

## IRISH AMATEUR FENCING FEDERATION

Constitution of the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation.

- Article (1)  
Title                   The name of the Federation is the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation, or in the Irish Language, Connra Pionsoirí na-h-Eireann.
- Article (11)  
Objects                Section 1. The Federation shall be the competent body for the regulation of all Amateur fencing in Ireland.
- Section 2. The objects of the Federation shall be:
- (a) to encourage and control the sport and art of fencing in Ireland.
- (b) to define amateur status for the purposes of fencing and to formulate and enforce regulations and bye-laws relating thereto:
- (c) to formulate and publish from time to time rules for the conduct of fencing contests and exhibitions in Ireland.
- (d) to group all amateur fencers within its jurisdiction for the purpose of conducting local and national championships and competitions or events designed to awaken and maintain interest in competitive fencing as well as in the art of fencing as a cultural pursuit and an exercise.
- (e) to create and maintain relations with fencing bodies in other countries, and committees or other organisations interested in promoting international competition in sport, or in the advancement of sport.
- Article (111)  
Membership           Section 1. (a) Fencing Membership shall be open to any person who has not been disqualified by the Council as a Fencing Member who tenders the appropriate fees to the Honorary Treasurer and the Council reserves the right of admission to fencing members.
- (b) No professional fencer shall be accepted as a fencing member, and a fencing member who becomes a professional fencer shall there upon cease to be a fencing member.
- (c) Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Council on any person who is not a fencing member. Honorary Members shall not have any voting rights, nor shall be entitled to hold office of the Federation other than that of Honorary President. Honorary Members who are Professional Fencers shall not be entitled to hold any office of the Federation.
- (d) Fencing members who have attained 21 years of age shall have the right to vote at General Meetings of the Federation and shall be entitled to hold any of the offices of the Federation.
- (e) Fencing members who have attained 17 years of age but have not attained 21 years of age shall have the right to vote at General Meetings of the Federation but shall not be entitled to hold any of the offices of the Federation.
- (f) Fencing members who have not attained 17 years of age shall not have the right to vote and shall not be entitled to hold any of the offices of the Federation.
- (g) Renewal of fencing membership or of affiliation shall be granted automatically, on the date on which Annual Subscriptions fall due. It will be the duty of the Honorary Treasurer to inform the Council of Subscription due, and not received within Sixty Days of due date. The Council may, in its absolute discretion decide to disaffiliate any group so reported or to terminate fencing membership of any person so reported or to extend by not more than thirty days of the period during which subscriptions may be received.

Section 2. Affiliation for Schools to cover capitulation of fencing pupils up to and including Junior Competitions.

Article (IV)  
Council

Section 1.(a) The conduct of the affairs of the Federation shall be vested in the Council.

(b) The Council shall be formed annually by the appointment of one Representative current voting member by each club, Salle d'Armes or fencing group affiliated to the Federation which has ten or more current voting members of the Federation. For every additional fifteen or more such members each affiliated club Salle d'Armes and fencing group is entitled to one additional Council member per fifteen or more such members.

Section 2. The Council may make provision by bye-law for representation of affiliated school groups, catering for students under 17 years of age.

Section 3. Assumption of duties of the incoming Council shall be regulated by bye-laws. The Council at its first session shall appoint one of its members as President of the Federation. The President on accepting office shall cease to be a representative of his Club or Salle, and such Club or Salle shall be entitled to appoint another representative to the Council. The President shall nominate from the Council an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer of the Federation and such further offices as the Council may from time to time determine.

Section 4. The officers of the Federation shall have such powers and duties as may be prescribed by this Constitution or in the bye-laws.

Section 5 (a) The Honorary President shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Honorary Vice-Presidents may be appointed by or at the direction of the Federation in General Meeting.

Section 6. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

Section 7. All Committees and commissions shall be appointed by the Council and shall report to the Council.

Section 8. The Council at the beginning of the Season shall appoint a Selectors Panel which shall hold office for the Season. Each weapon shall be represented by at least one selector. The Panel's decisions shall be final.

Section 9. The Council and all committees and commissions shall conduct their proceedings in accordance with recognised practices, and all committees and commissions shall report the results of their meetings directly to the Council.

Article (V)  
BYE-LAWS.

