

IRISH NATURIST ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

(1) TITLE and AFFILIATION

1(A) The name of the Association shall be the *IRISH NATURIST ASSOCIATION*.

1(B) The Association shall be affiliated to the International Naturist Federation or to whichever organisation represents the interests of naturists world wide.

(2) AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:

2(A) The furtherance and the promotion of Naturism, advocating the pursuit of sport and leisure activities without clothing in suitable circumstances.

2(B) To assist in the foundation, development and co-ordination of all bona-fide Naturist groups in Ireland.

2(C) To safeguard and further the standards of Naturism, to ensure that Naturism is presented creditably at all times and to foster a sympathetic understanding and tolerance of Naturism in the community at large.

2(D) To represent Irish naturists both nationally and internationally and to foster friendly relations with naturists in other countries.

2(E) To seek the legalisation of bona-fide naturist activities and the provision of official naturist facilities in Ireland.

2(F) To provide a forum for the practise and development of Naturism by organising such social and sporting events as may be appropriate.

2(G) To do all such useful things as are incidental to or consequential upon, or otherwise calculated to further the aims and objectives of the Association.

(3) MEMBERSHIP

3(A) Membership of the Association shall be subject to the approval of the Association's Committee and shall be open to individuals, couples and families. Membership shall, except for attendance and voting purposes at General Meetings, be based on the Unit which shall be an individual, a couple or a family according to the status of the applicants(s). The Committee may, at its absolute discretion and without having to state a reason, refuse to accept an application for membership.

3(B) Members shall abide by the rules of the Association as set out in this Constitution and in Standing Orders and also by all other reasonable rules or requirements as may be laid down by the Committee. They shall at all times respect the confidentiality of their fellow members and shall conduct themselves in a dignified and responsible manner so as to avoid bringing the Association or Naturism into disrepute.

3(C) No person under 18 years of age shall be admitted to membership independently of parents or guardian.

3(D) There shall be no discrimination against any applicant or member on the grounds of sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, race or colour. This article shall not preclude any affiliated group or club from regulating its membership so as to provide for a balance between the sexes.

3(E) The Committee may at any time suspend from membership any member who it considers is bringing, or has brought, the Association or Naturism into disrepute. Any member who has been suspended shall be notified in writing within seven days of his/her suspension and of the right to appeal against the suspension.

3(F) Any member who has been suspended shall have the right to appeal to the Committee to have his/her suspension revoked. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary within twenty one days of the issue of the notice.

3(G) The Committee shall hear the appeal within fourteen days of receiving the appeal. The Committee and the member shall have the right to call witnesses. The Committee, after due consideration, shall decide whether to uphold, revoke or vary the suspension. The Committee may also, if it sees fit, decide to recommend to a General Meeting that the member be expelled from the Association. All such decisions shall not be valid unless approved by a majority of Committee members. The outcome of the appeal shall be notified in writing to the member within seven days.

3(H) The member shall have the right to appeal against the Committee's decision to the next Annual General Meeting. Any such appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary within twenty one days from the date of the notice of the Committee's decision. Where the period between the date of this appeal and the holding of an Annual General Meeting is less than twenty one days or more than sixty days, the member shall have the right to request the Committee to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting. The provision of Article 4(C) requiring any application for an Extraordinary General Meeting to be supported by the signature of twenty adult members shall not apply in this case.

3(I) All decisions by the Committee to suspend a member for any period of time must be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting as the case may be.

3(J) No member of the Association may be expelled except by a decision of a General Meeting.

3(K) Except where the conduct of a member is such as to necessitate immediate suspension, disciplinary procedures against a member under the provisions of this Article shall not be taken except on the basis of a written statement. Where a member makes a complaint against another member the Committee may, at its discretion, request a written statement.

3(L) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or of Standing Orders, voting at a General Meeting on any issue concerning the suspension or expulsion of a member shall be by secret ballot and by majority vote.

3(M) A member who has been expelled or who is under suspension shall have no right to attend or participate at any meeting or any function of the Association, other than a General Meeting at which his/her suspension or expulsion will be decided upon, or to perform any office, or to represent the Association in any capacity or to receive any refund of membership fees. S/he shall return, on demand, his/her Association membership card and/or International Naturist Federation membership card to the Membership Secretary.

3(N) All notices issued to a member under the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to have been received by the member if they have been sent to his/her last known address.

3(O) The time limits specified in this Article may be extended if the Committee is satisfied that owing to absence, serious illness or other reasonable cause the member was prevented from lodging an appeal within the time stated and that s/he lodged an appeal thereafter without unreasonable delay.

