



Cumann Siúlóirí
na h-Éireann

Constitution of the Irish Ramblers' Club

Section 1: Name, Ethos and Objectives of the Irish Ramblers' Club

1. The name of the club is the Irish Ramblers' Club or Cumann Siúlóirí na h-Éireann (abbreviated to the IRC).
2. The club is non-sectarian and non-political.
3. The objectives of the club are to provide for its members a programme of regular hill walking, occasional trips in Ireland and abroad and social activities. It shall care for the natural environment and promote measures to ensure reasonable access to the countryside for responsible recreational visitors.
4. The motto of the club is "to explore, enjoy and protect our beautiful countryside".

Section 2: Membership of the Irish Ramblers' Club

1. There are three categories of membership --- Full Membership, Honorary Life Membership and Associate Membership.
2. To become an Associate Member, an individual must be at least eighteen years of age and must subscribe to the ethos and objectives of the club. He/she must have successfully completed an appropriate Introductory Hike, and have paid the appropriate annual subscription.
3. Following acceptance as an Associate Member, he/she must fulfil the requirements to become a Full member within a time frame specified by the Executive Committee (abbreviated to the EC). The requirements will be described in a document approved by the EC. Upon completion of these requirements, and acceptance by the EC, he/she will become a Full Member.
4. Honorary Life Members are those who have made exceptional contributions to the IRC over a long period of time. Honorary Life Membership confers the right to free membership of the club. Honorary Life Membership is awarded by the EC, and requires a vote of two-thirds of the EC.
5. The annual membership subscription for each membership category is determined by the AGM or SGM. The relevant subscription is payable before the 31st January of each year for the ensuing calendar year. The membership of anyone who fails to pay the subscription by the end of January shall be considered to be lapsed.
6. The EC, but only on a majority of at least two-thirds of the EC, has the power to terminate the membership of any member for conduct deemed likely to bring the club into disrepute, or for conduct detrimental to the interests of the club. A member shall receive due notice of the intention to terminate his/her membership, and shall have the right to present his/her case in writing or personally to the EC. If he/she still wishes to pursue the matter, he/she may arrange for an SGM to be convened, in accordance with the arrangements for an SGM as set out in Section Four, Clause Five of this Constitution, and the termination or otherwise of the membership would then be determined by the SGM.

7. The EC may limit or expand the total membership of the club as it deems fit, subject to the direction of the AGM or SGM.

Section 3: Structure and Role of the Executive Committee

1. The day-to-day affairs of the club are managed by the EC, subject to direction from the AGM or SGM. The EC consists of six Officers and up to eight members. The six Officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Webmaster. The specific responsibilities of the other members are determined by the EC in accordance with the needs of the club.
2. The EC remains in office from the time of its election at an AGM until the next AGM (unless recalled at an SGM). Members of the EC are eligible for re-election, but cannot remain in the same position on the EC for more than three consecutive years.
3. Should a vacancy arise in the EC, the EC has the power to fill that vacancy.
4. The EC must meet at least ten times during the course of its year in office, and at any EC meeting a quorum is seven members.
5. Any member of the EC who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the EC ceases to be an EC member unless in the case of illness, or other unavoidable reasons. In the event that a member is unable to attend in person, an effort shall be made to facilitate his/her participation in the meeting by phone or other modern communication methods. In the event of such participation, the person who cannot attend in person will be deemed to have been present.
6. The EC may appoint sub-Committees to assist in the carrying out of its duties. These sub-Committees report back to the EC, but ultimately the EC is responsible for the proper carrying out of its duties. All sub-Committees will include one member of the EC. Such sub-Committees will cease to exist on expiry of the term of the EC.
7. The President chairs meetings of the EC, AGM and SGM, and is the main spokesperson and representative of the IRC. In the event that the President is unable to perform these functions, he/she will appoint a deputy from the EC.
8. The Vice-President is responsible, subject to the approval of the EC, for making arrangements for the regular hiking programme, and carried out other responsibilities as determined by the EC.
9. The Secretary records minutes (in particular of the EC meetings, AGM's and SGM's, which shall be signed by the relevant Chairperson), and attends to the correspondence of the IRC. The Secretary also keeps a record of the property of the IRC, and of its location at the time of the AGM.
10. The Treasurer keeps proper books of Accounts, and prepares an Annual Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the financial year, which runs from 1st January to 31st December.
11. The Editor is responsible for the compilation, production and distribution of The Rambler, the magazine and bulletin of the club, and is answerable to the EC for its content.
12. The Webmaster is responsible for the operation and oversight of the Club Website. The Webmaster is also responsible for liaison with the Website provider.

Section 4: Annual and Special General Meetings (AGM's and SGM's)

1. AGM's shall be held annually within three months following the financial year end. At the AGM the outgoing EC reports on the activities of the year since the previous AGM. The AGM reviews and approves/rejects the audited financial statement for the previous year. The AGM elects the incoming officers and other members of the EC, as well as an Auditor who shall examine and certify the annual accounts for the current year; the Auditor shall not be a member of the incoming EC. The AGM also discusses and votes on eligible motions. The IRC's Standing Orders shall apply at the AGM.
2. Associate members may attend the AGM, but will have no voting rights at the AGM either for elections to the EC or on motions discussed at the AGM.
3. Notice of the date, venue and time of the AGM shall be given to the membership at least six weeks before the AGM. All motions to be discussed at the AGM and all nominations for elections to the new EC (and for Auditor) must be received by the Secretary at least four weeks before the AGM.
4. The Documents of the AGM shall be circulated to the membership at least two weeks before the AGM. These shall include the Agenda, all motions for discussion at the AGM and nominations for officers and members of the incoming EC and for Auditor for the current year.
5. An SGM may be called at any time by the EC, and also upon a requisition signed by twenty percent or more of the total full and honorary life membership of the club. At least ten days notice shall be provided to the membership for the holding of an SGM. The objective of the SGM must be specified in the notice convening it, and only such specified business can be transacted at the meeting. Voting at the SGM is restricted to the full and honorary life membership of the club. The IRC's Standing Orders shall apply at the SGM.
6. The IRC Constitution may be altered only by a resolution passed at an AGM or SGM, and to be passed such a resolution must receive the support of at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

As amended 2020 AGM