

Gasóga na hÉireann Scouting Ireland

CONSTITUTION

[SID 1/03]
NATIONAL SECRETARY
Dated 21st of June 2003
Amended 19th June 2005

PREAMBLE

When Robert Baden-Powell published "Scouting for Boys" in January 1908, boys all over Britain and Ireland began to meet in "Patrols" to try out the various activities. B-P never intended to start a new separate Movement; rather it was the boys of the world who started Scouting, as we know it today.

There were Scouts in Ireland within a couple of weeks of the appearance of the first Scouts in Britain and it is a fact that the beginnings here in Ireland were virtually contemporaneous with those in Britain; several Dublin and Belfast Troops and one each in Bray and Dundalk were amongst the earliest to be formed anywhere in the world.

In the autumn of 1908 there was a rally of 800 Scouts in Dublin's Phoenix Park. Inter-denominational Scouting evolved through several names before becoming the *Boy Scouts of Ireland* in 1949. In preparation for girls joining the association the name was changed to the *Scout Association of Ireland* in 1968.

Meanwhile, in the late 1920's, Frs. Tom and Ernest Farrell, examined the development of scout associations in Europe, particularly the *Scouts de France*. They considered Scouting to be a very valuable tool for the development of young Irish catholic boys. In 1927, following Episcopal approval, they founded the *Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland* which subsequently became the largest scout association on the island.

As Ireland and Scouting developed, both associations, having far more commonalities than differences, agreed in 1965 to establish the *Federation of Irish Scout Associations (FISA)*. The formation of FISA allowed both associations to be full and active members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement through FISA

Having worked together for over thirty-five years both associations agreed in 1998 to the objective of establishing a new single association. In the years preceding, the two associations took the names *Scouting Ireland S.A.I. and Scouting Ireland (CSI)* respectively. With the acceptance of the Constitution which follows the membership of both associations - Scouting Ireland S.A.I. and Scouting Ireland (CSI) joined together and became the first members of Scouting Ireland.

In moving forward as one we seek to show positive leadership in the community; to present a single, modern and relevant image; to revise what we offer to young people and adults; to bring about improvements based on the strength of both traditions; and to make the most efficient use of resources to provide Scouting in Ireland.

FUNDAMENTALS

1. The name of the Association is Gasóga na hÉireann or Scouting Ireland.
2. Scouting Ireland is a voluntary, non-formal educational movement for young people. It is independent, non-political, open to all without distinction of origin, race, creed or gender, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell and as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.
3. The aim of Scouting Ireland is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.
4. Scouting Ireland achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, the principal elements of which are:
 - Voluntary membership of a group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
 - Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise & Law, the meaning of which is expanded as the member grows towards maturity.
 - The provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
 - The provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
 - Learning by doing.
 - Encouragement of activity in small groups.
 - An award scheme, which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition of individual and group achievements.
5. **The Scout Principles.**

The principles of Scouting Ireland are enshrined in the Scout Promise and the Scout Law and they include:

 - Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the faith that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.
 - Loyalty to one's community in harmony with the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation.
 - Responsibility for the development of one's self.
 - Participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow beings and for the integrity of the natural world.
 - Use of a method of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, comprising programmes adapted to the various age groups.

6. The Scout Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Gealltanais na nGasóg:

Geallaim ar m'onóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo dhualgas do Dhia a chomhlíonadh, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dí na nGasóg a choimeád.

OR the following variation

On my honour I promise that I will do my best to further my understanding and acceptance of a Spiritual Reality, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Geallaim ar m'onóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo thuiscint agus mo ghlacadh den Réaltacht Spioradálta a chur chun cinn, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dí na nGasóg a choimeád.

7. The Scout Law:

- (a) A Scout is to be trusted.
- (b) A Scout is loyal.
- (c) A Scout is helpful and considerate to all.
- (d) A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- (e) A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- (f) A Scout has respect for self and others.
- (g) A Scout respects nature and the environment.

Dí na nGasóg:

- (a) Bíonn Gasóg iontaofa.
- (b) Bíonn Gasóg dílis.
- (c) Bíonn Gasóg cabhrach agus tuisceanach do chách.
- (d) Bíonn misneach ag Gasóg i ngach deachracht.
- (e) Baineann Gasóg leas as a c(h)uid ama agus tugann aire d'airí agus do mhaoin.
- (f) Bíonn meas ag Gasóg air/ uirthi féin agus ar daoine eile.
- (g) Bíonn meas ag Gasóg ar an dúlra agus ar an timpeallacht.

8. The National Management Committee may, where appropriate, allow the use of different forms of the Scout Promise to suit different age ranges and faiths provided any such adaptation is in accordance with the Constitution of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and is approved by the World Scout Committee.

GENERAL

9. Scouting Ireland recognises the safety and welfare of its members and Leaders as a foremost priority.
10. Scouting Ireland shall make the principles and provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child widely known, by appropriate

and active means, to adults and youth members.

