

FIANNA EIREANN (BOY SCOUTS OF IRELAND)

CONSTITUTION AND RULES AS REVISED APRIL, 1926.

TITLE

This organisation shall be known as Fianna Eireann (Boy Scouts of Ireland).

Fianna Eireann is an Independent National Organisation for boys with clearly defined objects. It is governed from within its ranks according to its Constitution which must be observed by all branches of the organisation.

OBJECT

To organise the boys of Ireland and train them mentally and physically, that their services may be utilised in the best interests of the Republic, and to maintain the Unity of Ireland.

MEANS

By training the Youth of Ireland on the following line:-

- (a) EDUCATIONAL - Programme to include CITIZENSHIP, IRISH LANGUAGE, IRISH HISTORY, FIRST-AID, SIGNALLING, MUSIC AND DRAMA.
- (b) PHYSICAL - SCOUTING, SCOUT DRILL, PHYSICAL CULTURE (including maze drill, etc.), Gaelic Games AND ATHLETICS.

N.B. Four of the above subjects to be obligatory.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of Fianna Eireann shall be open to all boys of good character who endorse its Constitution and make the Fiance Declaration.

Honorary members may also be admitted but shall have no executive or controlling powers.

DECLARATION

I pledge my allegiance to the Irish Republic, and promise to do all in my power to protect her from all enemies, domestic or foreign, and not to relax my efforts until the Irish Republic is universally recognised. I also promise to obey my superior officers.

CONTROL

1. Fianna Eireann consists of An Ard Fheis (Congress), An Ard Choiste (Central Council), An Prionh Coisde (Central Executive), Coisdí Ceanntair (District Councils) and Sluaghte (units or groups).
2. Fianna Eireann shall be organised and divided into Units on lines as laid down in circulars from the Central Executive.
3. Each unit shall be governed by a Council having definite and limited powers. These councils shall be (directly or indirectly) subordinate to a supreme governing body.
4. No person shall have power to start a Sluagh of Fianna Eireann without first getting permission from the Hon. General Secretaries.

SECTION A

AN ARD FHEIS (CONGRESS)

1. An Ard Fheis when in session shall be the supreme governing body of the organisation.

2. Representation at An Ard Fheis shall be:- Sluaighte with under 30 Fiannaidhte (members) shall be entitled to 1 delegate; over 30 and not exceeding 50, two delegates. Each Coisde Ceannair shall be entitled to 1 delegate.
3. An Ard Fheis shall meet at least once a year. A special meeting may be convened at any time on requisition of at least one-third of the Sluaighte affiliated or by resolution of An Ard Choisde.
4. An Ard Fheis shall at its annual meeting elect by ballot chief of Fianna (Taoiseach), Hon. General Secretaries (2), (Runaidhte Onoracha (2), Hon. Treasurer (Cisteoir Onor), and 6 members who shall form An Ard Choisde.
5. Notices of motion for the Agenda of An Ard Fheis must reach the Hon. Secretaries at Headquarters at least 14 days before the date of An Ard Fheis. Nominations for An Ard Choisde will be taken at An Ard Fheis.

SECTION B

AN ARD CHOISDE (CENTRAL COUNCIL)

1. An Ard Choisde shall be (except when An Ard Fheis is in session) the supreme governing body of the organisation.
2. Members of An Ard Choisde, as such, shall be entitled to be present and speak at An Ard Fheis, but they cannot vote.
3. An Ard Choisde shall have power to co-opt a representative from each Province.
4. An Ard Choisde shall at its first meeting which will be held within one week after the date of An Ard Fheis, appoint a Central Executive Council consisting of Chief of Fianna, 2 Honorary General Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and further executive officers as may be required.
5. An Ard Choisde shall meet at least once in every three months. Four to form a quorum. Questions of Policy can only be decided by An Ard Choisde.

SECTION C

AN PRIOMH COISDE (CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)

1. An Priomh Coisde (which is the Sub-Committee of An Ard Choisde in permanent session) consists of Chief of Fianna, 2 Hon. Secretaries and Hon. Treasurer, and further executive officers as may be required, and shall be Administrative Body of An Ard Choisde. Power to Veto remains with An Ard Choisde; also decisions on Questions of Policy.
2. An Priomh Coisde shall prepare and issue circulars dealing with every branch of the Fianna Service.
3. A meeting of all the members of An Priomh Coisde will be held at least once a month to table reports.
4. Reports of An Priomh Coisde shall be submitted to An Ard Choisde when required, and to the Sluaighte annually.

