



1 NAME

1.1 The name of the Club shall be "An Óige Hillwalkers Club" hereafter referred to as "the Club".

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

2.1 To organise hillwalking events and associated activities.

2.2 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the mountain environment.

2.3 To strive to attain best practice in all organised activities.

3 MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB

3.1 The Management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereafter referred to as "the Committee".

4 MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB

4.1 Membership of the Club shall only be open to members of An Óige, the Irish Youth Hostelling Association, who are over 18 years, hereafter referred to as "the Club Membership".

4.2 In addition to 4.1 above, Membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who accept that hillwalking is an activity with a danger of personal injury or even death. Members shall be aware of and accept these risks, wish to participate in these activities voluntarily and shall be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Members shall accept that An Óige Hillwalkers Club establishes the bounds on its activities through the constitution and rules of the club and members shall agree to abide by these.

4.3 An annual subscription valid from October 1st to September 30th shall be fixed each year for the purpose of membership by the Club Committee.

4.4 Membership of the club shall be constituted by payment of the annual subscription referred to in 4.3 and by affirmation of 4.2 above by means of a signed declaration on the club's application form.

4.5 Membership of the Club shall cease:

- on receipt by the Secretary of a written notice of resignation of the member, or,
- on failure to pay the annual subscription within two months of its falling due, or,
- on the passing by a two thirds majority of the Committee of a motion of expulsion of a member for conduct unworthy of or injurious to the status or interests of the Club.

5 CLUB COMMITTEE

5.1 Only members of the Club shall be eligible to hold any office of the Committee.

5.2 The Officers of the Club shall be the Club President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor, the Membership Secretary, the Sunday Hike Coordinator, the Weekend Coordinator, the Training Officer, and if required two additional Officers-at-Large, giving a maximum of ten Officers, hereafter referred to as "the Officers". These Officers shall constitute the Club Committee.

5.3 Officers shall be elected on either a denominated or non-denominated basis at the Annual General Meeting of the Club and can serve for a period up to but not exceeding five consecutive

years. After five consecutive years have elapsed, Officers shall retire from the Committee. Retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee once a period of three years has elapsed since retirement.

5.4 At least one Officer shall retire in rotation from the Committee each year. Should the membership at the AGM fail to elect replacement Officers, then the incoming Committee may invite a retiring Officer or any other Club member to serve for a period of one year.

5.5 The first meeting of the Committee shall be held within eight weeks of the AGM. At that meeting the Committee shall by mutual agreement,

- select a chairperson from amongst the incoming Committee members to chair regular committee meetings,
- assign responsibilities to the Officers of the Club who shall hold their positions for a period of one year.

5.6 In the event of a vacancy arising within the Committee due to death, resignation or any other cause, the Committee may appoint a temporary acting Officer pending the next annual general meeting.

5.7 The Committee shall meet at least four times per year. The quorum for any meeting shall be at least four Officers.

5.8 The Committee may invite observers to attend a Committee meeting from time to time. Such observers shall have the right to speak but shall not have the right to vote.

5.9 An Officer of the Club shall have discretion to engage Club members to assist with ongoing Club activities subject to approval from the Committee.

5.10 The Committee shall have the power to suspend any Committee member who in the opinion of the Committee is guilty of conduct prejudicial to the Club. No suspension shall be considered valid or effective unless it is decided by more than two thirds of the Officers of the Club, present and voting, by secret ballot at a Committee meeting to which due notice of the proposed suspension will have been given.

6 ANNUAL / EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

6.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held at least once per year, of which notice shall be given to every Member at least two months prior in the Club newsletter. Any two Members may have a motion placed on the Agenda provided written notice of it is given to the Secretary at least one month prior to the Meeting. The Agenda shall be issued in the September programme before the meeting and in such cases the motion shall be placed on the Agenda.

6.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Committee or at the written request to the Secretary by at least ten Members. Seventy-five (75) days written notice of an EGM shall be given to every Member.

6.3 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be twenty Members or fifty per cent of the membership which ever is the lesser.

6.4 Voting at General / Extraordinary Meetings shall be by simple majority save as where otherwise provided by the Constitution.

7 ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

7.1 The election of the Officers of the Club shall take place at the Annual General Meeting. Only members shall be eligible to be proposed as potential Officers, or to vote in any election procedure.

7.2 Candidates for Officer must be nominated by two members of the Club and two members of the Committee, in total four members.