3(P) For the purposes of this Constitution and of Standing Orders the term "fully paid up member" in any particular year shall mean a member who has paid the full amount of the membership fee for that year and the term "adult member" shall mean a member over the age of eighteen years who has paid or is liable to pay the full amount of the membership fee. Membership fees shall be payable on January 1st each year and shall be in respect of the period from January 1st to December 31st of that year.

(4) ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

4(A) A General Meeting of the Association shall be held annually within fifteen months of the outgoing Committee assuming office. Preliminary notice of each Annual General Meeting shall be issued to all members not less than eight weeks prior to the date thereof. The agenda, including a financial report and details of all motions received by the Committee, shall be issued to members not later than three weeks prior to the date of the Meeting.

4(B) The Committee may, whenever it appears appropriate, summon an Extraordinary General Meeting.

4(C) On receipt by the Committee of a requisition in writing signed by at least twenty fully paid up adult members, the Committee must within four weeks call an Extraordinary General Meeting, the purpose(s) of which must be stated in the requisition.

4(D) Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be issued to all members not later than three weeks prior to the date of the Meeting and shall contain only the time, place and purpose of the Meeting. The purpose(s) of the Meeting shall be specified clearly in the Notice. No other correspondence relating to the matters to be discussed at the Meeting shall be circulated by the Committee or by individual members other than a notification of a change in the date, time and place of such Meeting.

4(E) Decisions shall not be taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting on any subject(s) other than the subject(s) for which the Meeting was convened.

4(F) The accidental omission to give notice of a Meeting to, or the non receipt of such notice by any member entitled to receive one shall not invalidate any decisions taken at such a Meeting.

4(G) At all General Meetings each adult member of a fully paid up unit present at the Meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Decisions on all matters other than amendments to this Constitution shall be taken by majority vote.

(5) AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

5(A) Amendments to this Constitution shall not be made except at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

5(B) Amendments shall be made only at a General Meeting at which there is present a quorum consisting of one fifth of the fully paid up adult membership as at the date of the General Meeting.

5(C) An amendment shall not be valid unless it is approved by two thirds of the fully paid up members present at the General Meeting.

5(D) Subject to the appropriate Standing Orders being enacted and in force, the words "members present" in Articles 4(G) and 5(C) shall be deemed to include members present by proxy.

(6) THE COMMITTEE

6(A) The affairs of the Association shall be administered and directed in a fair and democratic manner by a Committee, which shall consist of the Honorary Officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and as many other members as is deemed necessary. No one individual may hold more than one Honorary Officer post. The number of members required to be elected to the Committee at a General Meeting shall be recommended by the outgoing Committee for approval by the Meeting.

6(B) The Committee shall be elected by majority vote from amongst the membership at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose and shall continue in office until the next Annual General Meeting, during which the Committee shall collectively resign. Members of the Committee may offer themselves for re-election.

6(C) Each group or club which is affiliated to the Association shall have the right to nominate one member to represent it on the Committee. The Committee shall have the power of co-option to fill any vacancy arising during the year.

6(D) The Committee shall, in accordance with Standing Orders, determine its own business and occasions for meeting, but no decision shall be taken unless there is a quorum of its members present. A majority of the Committee members shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote of those present.

6(E) The Committee may appoint sub-committees as it sees fit to assist in the running of the Association.

6(F) Only fully paid up members of the Association shall be eligible to serve on the Committee or on any sub-committee.

(7) FINANCIAL MATTERS

7(A) Each Unit of membership, as defined in Article 3(A), shall pay to the funds of the Association an annual subscription, the rate(s) of which shall be determined at a General Meeting. Membership of the Association shall automatically cease when the subscription is more than twelve months in arrears.

7(B) All monies received shall be applied solely towards the Aims and Objectives of the Association as set out in Article 2.

7(C) The Treasurer shall keep proper Books of Account in which shall be recorded all monies received and expended and which shall give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Association. The Books of Account shall always be open to the inspection of members of the Committee and shall be audited at least once per year.

7(D) Bank accounts shall be maintained in the name of the Association. All cheques drawn on or withdrawals from such accounts shall be signed by the Treasurer and any other honorary officer authorised by the Committee.

7(E) A Financial Report containing an Income and Expenditure Account shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting, having first been circulated to each member at least three weeks prior to the date of such Meeting.

7(F) The Committee shall submit for approval to each Annual General Meeting an outline budget for the coming year.

(8) STANDING ORDERS

8(A) The Association shall adopt Standing Orders to regulate its business.

8(B) All Standing Orders adopted must be in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.