



1. The Meeting of National Council will be held in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and these Standing Orders

2. Adoption of Standing Orders

- 2.1. Standing Orders should be proposed at the start of National Council by a member of the National Management Committee and shall be adopted by a simple majority of members present and voting.
- 2.2. In the event of the proposed Standing Orders not being adopted, the Standing Orders adopted for the previous meeting of the National Council shall be deemed to be adopted.
- 2.3. Amendments to the proposed Standing Orders may be proposed and seconded by any member of National Council except those who are members of the National Management Committee. Amendments can only be proposed at the start of the meeting. Any changes shall be adopted by a simple majority.

3. Rules of Debate

- 3.1. Each member on commencing to speak shall announce his or her name and the name of the body that appointed him or her. Members shall address the Chair.
- 3.2. A motion may be proposed only by a delegate of the body that submitted it.
- 3.3. The proposer of a motion shall have the right to speak before all other speakers on that motion and will be allowed rebuttal once all speakers have finished. Speakers will not be allowed further comment unless on a point of order and with the permission of the Chair.
- 3.4. The Chair may limit the number of speakers on any motion.
- 3.5. A member who persists in irrelevance or repetition in debate or who, in the opinion of the Chair, is speaking for the purpose of obstructing business may be directed by the Chair to discontinue his or her speech.
- 3.6. In the event of an amendment to a motion being proposed, the voting on such, shall take place before the voting on the substantive motion to which the amendment relates.
- 3.7. If a motion to proceed to the next business is proposed, the proposer of the motion under debate shall have the right to speak briefly in opposition thereto and the motion must then be put. If the motion is carried, the debate on the original motion shall be abandoned and the meeting shall proceed to the next business on the agenda. If the motion is lost, the debate on the original motion shall be resumed.
- 3.8. A motion that the question be now put must be proposed, seconded and decided without debate. If the motion is carried, the original motion shall be put and decided



without further debate other than, at the discretion of the Chair, a brief reply by the proposer of the original motion. If the motion is lost, the debate on the original motion shall be resumed.

3.9. The Chair must not accept a motion if it appears to him or her that the motion is an infringement of the rights of a minority or that the motion is otherwise an abuse of these Standing Orders.

3.10. After the proposer has been called upon to conclude the debate, or does not claim the right to speak again, no further discussion shall take place on a motion or amendment and the Chair shall call for a vote.

3.11. The decision of the Chair, in all matters, shall be final.

4. Suspension of Standing Orders

4.1. Standing Orders may be suspended or modified in effect for a particular purpose by motion proposed and seconded by any member and passed with the support of a simple majority of the members present and voting. No proposal to amend or repeal the Constitution or to suspend or modify the effect of this Order may be proposed by way of a motion under this section.

4.2. The time for which suspension is required is specified within the motion.

5. Voting Procedures

5.1. No Scout or Scouter is to engage in any sort of canvassing/ lobbying or trying to persuade other members to vote for or against any particular candidate inside or in the precincts of the venue of National Council.

5.2. Voting in elections to be held at National Council shall not open until at least 30 minutes **after** the start of the meeting. The announcement of the opening of the ballot boxes will be made by the Chairperson of the meeting.

5.3. 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.

5.4. 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 with lodged the National Secretary at least 18 hours prior to the start of National Council and must be signed by the candidate themselves.

5.5. All votes for the election of positions are held by secret ballot



- 5.6. The Chief Teller is appointed by National Council having been nominated by the National Secretary. He or she shall be assisted by persons approved by the National Council to stand appointed as Assistant Tellers
- 5.7. 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 Elections Officer to be conveyed to the National Secretary for the announcement of the election results.
- 5.8. All Candidates for election are allowed 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 National Council Meeting. No observer will be allowed to enter the Count Room unless their name is on the list provided to the Chief Teller.
- 5.9. All candidates are entitled to see the results of the election.
- 5.10. 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 result of the election in which they were a candidate to allow them to compose themselves before the result is announced to the National Council. The elections officer will invite the candidates to rejoin the meeting at which time the results of their particular election in which they were a candidate will be announced.
- 5.11. All members of the National Council are entitled to one vote. All voting shall be by open show of voting cards except where:
 - An election for any Appointment (except for the appointment of honorary vice president's) by the National Council takes place; or
 - A proposal from the floor to hold a secret ballot is accepted by at least one third of those members present and voting.
- 5.12. All elections, save where there is one candidate for a position, shall be by proportional representation by single transferable vote. Where there is only one candidate seeking election, the candidate shall only be deemed elected if they receive fifty percent plus one vote of the votes cast. The votes cast shall include any spoiled votes cast.
- 5.13. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote whether or not the Chairperson exercised an original vote. Motions shall be passed by a simple majority save where otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Rules.
- 5.14. During the voting on Motions members are asked to stay in the same place until the Chairperson declares a result. Once a vote has been called, no one is permitted to enter or exit from the meeting room until the Chair declares a result.

6. Counting of votes

- 6.1. The Chief Teller is appointed by National Council having been nominated by the



National Secretary. He or she shall be assisted by persons approved by the National Council to stand appointed as Assistant Tellers.

- 6.2. It shall be the duty of the Chief Teller to arrange for the counting and recording of the votes on every occasion on which a division is taken. His or her decision as to the numbers recorded on any vote shall be final save that, where two or more tellers disagree on a vote, the Chair may order a recount of that vote.
- 6.3. No person who is a candidate in any election at the National Council shall be appointed a Chief or Assistant Teller.

7. Election Results

- 7.1. The results of all elections are announced as soon as the closing address is completed.
- 7.2. Any member of the National Management Committee who is a candidate for election for any position or whose term of office has finished shall vacate the podium in advance of the election results being announced.
- 7.3. All candidates who took part in the election are entitled to see the results of the election count.
- 7.4. Election results will be published on the Scouting Ireland website within thirty (30) days of the results being announced.

8. Conclusion of the Meeting

- 8.1. The meeting shall be formally closed by the Chair.