7.3 The election procedure for new Club Officers shall be as follows:

- In the July edition of the club newsletter prior to the AGM, members shall be informed of how many Committee places will be available. At this point, nominations for new candidates shall be sought from the membership.
- In the September edition of the club newsletter prior to the AGM, a list of potential candidates shall be presented to the club membership.
- If the number of candidates proposed is equal to the number of positions, then no election will be deemed necessary, otherwise,
- A ballot paper in a form approved by the Committee shall be available for eligible electors at the AGM.
- All votes must be cast in person at the AGM.
- Each elector is entitled to vote for the number of candidates equivalent to the number of vacancies on the committee. The candidates shall be ranked according to the number of votes received and the highest ranked candidates shall be deemed elected to the Committee. In the event of there being candidates with an equal number of votes for the final place or places, then there shall be second ballot for such candidates, each elector at the annual general meeting have one vote for each vacancy remaining.
- The counting of votes shall be carried out by at least two scrutineers drawn from the general membership.

7.4 Should any emergency arise which renders the holding of an election impossible at the AGM, the outgoing Committee shall make arrangements for holding the election on an alternative date.

8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLUB COMMITTEE

8.1 The Chairperson - normally the Club President though not necessarily - will chair committee meetings.

8.2 The Club President will be responsible for, (i) fostering initiatives and furthering development within the club through consultation with members of the club, (ii) establishing club policies and practices by consensus with the Committee, (iii) setting dates for regular committee meetings, (iv) reporting to the Membership at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the Club, (v) representing the club at regular meetings of the Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI).

8.3 The Club Secretary shall be responsible for, (i) formulation and preparation of all correspondence relating to Club affairs, (ii) preparing and circulating in advance the agenda for committee meetings, (iii) recording all decisions taken at regular meetings of the committee, (iv) producing and distributing of minutes from those meetings.

8.4 The Treasurer shall be responsible for, (i) all financial affairs of the Club, (ii) maintaining an up-to-date financial record for presentation at all committee meetings, (iii) producing a verified annual financial statement of the club, verification to be carried out by an additional club member who has been nominated by the Committee, and (iv) reporting this statement to the Membership at the AGM of the club.

8.5 The Editor shall be responsible for, (i) producing a monthly newsletter, which will be distributed to all members of the Club, (ii) co-ordinating (and delegating if necessary) the production and management of the web page of the Club.

8.6 The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for, (i) receiving and processing membership applications from applicant members, (ii) maintaining an up-to-date database of all members, (iii) informing the MCI of the membership status of the club on a monthly basis, (iv) production of newsletter postal distribution labels.

8.7 The Sunday Hike Officer shall be responsible for, (i) organising all Sunday hikes throughout the year, (ii) maintaining a database of potential hike leaders, (iii) ensuring that acceptable practices are maintained with respect to all aspects of the Sunday hike programme as recommended by the Committee.

8.8 The Training Officer shall be responsible for, (i) co-ordinating and organising all matters relating to the annual course in mountain skills as organised by the Club, (ii) ensuring that acceptable practices are maintained with respect to all aspects of the training programme as recommended by the Committee.

8.9 The Weekend Officer shall be responsible for, (i) coordinating all weekend events or extended holiday events throughout the year, (ii) ensuring that acceptable practices are maintained with respect to all aspects of these events as recommended by the Committee.

8.10 The Committee may delegate appropriate additional responsibilities to either of the two remaining Officers-at-Large.

8.11 All Officers and their associated responsibilities will be governed by majority decision of the Committee.

9 RULES OF THE CLUB

9.1 The Committee shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of the MCI and can be altered at any time by the Committee.

9.2 The Club shall strive to maintain a positive financial balance at all times and will aim to report an end-of-year balance equivalent to at least 75% of the cumulative annual membership fee receipt.

10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB CONSTITUTION

10.1 This Constitution may be amended by the Committee subject to a two-thirds majority of members present at either the AGM of the Club or, if required, an EGM of the Club. Notice of proposed changes shall be included on the Agenda if received by the Club Secretary in time for publication in the Club Newsletter in the month preceding the General Meeting.

10.2 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Members present at any General Meeting subject to subsequent approval by a two-thirds majority of the Committee at the following Committee meeting. Notice of proposed changes shall be included on the Agenda if received by the Club Secretary in time for publication in the Club Newsletter in the month preceding the General Meeting.

11 CLUB DISSOLUTION

11.1 The Club can be dissolved by two thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with Article 10 whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets or liabilities to Feadhmannas na h-Óige.