

Rules of Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Sangha

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I. Divisions of Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Sangha and their names

1. The Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Sangha (BSDS) formed under the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha is divided into three separate organizational units: **1, Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Sangha (BSDS) with its local sub-sanghas, 2, Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Collecting and Spreading Project (BSDS CSP) and 3, Bodhi Shrawan Spiritual Dharma Sangha (BS SDS).** The BSDS and its sub-sanghas main objective will be to provide and provide the necessary material background for the BSDS CSP and to achieve most Venerable Dharma Sangha's objectives by working harmoniously with the different societies, organizations and academic institutions from all over the world.
2. In order to uplift the youth, women and students, Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Sangha will establish the following divisions in the future:
 - A. Bodhi Shrawan Youth Dharma Sangha.
 - B. Bodhi Shrawan Women Dharma Sangha.
 - C. Bodhi Shrawan Student Dharma Sangha.

11. The responsibility to direct and mobilize people and resources of *spiritual type* is held by the Director of BSDS CSP, Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme. (More details in V. Rights and Duties of the Main Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme.

IV. Objectives of the Bodhi Shrawan Spiritual Dharma Sangha and Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Messengers outside of Nepal

12. The third division of BSDS is formed for religious Gurus and its name will be “**Bodhi Shrawan Spiritual Dharma Sangha**”. (BS SDS)
13. Dharma Gurus, their associates and the director of BSDS for countries outside Nepal will be appointed, and a written endorsement will be provided to them for organizing religious preaching, meditation program and ceremonies.
14. All the above mentioned should participate in spiritual training given by Venerable Dharma Sangha and Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme, and consult with them organizing any programs.
15. Two **Bodhi Shrawan Dharma Messengers** (BSDM) within each country will be appointed, with two or more Messengers outside the country, according to the need. The appointed messenger is expected to have experiences in the spiritual as well as social areas.
16. Until acquainted with the objectives and rules as well as the spiritual knowledge, the Messengers are supposed to spread only written Dharma messages, i. e. read them in front of devotees, after consultation with Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme.
17. Devotees and members of institutions are expected to visit the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha only with the permission of Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme, and after acquainting the Khenpo with their objectives and motives. Visitors should not express their personal problems to the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha.

V. Rights and Duties of the main Ven. Acharya (Khenpo Sonam Gyurme)

18. The responsibility to direct and mobilize people and resources of *spiritual type* is held by the Director of BSDS CSP, Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme. According to the final decision of the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme has

19. According to the final decision of the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme has been appointed as the only acharya (khenpo) to collect, spread and publish His knowledge, meditational techniques and philosophy. The Sangha is expected to ensure him undisturbed working conditions to fulfill this goal.

VI. Special Rules Concerning the Team of Assistants and Acharyas (Khenpos) to Ven. Acharya (Khenpo Sonam Gyurme)

20. An internal team of 5 to 25 people under Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme will be formed, to assist in the BSDS CSP.
21. If the need arises, other internal members such as Ven. Acharyas (Khenpos) and technicians assisting in the BSDS CSP could be appointed by Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme. The Sangha or family members of DS are expected not to interfere in this project.
22. The Sangha and family members of DS should not interfere in the spiritual aspects of this project. The right of decision on becoming part of this special team or being dismissed is solely in the hands of Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme.
23. The team of special assistants of the BSDS CSP and that of Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme will not fall under the rules of BSDS.

VII. Relationship with External Institutions

24. Governmental or non-governmental organizations and institutions which wish to organize Bodhi Shrawan Dharma programs at a national or international level, should contact the BSDS in Kathmandu or any sub-Sangha approved by the BSDS.
25. The Sangha should establish a smooth and harmonious relationship with the various concerned institutions or organizations all over the world to spread peace in the world and to achieve the objectives of the Most Ven. Dharma Sangha.
26. In order to inspire them, a Letter of Commendation, signed by the Most Ven. Dharma Sangha will be provided to directors, to main Dharma Gurus, to those who organize events.