Section 1. The Council may issue bye-laws from time to time for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Federation. A bye-law shall come into force at such time as the Council may direct, or failing a direction shall be immediately effective, provided that no bye-law shall be retrospective in its effect.

Section 2. All bye-laws shall be ratified by a two-third majority at the Annual General Meeting next subsequent to the date of issue: failing such ratification the bye-law shall be ineffective from the date of said Annual General Meeting, provided that any act undertaken in pursuance of the bye-law whilst said bye-law was in force shall be deemed valid.

Article (VI)  
Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at any General Meeting provided that twenty-eight days notice in writing is given to the Honorary Secretary. An amendment to the constitution shall be deemed to be passed when favoured by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Article (VII)  
General Meetings.

Section 1.

A General Meeting which shall be deemed to be the Annual General Meeting will be held each calendar year. Such meeting will be held not less than nine months nor more than fifteen months after the next preceding Annual General Meeting.

Section 2.

Extraordinary General Meetings will be called by the Honorary Secretary by direction of the Council or upon written demand signed by fifteen fencing members of the Federation. The meeting will be called within 28 days of the date of any such notice.

Section 3.

Fourteen days clear notice shall be given to all Fencing Members of all General Meetings and of the business to be transacted thereat. In particular, proposals of Amendments to the Constitution, if any, shall be included in the notice.

Article (VIII)  
Discipline.

Section 1.

The Council shall by a two-third majority of the members voting have power to reprimand, suspend or expel any member whose conduct it deems detrimental to the interests or character of the Federation. No suspension shall be for more than one year.

Section 2.

Notice must be served upon the member against whom the action is being taken, setting forth generally the conduct forming the basis for the action.

Section 3.

If requested within ten days by the member disciplined or by three members of the Council, a committee of not less than five Fencing Members of the Federation shall be appointed by the President to investigate the conduct charged against the member, and shall meet within ten days of receipt of the appeal. The signed minutes of the Council Meeting disciplining the member shall be made available to the Committee. The Committee shall give the member an opportunity to be heard on the matters before it. The Committee shall endorse or reject the Council's decision.

Section 4.

In cases of appeals by a minor, the minor shall be accompanied to the meeting of the Committee appointed to hear the appeal by a Senior Member of his Club over 21 years, who is not a member of the Federation Central Council

Article (IX)  
Finance.

The Federation may demand from its Fencing Members and from its affiliated groups such Annual Subscriptions as may be determined from time to time by the Federation in General Meeting.

Section 2.

The Council may determine the amount of subscriptions fees and charges to be demanded in respect of specific services or in respect of events promoted by the Federation.

Section 3.

The Honorary Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds of the Federation.

- (b) The Honorary Treasurer shall present to the Annual General Meeting an account of the Federations funds which shall have been certified by the Honorary Auditor.
- (c) The Honorary Treasurer shall cause all moneys of the Federation to be deposited with a bank to be nominated by the Council, or an otherwise directed by the Council.

Exhibit 5

Article X  
F.I.E.

Notwithstanding any provisions of this constitution the Federation shall not undertake any action held to contravene any requirement of its affiliation to Federation Internationale d'Esgrime nor shall it refrain from any action required by each affiliation.

Article (XI)  
Liability

All Members shall fence at their own risk.

Article (XII)  
Council  
Quorum

No resolution of the Council shall be valid unless the attendance at the meeting at which the resolution is passed includes one Officer of the Federation, and the total attendance shall be not less than one half of the total membership of the Council, plus one member.

Article (XIII)  
Winding up

In the event of the dissolution of the Federation, its assets shall be distributed at the discretion of the Council to any body or group most closely allied in its objects to those of the Federation.

Article (XIV)  
Proxy

Voting at General Meetings of the Federation shall be either (a) in person or (b) by written proxy addressed to a Fencing Member of the Federation attending the meeting. Voting at all other meetings shall be in person only.

Article (XV)  
affiliation.

Section 1.  
Any number of persons who are fencing members of the Federation may combine and apply for affiliation of their club, Salle d'Armes or group.

Section 2.

The Council may require such details of the group as they may deem necessary for their consideration of the application. Any group to which the Council may refuse affiliation may appeal to the next succeeding Annual General Meeting for reconsideration of its application. Such an application shall be deemed to be successful if approved by a simple majority at such Annual General Meeting.

30th April, 1967.