

# **THE WAYFARERS ASSOCIATION**

## **Constitution October 2010**

Article:

1. The name of the Association shall be the "Wayfarers".
2. The object of the Association shall be to bring people together for the purpose of hiking.
3. Membership of the Association shall be open to all persons of 18 years and over who subscribe to the Association and who are duly proposed to the committee and approved by the Committee. These members recognise that hiking which includes hill walking and mountaineering, is an activity with a danger of personal injury and death. They shall be aware of and accept these risks and mitigate accordingly and agree to be responsible for their own actions and safety.
4. The Annual membership subscription for year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October shall be determined by an annual or special general meeting and shall be payable by standing members on 31<sup>st</sup> of October each year for the ensuing year. The membership of any member who fails to pay the subscription by 31<sup>st</sup> December shall be deemed to have lapsed. After 1<sup>st</sup> June each year, part year membership rates apply for those joining for the first time.
5. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee consisting of 5 officers of the Association; viz. the Chair, the Hikes Coordinator, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor and 3 other members; all of whom shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
6. No officer shall remain in the same office for more than three consecutive years.
7. The ex-Chair shall automatically be entitled to one of the Committee places for the year after relinquishing the Chair.
8. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies which may occur during the year.
9. The Committee shall meet at least once every 2 months and at any meeting of the Committee 5 members shall constitute a quorum and the Chair shall have the casting vote.
10. Any member of the Committee who misses 2 consecutive meetings without reasonable cause will automatically cease to be a member of the Committee.
11. If in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct of any member is deemed to be prejudicial to the Association, it shall request an explanation from the member for such conduct. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, the Committee may refer the matter to an internal Grievance Panel composed of 3 ex-Chairs who are not Committee members. The panel shall decide on the matter and may impose any penalty it deems appropriate, up to and including expulsion from the Association. The decision may be appealed to the Grievance Officer of Mountaineering Ireland under Mountaineering Ireland's grievance procedure.
12. The Chair and committee members will be responsible for the overall running of the Club.
  - 12a. The Chair shall chair the meetings of the Committee, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings or if unable to do so shall appoint a deputy from the Committee.
  - 12b. The Hikes Coordinator shall, at the Committee's discretion be responsible, for making arrangements for the regular hiking programme, training and other matters related to hiking activity.
  - 12c. The Editor shall inform members of forthcoming events by means of a bulletin and shall be responsible primarily for production of the Bulletin.

13. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Association and attend to correspondence.
14. The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts and shall prepare an annual Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the financial year which shall end on 30th September each year.
15. The Annual General Meeting of the Association should normally be held in the month of October each year when the Committee shall present its report on the various activities of the Association and the financial statements for the previous year.
16. The members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and such business shall be transacted as is usual at Annual General Meetings. Six separate elections shall be held; one for each Officer position and another for the remaining Committee members.
17. Two Honorary Auditors, who shall be appointed by the Committee not later than one month before the Annual General Meeting, shall examine and certify the annual accounts. The Auditors shall not be members of the outgoing Committee.
18. All proposed amendments to the Constitution to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting must be proposed and seconded in writing and must be received by the Secretary 28 days before the AGM, date of which will be decided by the Committee. . The Committee shall make arrangements to display the names of candidates for the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. Names of candidates can be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting.
19. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting, together with proposed amendments to the constitution and any motions properly proposed, seconded and received shall be circulated to members using each member's normal communication method at least 14 days beforehand.
- 19a. Only AGM /EGM motions properly proposed, seconded and submitted to the Secretary in time for circulation with the Agenda will, on being passed by the meeting, be binding on the incoming Committee. Excepted from these provisions are motions to appoint Committee Members, approving Committee reports, Annual Accounts and Minutes of previous years' AGMs.
20. Subject to the Chair's prior permission, a member of the Association may attend a Committee meeting for the purpose of raising an issue considered by that member to be of importance to the Association.
21. A candidate for chair should be a paid up member for two full subscription years, and preferably have already held a Committee position.
22. A General Meeting shall have the power to set Club Rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the Club's constitution and the policies of Mountaineering Ireland. The Club rules may be amended by a simple majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment or addition to the rules must be received by the Secretary at least 28 days before the General Meeting.
23. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by either 10% of the membership, or the Committee, or at the Annual General Meeting.
24. The quorum for an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be 30% of the paid up membership.