable prospect of success and that the justice of the case so demands, direct that the suspension be lifted until such time as the appeal shall have been determined.

(h) The appeal may be dismissed without a hearing if and in so far as the Appeals Court determines:

(i) that it seeks to raise any matter which has already been determined by a previous appeal, or could and should have been raised in a previous appeal; or

(ii) that it is vexatious or totally without merit; or

(iii) that it is otherwise an abuse of the procedures of the Appeals Court.

(i) In relation to an appeal by the Board of General Purposes the period stipulated in Sub-paragraph (a) shall be six months.

16. On any appeal to an Appeals Court the following provisions shall apply:

(a) the Appeals Court may allow the appeal only if satisfied that the relevant Disciplinary Authority erred in law or made a decision outside the range of decisions which could have been made by a Disciplinary Authority acting reasonably;

(b) the Appeals Court may in relation to the whole or any part of the decision under appeal:

(i) confirm the decision;

(ii) rescind the decision; or

(iii) vary the decision by substituting any sanction listed in Paragraph 4(f)(i–iv) or a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft;

(c) before substituting a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft, the Appeals Court must consider all the circumstances of the case in accordance with Paragraph 19;

(d) the decision of the Appeals Court shall be final and binding on the parties to the Appeal and the maker of the decision and they shall be notified thereof by the Grand Secretary as soon as practicable.

(e) A direction under (b) above that a Brother be invited to resign shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until the Brother shall have resigned. If he fails to do so within 28 days the direction shall take effect as an order for his expulsion.

Erasure and Expulsion

17. (a) Whenever the Grand Secretary shall receive a report from any Disciplinary Authority recommending the erasure of a Lodge for misconduct or expulsion of a Brother, he shall subject to (b) below cause it to be laid before an Appeals Court .

(b) A member of the Panel shall review every recommendation for erasure or expulsion before it is laid before an Appeals Court and if satisfied that the only possible outcome is erasure or expulsion he shall direct the Grand Secretary to inform the Master of the Lodge or Brother concerned by letter that from the date of the letter such Lodge shall thereupon be erased or the Brother expelled from the Craft as the case may be.

18. The Appeals Court is for this purpose not an appellate court but exercises an original jurisdiction and must deal with the case in one of the following ways:

(a) If the Appeals Court shall be of opinion that the recommendation should proceed it shall direct the Grand Secretary to inform the Master of the Lodge or Brother concerned by letter that from the date of the letter such Lodge shall thereupon be erased or the Brother expelled from the Craft as the case may be;

(b) The Appeals Court may substitute any penalty authorised by Paragraph 4(f(i–iv) or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft, with the consequences set out in Paragraph 16.

(c) The Appeals Court may dismiss the case.

19. Before imposing a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or making a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft the Appeals Court must consider all the circumstances of the case, including without limitation any mitigation related to the matters giving rise to the penalty or direction, to their background, or to the history, qualities and future prospects of the Lodge or Brother concerned to the intent that any matter which might previously have been advanced on a plea for clemency shall, if advanced, be considered by the Appeals Court.

20. The decision of the Appeals Court shall be final and binding on all the parties.

Suspension or Expulsion from the Royal Arch

21. All sentences of suspension from Royal Arch privileges passed on a Companion by the Grand Chapter or other competent authority in the Royal Arch shall, unless such authority declares to the contrary, suspend such Companion as a Brother from the equivalent privileges in the Craft. All sentences of expulsion by the Grand Chapter shall automatically expel from Craft Masonry.

Notice

22. (a) Every Brother must supply to Masonic authority an email address and a postal address to which notices or other documents may be sent to him ("an address for service"). The address may be that of the Brother concerned, or of someone authorised by him to receive service on his behalf.

(b) Every Brother must thereafter ensure that any change to an address for service, including revocation or variation of any authority to receive service, is notified forthwith to Masonic authority.

(c) for the purposes of this Paragraph only, notification to Masonic authority is made when:

(i) a Brother updates his Masonic record on the membership database operated from time to time by the Grand Secretary;

(ii) two days after his Lodge Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother; or

(iii) if he is not a member of any Lodge, two days after the Grand Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother.

(d) Any document within (e) below must be in writing and bear the name of the person issuing it, but need not be signed, and will be sufficiently served if sent by email to an address for service which is an email address and if sent by post to an address for service which is a postal address. Service may be proved by a copy of a sent email or a copy of the letter certified by the individual who posted it.

(e) The documents to which (d) above applies are:

(i) any summons to any Lodge or Brother to appear before

(A) the Grand Lodge;

(B) the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant;

(C) the Board of General Purposes;

(D) any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or any Brother nominated by him); or

(E) any Grand Inspector; or

(ii) any notice or document to a Lodge or an individual Brother in connection with

(A) any summons under Rule 74;

(B) any disciplinary proceedings or any dispute falling within the provisions of Paragraphs 4 or 15; or

(C) any appeal under Paragraph 17.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) to (e) above, if the Grand Secretary or any Lodge or Brother shall receive any such notice or summons or document and shall proceed to act upon it as though it had been issued in compliance with those provisions he or the Lodge as the case may be shall not thereafter be entitled to treat it as invalid in reliance only upon the fact that it was not in compliance with those provisions.

