

	Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland			
	Document No.	Issued	Last Amended	Next Review
	SID–AF04	26 th Nov. 2011	20 th May 2018	May 2021
	Category: Administration and Finance			
National Council Elections Policy				

Related Documents

Revision Schedule		
Revision	Date	Description
E	20/05/2018	Provincial Meetings Requirement Revised
D	09/01/2016	Document Fully Revised
C	28/04/2015	Meeting attendance protocols added Q&A Session Amended
B	23/02/2013	Q&A Session Amended
A	27/01/2013	Remove Candidate Video Option
#	26/11/2011	Document Issued

Introduction

In the last numbers of years it has become apparent that there is a need for Scouting Ireland to put a policy in place to govern admission to meetings of the National Council, and elections by the National Council, in order to assist both delegates and election candidates.

Admittance to National Council Meetings

- Following the 1st mailing for any meeting of the National Council, each Scout Group will be required to return a list of the names of the four Scouts/Scouters the Scout Group Council has chosen to attend the meeting of National Council, as delegates on its behalf, as per the Rules of Scouting Ireland. Each Scout County Youth Forum will be required to return a list of the names of the two Scouts the Scout County Youth Forum has chosen to attend National Council as delegates.
- These lists of names must be with National Office by the required date, which will be set out in the 1st mailing.
- The 2nd National Council mailing will include the admittance cards and will be sent to the Group Leader or County Commissioner, as appropriate, with the names printed on the cards for the people nominated as delegates by the Scout Group or Scout County Youth Forum. Admittance cards for all other Scout County and National delegates are non-transferable and will only be issued for the person appointed to these positions. The appointees to these positions must be registered with the National Secretary as holding such position to be eligible for membership of the National Council.
- When checking in at the meeting of the National Council, delegates may be asked for identification to verify that they are the person named on the admittance card. This may take the form of any of the following identification documents - Driving Licence, Student Card, Scouting Ireland Membership Card (if and when it comes into operation) or Passport.
- A Scout Group Council may nominate 4 delegates to be members of the National Council on its behalf. At least one of the four delegates must be a registered Scout. It is not necessary for any of the delegates to be members of that Scout Group. The National Council admittance cards are only transferrable with the approval of the Scout Group Council or Scout County Youth Forum. Admittance cards are only transferrable to a person who is selected by a Scout Group Council or Scout County Youth Forum and this can only be done by the use of a Delegate Transfer Form which must be signed by the Scout Group Secretary or the Secretary of the Scout County Youth Forum and the person who is transferring the admittance card. This

form is to be brought to the meeting of the National Council and presented at the check-in desk so that the new name can be added to the attendance record.

- At check-in, each member of the National Council will receive an ink stamp on the back of their hand after they register.
- The admittance card will include a reminder that delegates should act in accordance with the wishes/instructions of the Scout Group Council, Scout County Board or Scout County Youth Forum or National Youth Forum that they are representing and always in a Scout-like manner.
- The check-in for the meeting of the National Council will be co-ordinated on a Provincial basis for Scout Groups and Scout County delegates. Delegates should present their admittance card at the appropriate desk. The check-in for National personnel will be co-ordinated at a separate desk, which will be clearly marked. There will also be an additional desk for any delegates who have a query that needs to be resolved. Members of the Professional Staff will staff all the check-in desks. Scouters, who are not members of the National Council and have been appointed by the National Secretary, may assist the Professional Staff Team with this process as required.

Candidates for Elections at National Council

Scouting Ireland believes in democracy and its importance to its governance procedures and with this in mind Scouting Ireland will afford its members the following opportunities:

- Three months preceding the Annual National Council Elections (this period may be shorter in the case of other meetings of the National Council), potential candidates will be invited by the National Secretary to submit a document for national circulation to enable them to seek nominations for available positions from Scout Group Councils or Scout County Boards. National Office will provide a contact list for members of the National Council for this purpose.
- Once nomination papers are received and verified by the National Secretary, all candidates will be provided with the opportunity to avail of the following:
 - In the 2nd National Council Mailing candidates will be provided with space for a Scouting and personal CV and a personal manifesto. The National Secretary will have the right to edit, amend or refuse to publish any documents that may contravene the Constitution and Rules of Scouting Ireland or that may contain unacceptable language or statements. In the event that this becomes necessary the candidate will be advised of the action taken by the National Secretary and the reason why the action was deemed necessary.

