



The Rules

We said you'd help write these, so treat this as version one. It's the starting deal between us, and it will change as we shape it. We'll put the rules to members for review at least once a year.

The spirit

The Inner Circle exists so the people who back independent journalism in Tasmania can sit close to the people who make it. You get access, influence and a genuine say. In return, we keep our independence absolute because that independence is the thing you're here to protect.

1. Joining and leaving

Any Patron can join. It's your choice, never automatic. You decide what you contribute, and you can leave whenever you like, no explanation needed.

2. Everyone stands on equal footing

Your voice carries the same weight whether you give \$20 or \$20,000. Your contribution buys you a seat in the room not a bigger megaphone than the person next to you.

3. Your voice is real, and it's advisory

We'll discuss major decisions and share initiatives with you first. We'll take your ideas seriously. But the board and management make the final calls because we carry the responsibility for them. The Inner Circle shapes our thinking; it doesn't govern the masthead.

4. Independence is the one thing we won't trade

Membership never buys coverage, never buys favourable treatment, and never buys silence. If a story involves you, your business or your cause, we'll report it exactly as we'd report anyone else's. That is the whole point of what you're supporting.

5. The oligarch rule

You can't ask us to use the platform for your personal benefit. Pitch ideas, argue hard, disagree with us. All are welcome and wanted. But demanding we run your line, bury a story, or turn Tasmanian Times into your private channel goes against everything the Circle stands for. Your opinion matters to us; wannabe oligarchs are not in the spirit of the Inner Circle.

6. Tell us when you've got skin in the game

If something we're discussing touches your interests, whether it's financial, political or personal, just say so. Disclosure is a must as it keeps everyone honest, and it keeps the Circle's advice worth listening to.

7. What's shared in the Circle stays in the Circle

Calls, previews and early initiatives are shared with you in confidence. Don't repeat or publish them until we've made them public. If you help us with something in particular, we may ask you to sign a short non-disclosure agreement to cover it.

8. Be someone people want in the room

The calls only work if they're generous, candid and free of point-scoring. Treat everyone with respect. That means other members, the team, our contributors, and the people we report on. Disagree with ideas as hard as you like, but there's no room for personal attacks, bullying or contempt for anyone. Keep the room a place where people are keen to be in.

9. Your membership is private

We won't name you as a member or share your details without your okay. Brag all you like about being in the Circle, that's one of the perks, but the choice to be public is always yours.

10. How these rules change

You help shape them. We'll put proposed changes to the Circle, listen properly, and the board ratifies the final version. Same principle as everything else: your voice is real, and the responsibility stays with us.

If it stops working

Either of us can end your membership at any time. We have the final say on who is a member. We may review a decision once if you ask us to, but there's no negotiation, and our decision is final. Anything you've already contributed is a gift in support of our journalism and isn't refundable, but you're never locked in, and we can both walk whenever we choose.