Jurisdiction

23. For the purpose of determining which Masonic authority has jurisdiction over any Lodge or any individual Brother the following provisions shall apply:

(a) A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall have jurisdiction over every Lodge comprised within his Metropolitan Area, Province or District, notwithstanding that on any particular occasion it may be temporarily meeting by dispensation outside the geographical boundaries of his Metropolitan Area, Province or District. Save to the extent that jurisdiction shall have been conferred on a Grand Inspector

by his patent the Board of General Purposes shall have jurisdiction over every other Lodge.

(b) Save as provided in (e) below every Brother who is a subscribing member of a Lodge shall fall within the jurisdiction of the authority having jurisdiction over such Lodge and, in the event of his being a member of more than one Lodge, he shall fall within the jurisdiction of each such authority.

(c) Save as provided in (e) below a Brother who is no longer a subscribing member of any Lodge shall fall under the jurisdiction of the authority having jurisdiction over the Lodge of which he was most recently a member and if there be more than one such Lodge, the Lodge among them of which he had been longest a member.

(d) A serving Brother shall for the purposes of this Rule be treated as though he were a member for the time being of each Lodge which he serves.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) and (c) above, in any matter directly connected with the proceedings, affairs or conduct of a particular Lodge the Masonic authority having jurisdiction over that Lodge shall have exclusive jurisdiction even if any Brother concerned may not be a member of a Lodge within the jurisdiction of that authority. For the purposes of this paragraph the proceedings of a Lodge shall include any occurrence, whether preceding or following a meeting, on the premises (or any facility forming part thereof) in which the Lodge meets or dines.

24. Where more than one authority has jurisdiction over a Brother by virtue of the provisions of Paragraph 23(b) the authority within whose jurisdiction he resides, or nearest to which he resides, shall primarily have jurisdiction and no other authority shall take any step towards assuming jurisdiction without first obtaining the consent of that authority.

25. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 23, where a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or a Grand Inspector, having identified all the material circumstances, is of the view that those circumstances would lead a fair-minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility that a determination by him in accordance with those provisions would not be impartial, he shall refer the investigation (or further investigation) and determination of such case to another Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, nominated by the Board of General Purposes; provided that in a case arising in a District or Lodge under a Grand Inspector the Board may, in its discretion, nominate a Past District Grand Master (of that or another District) for such purpose.

(b) Such other Masonic authority nominated by the Board shall proceed in all respects as if the complaint or irregularity were in respect of a Lodge or individual Mason within his own jurisdiction (or former jurisdiction). Any determination, order or report that he may make shall take effect as though it had been made by the referring Disciplinary Authority.

26. Where the Board of General Purposes is the Disciplinary Authority, in case of any charge or complaint affecting a member of the Board or a Lodge to which he belongs, such member shall withdraw while the Board considers its decision.

Disciplinary Proceedings Rules

27. The Board of General Purposes may from time to time make rules for the conduct of disciplinary proceedings and for the procedure to be observed and such rules shall be observed by every Disciplinary Authority and Appeals Court and be binding on all parties. Provided that any rules binding on Appeals Courts ("Appeals Court Rules") shall not take effect until:

(a) the Board has communicated to the members of the Appeals Court Panel a draft of its proposed rules, alteration or rescission; and

(b) the Board has considered and had due regard to any comments by the Panel.

Definitions

28. In this Schedule and, where the context requires, in the General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft

(a) "Appeals Court" means a court constituted in accordance with Paragraph 12.

(b) "Appeals Court Rules" has the meaning given in Paragraph 27.

(c) "Disciplinary Authority" means for any matter the Masonic authority identified as having jurisdiction over that matter in accordance with Paragraph 23.

Transitional Rules

29. In this Paragraph the "Effective Date" shall mean 12 September 2024, "Old Provisions" shall mean those Rules in the Book of Constitutions in force immediately before the Effective Date and the "New Provisions" shall mean those Rules and Paragraphs in force from the Effective Date. The following transitional provisions shall apply:

(a) All pending disciplinary processes which complied with the Old Provisions before the Effective Date and which were conducted by or on behalf of:

(i) a Disciplinary Authority;

(ii) a subject of the disciplinary process or a recipient of a Summons from a Disciplinary Authority; or

(iii) an Appeals Court or the Grand Secretary,

shall be valid and may be relied upon as having satisfied the New Provisions.

(b) Any plea for clemency which at the Effective Date:

(i) has been made and is outstanding; or

(ii) could have been made under Rule 277(a)(i) of the Old Provisions notwithstanding that it is made in compliance with that Old Provision on or after the Effective Date,

shall be heard by a Panel for Clemency convened in accordance with the Old Provisions.

Note: Paragraphs 1(a) and 1(c) restate the equivalent Old Provisions and so may form the basis for disciplinary proceedings after the Effective Date where the offence or activity occurred before the Effective Date.