11. The members of Scouting Ireland wear a uniform.
12. The motto of Scouting Ireland is 'Bí Ullamh' or 'Be Prepared'.
13. The emblem of Scouting Ireland shall be used in accordance with the Rules.
14. The flag of Scouting Ireland shall be used in accordance with the Rules.

INTERNATIONAL

15. Scouting Ireland is a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

MEMBERSHIP & APPOINTMENTS

16. Scouting Ireland shall have the following categories of members:
 - (a) Scouts;
 - (b) Scouters;
 - (c) Associate members;
 - (d) Honorary members.
17. A Scout is a uniformed youth member who receives the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland. All Scouts make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
18. A Scouter is a uniformed adult member who delivers the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland or who holds an Appointment. All Scouters make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
19. An Associate member is an adult who wishes to be associated with the work of the Association, for example as a supporter, parent, representative of a sponsoring authority, treasurer, secretary or adviser. An Associate member does not wear a uniform and is not required to make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
20. An Honorary Member is an individual whom the National Council has recognised as having given exceptional support to the Association. An Honorary member is not required to make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
21. Registration of membership and termination of membership shall be in accordance with the Rules.
22. The Appointments and Positions in Scouting Ireland are established in accordance with the Rules.
23. Any Appointments or Positions made are subject to the right of Scouting Ireland to have such Appointments cancelled, withdrawn or suspended as necessary.
24. Any member dissatisfied with a decision to cancel, withdraw or suspend his or her Appointment or Position may appeal such cancellation, withdrawal or suspension in accordance with the procedures set out in the Rules.

ORGANISATION

25. Scouting Ireland is organised on the following basis:

- (a) Scout Groups
- (b) Scout Counties
- (c) Scout Provinces
- (d) National

THE SCOUT GROUP

26. The Scout Group is the local and primary level of organisation in Scouting Ireland.
27. The Scout Group is registered in accordance with the Rules.
28. The Scout Group consists of any number of Programme Sections and is administered by the Scout Group Council, whose membership, functions and responsibilities are set out in the Rules.
29. Programme Sections operate Youth Programme(s) developed by Scouting Ireland for appropriate age ranges.

SCOUT COUNTY & PROVINCIAL ORGANISATION

30. A Scout County comprises of a number of Scout Groups and is supported by a Scout County Board and administered by the Scout County Management Committee. The National Management Committee determines the geographical boundary of each Scout County.
31. The Scout County Management Committee shall convene meetings (including the Annual General Meeting) of the Scout County Board to which the Scout County Management Committee shall report.
32. A Scout Province comprises of a number of Scout Counties and is supported by the Provincial Management / Support Team. The National Management Committee determines the geographical boundaries of the Scout Province.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION – NATIONAL COUNCIL

33. The National Council is the governing authority of Scouting Ireland and shall exercise all powers conferred on it by the Constitution.
34. The National Council meets at least once each year at the Annual General Meeting of Scouting Ireland.
35. Other meetings of the National Council are called by the National Secretary when the National Secretary receives a request in writing which clearly states the business to be considered by any one of the following:
- (a) The National Management Committee
 - (b) Five Scout County Boards
 - (c) Ten Scout County Management Committees
 - (d) Ten Scout County Youth Fora but subject to the Rules

(e) Thirty-five Scout Group Councils

36. Notice of all meetings of the National Council is in accordance with the Rules.
37. The quorum for meetings of the National Council other than the Annual General Meeting of Scouting Ireland is 100 members. In the absence of the required quorum the Chairperson dissolves the meeting.

38. The members of the National Council are:
- (a) Chief Scout (Chairperson)
 - (b) All other members of the National Management Committee
 - (c) The Honorary Vice-Presidents
 - (d) The Programme Commissioners
 - (e) The Training Commissioner
 - (f) The County Commissioners, County Officers, one representative from each County Scout Forum and one representative from each County Venturer/ Venture Scout Forum
 - (g) The Group Leaders and two delegates nominated by each registered Scout Group Council
 - (h) Nine representatives of the National Scout Forum
 - (i) Nine representatives of the National Venture Scout/Venturer Forum
39. Each member of the National Council shall have one vote.
40. The Chief Scout is the Chairperson of the National Council. When the Chief Scout is not chairing the meeting of the National Council a Chief Commissioner shall assume the chair.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION – THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

41. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Scouting Ireland shall include:
- (a) The appointment of Tellers
 - (b) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting
 - (c) To adopt the Annual Report
 - (d) To adopt the Audited Accounts for the year
 - (e) The appointment of Auditors
 - (f) To elect the Chief Scout, Chief Commissioners, National Secretary, National Treasurer as and when necessary
 - (g) To elect such other members of the National Management Committee nominated in accordance with the Rules as required
 - (h) To elect Honorary Vice-Presidents
 - (i) To receive the Annual Report of the Scout Foundation
 - (j) To appoint members and directors to the Scout Foundation where nominated by a Scout Group Council, Scout County Board or the National Management Committee.
 - (k) To consider any matters referred to it by the National Management Committee
 - (l) To consider any other proposals submitted in writing to the National Secretary not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting or otherwise in accordance with the Rules, by or on behalf of any Scout Group Council, Scout County Board, the National Scout Forum or the National Venture Scout/Venturer Forum.
 - (m) To confer the title of Honorary Member on such individuals nominated by any Scout Group Council, any Scout County Board or by the National Management Committee.