VIII. Practical Issues of Membership and Sangha Gatherings

27. There will be more than 5 offices of the BSDS, local sub-sanghas within a country and offices will be run outside the country according to need. The main office will be at Russian Culture Centre, Kamalpokhari in Kathmandu.
28. In order to be a member of Special Spiritual member of Sangha, devotees who are interested should take an oath a “dhomba” and follow them for lifelong period.
29. BSDS officials, who fail to participate in the Sangha’s gatherings for more than three times without written application or notice, will lose their endorsement for the service of the BSDS. .
30. The Treasurer of BSDS should provide a list of income and expenses of the Sangha every year, eventually each six months.
31. The BSDS should call a gathering in respective districts, zones or the centre once a month, to discuss the progress of the objectives and to collect Dharma materials, for example teaching’s data.
32. There should be 75 representatives according to the districts at a centre level, and they should visit the office once a month to discuss any progress and to exchange information.
33. During religious events and ceremonies organized by the Sangha all unnecessary cultural or musical programs and religious hymns are strictly prohibited.
34. After entering in a Sangha, all Dharma Gurus from any religion should take their seats according to their rank as managed by most Ven. Dharma Sangha and Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme and they should keep back from arguments because of facilities or benefits.
35. The tenure of the Sangha will be four years and the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha himself will appoint the new members. On the completion of member’s tenure the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha himself will give farewell in a religious way.
36. All other general members of the Sangha are not required to take a “dhomba”, but they should abide to the Astashil (Eight Moralities).
37. Special religious flags and special colored dress will be designed for devotees.
38. An official website of the Sangha is created and any other websites to raise funds and publish teachings should be authorized by the Sangha.
39. Dharma Gurus, who are members of the Sangha, should compulsorily wear their respective robes; red and yellow colored while participating in religious ceremonies. Dharma Gurus not wearing the red and yellow colored robe can be treated as lay persons.

IX. Expected Behavior of Sangha Members and the Consequences of not Abiding by the Rules

40. Members of BSDS and members of the meditation area should participate in spiritual preaching and teachings given by the Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme and practice in their daily behavior in order to develop themselves in the spiritual field and also to prove themselves capable.
41. All the members, followers of Venerable Dharma Sangha should walk on the path of shown by Venerable Dharma Sangha for the welfare and for the conservation and development of all living creatures, humans, animals, plants and their habitat of the world.
42. All the members are expected to be impartial and contribute their services for the Sangha, without discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, community or complexion.
43. All the officials of BSDS are strictly restricted to apply their own rules without the permission and advice of the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha.
44. Every member of BSDS and family members of the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha should abide to rule not to enter inside the restricted areas with the intention to visit the Most Ven. Dharma Sangha, as well as strictly forbidden to enter inside any offices and special rooms related with the BSDS CSP.
45. Every members of Sangha are independent to do their duties and responsibilities which fall on their department and no other members should interfere on their work or field.
46. It is strictly prohibited to take drugs, alcohol, have picnics or pollute the environment inside the holy place of the three meditation sites of Most Venerable Dharma Sangha.
47. Spiritual preaching, program and ceremonies should be organized solely as directed by The Most Venerable Dharma Sangha or by Ven. Acharya (Khenpo) Sonam Gyurme.
48. Anyone from any community or religion, whether Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Islam etc. can become a member of the Sangha, and the Sangha must never treat them with discrimination.
49. The Dharma Gurus of the Sangha should never downplay the importance of, or create any philosophical dissent while other Dharma Gurus are performing their rituals, abiding to their own religious principles. The Sangha should respect and admire each religious community.
50. Members of BSDS should never spread any kind of fiction, imaginary and unofficial information about the Most Venerable Dharma Sangha.
51. No one is allowed to privatize the Most Ven. Dharma Sangha and his philosophical teachings; because they are meant for the whole world.

52. Members of Sangha should not carry mean and narrow thinking of each other and they should not blame or accuse each-other during spiritual or non-spiritual events.
53. All members whether lay persons, rich or poor, should treat the Dharma Gurus with respect in Red and Yellow colored robes. The usual greeting should be “Lhasso, Fyafulla” etc.
54. If a member acts against these Rules of the Sangha, they should offer a butter lamp and “khada”- a scarf and asks for excuse.
55. No one should show any kind of bodily expressions of greet Dharma Sangha saying “hello, Namaskar” etc. nor should they ask any kind of questions about Venerable Dharma Sangha while visiting him.
56. The Sangha members should behave to each other with amity, harmony and should practice the Eight Morals, taking them as criteria for an ideal life.
57. If someone is heard or, found supporting or doing activities of creating clash and disputes between or tries to split Sangha, the membership of that person will be terminated.
58. Members are strictly restricted to share the Sangha’s internal problems with general devotees, donors, society, institutions etc. and in case of a proof of such an activity; the membership of that person will be terminated.

X. Conditions of Changes in the Rules

59. The Sangha has the right to change or modify the Rules according to need or current situation.
60. The Sangha is allowed to perform any activities which are for the wellbeing of others without permission and advice.

May all beings be happy!