SECTION D.

(COISDI CEANNTAIR (DISTRICT COUNCILS))

1. Coisdi Ceannair will be formed under An Priomh Coisde (Central Executive) in centres with not less than 2 and not more than 4 Sluaighte.
2. A Coisde Ceannair shall be composed of the District Scout-master (Tanaiste Ceannair), and Senior Officer of each sluaigh, together with (whom they shall appoint) a Secretary and Treasurer. In the absence of an Officer, his next in command will attend.
3. Coisdi Ceannair must notify Central Executive of any new sluaighte in their district.

4. Examinations in the Fianna tests shall be carried out under the supervision of the Coisde Ceanntair.
5. Each Coisde Ceanntair shall submit its local Bye-Laws to An Ard Choisde for approval.
6. All appointments to senior rank and transfer must be ratified by An Coisde Ceanntair.
7. Coisdi Ceanntair shall meet at least once a month.
8. Where no Coisde Ceanntair exists the Central Executive shall be the direct authority in dealing with subordinate councils or units.
9. Each Coisde Ceanntair shall pay to the Central Executive an Affiliation Fee of 2/6 per annum, and shall be entitled to one delegate to An Ard Eheis.

SECTION E

SLUAIGHTE

Note:- The word "Sluagh" (plural sluaighte) literally means a group, but it is used here to denote any number of boys not less than eight. The Sluagh is the Basic Unit of Fianna Eireann.

1. Sluaighte shall be affiliated by vote of Priomh Coisde (Central Executive) to which they shall pay an annual affiliation Fee as follows:- 8 to 16 Fiannaidhte (members) 2/6; 17 to 50, 5/-; and for every additional 50 or part, 2/6 extra.
2. Sluaighte must be organised on lines laid down in the Fianna Handbook, or as subsequent circulars from Central Executive may direct.
3. Sluaighte will report monthly on forms sent out by the Central Executive.
4. No Fiann shall - in his official capacity, engage in Party Elections, political or otherwise. Any Fiann desiring to take part in Elections in his Private Capacity, shall not wear either either the Badge or Uniform of the Organisation.
5. A Sluagh Council (Coisde na Sluagh) shall be formed under the authority of An Coisde Ceanntair, and shall be composed of the Officer in charge and his two immediate subordinate officers, together with (whom they shall appoint) a Secretary and Treasurer.
6. All boys must serve six weeks and pass the Preliminary Test before being administered the Declaration, or given the Badge of Fianna Eireann.
7. Fiannaidhte being transferred from or leaving one unit to another must have written authority from the Council governing the unit they are leaving.
8. When any Fiann has committed a misdemeanour he will be summoned and tried by Fianna Courtmartial.

SECTION F

COURTS MARTIAL.

1. A member who has been notified that he is to be tried by Courtmartial, for the commission of offence, shall be a suspended member until the decision of the Court, when he shall be dealt with in accordance with the finding of the Court.
2. The finding of the Court, before enforcement, shall in all cases be submitted to the next higher authority to that conducting the Courtmartial.

3. All cases of members being tried by Courtmartial and the verdict of the Court shall, when possible, be reported to all units in the area concerned. The same applies to re-admission of a suspended member.
4. A charge preferred against a member must be in writing, and the accused shall receive a copy at least two days before his trial.
5. The Courtmartial shall (except in exceptional circumstances) be held within fourteen days after the suspension of the accused.

CONSTITUTION OF COURT

6. The Court shall (save in exceptional circumstances) consist of three Officers of another Sluagh, or Sluaghite, superior in rank to the accused.

EVIDENCE

7. The accused shall be accorded every reasonable facility to produce any witness in his favour, and may cross-examine witnesses, brought by the prosecution, and the prosecution shall in all respects have equal facilities.
8. Only evidence that is relevant to the written charge shall be received, and the Court shall give its decision impartially and solely on the evidence given at the trial.
9. Any person accused may select another member of the Pianna to act as defending counsel.
10. The Court shall decide whether evidence tendered by persons who are not members of the Pianna is admissible or not.

APPEALS

11. Both the accused and the prosecution shall have the privilege to appeal from the decision of the Court to the next higher authority.
12. Only An Ard Choisde or An Ard Ehis can expel a member from Pianna Bireann.

NOTE: The order in which the Councils have been named is the order of their authority. In the absence of the appointed officers on the Coisde Ceantair and Coisde na Sluagh the next in command will attend.