- (n) To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution or the Rules.

42. Youth Fora shall be established in accordance with the Rules.

43. The Honorary Vice-Presidents are elected by the National Council by a simple majority for a term of one year on the nomination of the National Management Committee.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION – THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

44. The National Management Committee shall exercise all powers of the National Council during the periods between meetings of the National Council provided that it shall not be empowered to amend this Constitution or the Rules nor act in respect of any matters specifically reserved to the National Council.

45. The members of the National Management Committee are;

- (a) The Chief Scout (Chairperson)
- (b) Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)
- (c) Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)
- (d) National Secretary
- (e) National Treasurer
- (f) Chairperson (National Spiritual/Religious Advisory Panel)
- (g) Provincial Commissioners
- (h) International Commissioner
- (i) Communications Commissioner
- (j) Six members of National Council elected in accordance with the Rules
- (k) Others in accordance with the Rules.

The Chief Executive Officer should attend meetings of the National Management Committee and has a right to contribute to the deliberations of the Committee.

46. The National Management Committee shall have the power to create sub-committees for such purposes and for such duration, as it deems necessary.

47. The National Management Committee shall have four standing committees as follows:

- (a) The National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination
- (b) The National Youth Programme Committee
- (c) The National Adult Resources Committee
- (d) The National Spiritual/Religious Advisory Panel

48. The Chief Scout is the President of Scouting Ireland and is elected by the National Council for a term of three years and is eligible for re-election for one further term of three years.

49. The Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme), Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources), National Secretary and National Treasurer are elected by the

National Council for a term of three years and are eligible for re-election for one further term of three years.

50. A Scouter may be nominated for election as Chief Scout, Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme), Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources), National Secretary or National Treasurer by a Scout Group Council, a Scout County Board or by the National Management Committee.
51. The Appointment of Chief Scout, Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme), Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources), National Secretary or National Treasurer may be cancelled, withdrawn or suspended by the National Council or it may be suspended by the National Management Committee pending a meeting of the National Council.
52. Where a vacancy occurs in the National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination the National Management Committee shall be empowered to appoint a Scouter to the vacant position who shall hold such appointment until the next meeting of the National Council.

PROPERTY & FINANCE

53. Movable and immovable property of Scouting Ireland shall be vested in the Scout Foundation in accordance with the Rules.
54. The Scout Foundation is a company registered in Ireland, limited by guarantee without a share capital and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.
55. The members and directors of the Scout Foundation shall comprise of all the members of the National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination and four other members of Scouting Ireland nominated by any of the following for appointment by the National Council: the National Management Committee, any Scout County Board or any Scout Group Council.
56. Before a Scout Group, Scout County or Scout Province is formally dissolved in accordance with the Rules, the Scout Group Council, the Scout County Management Committee or the Provincial Management / Support Team as appropriate must inform and seek instructions in relation to all property of any kind, including bank accounts, held or vested in or on behalf of a Scout Group, Scout County or Scout Province as applicable from, in the case of the Scout Group, the County Commissioner, in the case of the Scout County, the Provincial Commissioner and in the case of the Scout Province, the National Treasurer. The Scout Group Council, the Scout County Management Committee or the Provincial Management / Support Team as appropriate shall then take all steps as directed to deal with such property.
57. The Accounts of Scouting Ireland shall be audited annually by the Auditors appointed for that purpose by the National Council. The Audited Accounts shall be presented to the National Council.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

58. The National Management Committee shall employ a Chief Executive Officer as a member of the professional staff of Scouting Ireland.
59. The National Management Committee:
- (a) shall appoint such professional staff as it may deem necessary from time to time;
 - (b) has the power to dismiss professional staff as necessary;
 - (c) defines the terms and conditions of service of professional staff.

These functions may be delegated to the National Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer acting jointly.

AMENDMENTS

60. Any amendments to this Constitution shall require approval of two-thirds majority of the members of the National Council present and voting at the Annual General Meeting of Scouting Ireland or at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the National Council of Scouting Ireland. No amendment to this Constitution shall be made by the National Council otherwise than on Notice of Motion duly given and accepted by a simple majority at the meeting of the National Council immediately prior to the meeting at which the Motion is to be moved.

61. No alteration may be made to Articles 1 to 8 inclusive without the written consent of the World Scout Committee.

RULES OF SCOUTING IRELAND

62. The detail on or clarification of any matter referred to in this Constitution shall be contained in the Rules. In the event of any conflict between this Constitution and the Rules of Scouting Ireland, this Constitution shall prevail.