- The Inside Out E-zine shall publish a National Council special prior to the meeting of the National Council. Candidates will receive a list of questions from the Communications Commissioner or a member of his/her team for this edition. The answers to the questions must be submitted by the required deadline.
- On the Friday night of the National Council weekend the National Secretary shall arrange an opportunity for members to meet the candidates in an informal setting. Attendees will be free to talk to any of the candidates and ask them questions.
- Candidates are asked not to engage in poster and leaflet campaigns at any time on the weekend of National Council.
- The National Management Committee (NMC) is conscious of the demands being placed on members of Scouting Ireland seeking election at meetings of the National Council. In the interest of fairness, and to ensure that all candidates have a chance to meet delegates to the National Council, and considering some candidates may not have access to private transport and/or the ability to attend every Scout County meeting they are invited to, where practical, there will be six (6) meetings arranged with one (1) taking place in each Scout Province, or such lesser number as deemed appropriate for a meeting of National Council. These meetings will take place after the closing date for the receipt of nominations has passed. All properly nominated candidates will be invited to attend and meet the prospective delegates at these meetings and reasonable travel expenses at the rates set by Scouting Ireland for volunteers may be claimed by nominated candidates on application to the National Secretary. Candidates must refrain from attending Scout County or other meetings they are invited to regarding the election.
- In the case of elections for Provincial Commissioner, nominated candidates may attend Scout County Board meetings from within that Province, if they are so invited.
- All candidates may attend meetings of their own Scout County Board.

Behaviour and Procedures for Elections

- No Scout or Scouter is to engage in any sort of canvassing/lobbying, or advocating other members to vote for or against any particular candidate, inside or in the precincts of the venue of National Council.
- Voting in elections to be held at National Council shall not open until at least 30 minutes **after** the start of the meeting. The Chairperson of the meeting will make the announcement of the opening of the ballot boxes.

- Whenever a change occurs in relation to the situation of candidates for election, a statement clarifying the situation will be made to National Council after the meeting has opened and before voting commences.
- A candidates name can be removed from the ballot paper up to 72 hours before the start of a National Council Meeting. A withdrawal notified after that time will result in the name of the candidate remaining on the ballot paper, however, an announcement or a statement from a candidate may be read out at the start of the National Council Meeting stating that they don't want their name considered in the voting. This statement must be lodged with the National Secretary at least 18 hours prior to the start of National Council and must be signed by the candidate themselves.

Voting Procedures

- In the case where the National Secretary is a candidate in the upcoming election the NMC shall appoint one of the Honorary Vice Presidents as the "Elections Officer" to oversee the election process before and during the meeting of the National Council. If none of the Honorary Vice Presidents are available for this role then the Chairperson of the NMC will propose, for approval by the NMC, a person to fulfil this role. The 'Elections Officer' must be appointed before the first mailing is published.
- The Elections Officer will liaise with the Chief Teller and the National Secretary as required.
- All votes for the election of positions are held by secret ballot.
- The system used by Scouting Ireland is set out in SID 137/16 (Scouting Ireland - National Council Voting Procedure).
- The Chief Teller is appointed by the National Council, having been nominated by the National Secretary. He or she shall be assisted by persons nominated by the National Secretary and approved by the National Council to stand appointed as Assistant Tellers.
- When the count is complete the Chief Teller puts the result of each election into a separate sealed envelope and hands this directly to the National Secretary or the Elections Officer to be conveyed to the National Secretary or Chairperson, as appropriate, for the announcement of the election results.
- All candidates for election are entitled to appoint an observer to be present in the Count Room to observe the count. They have no right to comment or address the Chief Teller, they are there solely as observers. The name of the Scout or Scouter the candidate wishes to act as their observer must be given in

writing to the National Secretary at least 7 days prior to the National Council Meeting. No observer will be allowed to enter the count unless his or her name is on the list provided to the Chief Teller. Observers may not be members of the National Council.

- All candidates are entitled to see the results of the election.
- The election results shall be published on Scouting Ireland's website within 30 days of the election.
- In the interest of fairness to each candidate seeking election, they will be invited to join the Chief Teller and/or the Elections Officer in a private area 15 minutes before the election results are announced to the National Council. They will be given the results of the election, in which they were candidates, to allow them to compose themselves before the result is announced to the National Council. The Elections Officer will invite the candidates to re-join the meeting at which time the results of the particular election in which they were a candidate will be announced.