

Report to Irish Girl Guides Board

		Type in Yes in one box ↓		Time requested
Date of report:	23 November 2024	For information		-----
		For presentation/discussion		
Person reporting:	Jillian van Turnhout	For decision	Yes	10
Role of person reporting:	Chair of Governance Committee	Are you requesting for text to be included in the minutes? (if yes, provide below)	Yes	-----

Executive Summary

The Membership Policy has been reviewed and updated to align with the recently revised IGG Constitution. The primary changes include a clearer distinction between general membership and Company membership, more detailed categorisation of youth and adult members, and enhanced specifications around leadership requirements.

Key changes include structural improvements for clarity, explicit differentiation between membership types, and more comprehensive sections on leadership screening and appointment processes. The updated policy maintains all core principles whilst providing greater governance clarity by bringing together information contained in the Constitution and Bye-Laws.

Following the Board's pre-reading review, an additional change was made to the Non-resident Membership section. The phrase 'after which their screening process must be redone upon return to Ireland' has been removed from the third bullet point. A new sentence has been added stating 'Any further exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Irish Girl Guides Board.'

Presenting/Discussion/Decision

Recommendation: That the Board approve the updated Membership Policy, noting its improved alignment with the Constitution and enhanced clarity around membership categories and requirements.

Is there information that should be included in the Board minutes?

The Board reviewed the updated IGG Membership Policy, noting the following material changes:

- Introduction of distinct sections addressing general membership versus Company membership
- Enhanced categorisation of membership types, separating youth and adult members
- Addition of detailed screening and appointment requirements for Leaders
- Clearer articulation of membership termination processes
- Explicit linkage to the IGG Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The Board approved the updated policy, acknowledging its improved alignment with the Constitution and enhanced governance clarity. The policy will be reviewed again by December 2027 or sooner if circumstances require.



IGG Membership Policy

Effective from: April 2017

Designated person responsible: Chief Commissioner and CEO

Overall responsibility: IGG Board

Last Reviewed: Sept 2023

To be reviewed by September 2026

This policy should be read in conjunction with the IGG Constitution and Bye-Laws, IGG Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and other relevant IGG policies and procedures. Any amendments to this policy may necessitate corresponding changes to the aforementioned documents.

Membership versus Member of the Company

This policy addresses two distinct types of membership:

1. General Membership - all categories of membership within Irish Girl Guides
2. Members of the Company - those entitled to vote at General Meetings of Irish Girl Guides Company Limited by Guarantee

Membership (General Membership)

The definition of general membership of Irish Girl Guides is derived from the Constitution and Bye-Laws.

Core Principles

- Irish Girl Guides is a self-governing body. Membership is voluntary and open to all who live their lives as female and accept the Guide Law and Promise. The organisation is independent of any political organisation or any political party.
- Irish Girl Guides is open to girls of every faith, and the religious beliefs of all are respected. Through Guiding, girls are helped and encouraged to deepen their spiritual faith in accordance with the enrolment Promise.
- Irish Girl Guides is a Component Association of the Council of Irish Guiding Associations which is a full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Organisation Structure

- The seat of the organisation is at the National Training Centre, Dublin.
- The management of Irish Girl Guides is volunteer led. Voting members of the Board, voting members of the Programme and Training Committee, Regional, District and Area Commissioners, and voting members of Standing Committees shall be volunteers. The direction and control of Irish Girl Guides shall be in accordance with the IGG CLG Constitution and Bye Laws.

Membership Requirements

- To become a member of Irish Girl Guides one must be resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- All office holders in Irish Girl Guides must be resident in the Republic of Ireland.

Membership Categories – Irish Girl Guides shall comprise:

Youth Members:

- Ladybird Guides (ages 5-7 years)
- Brownie Guides (ages 7-10 years)
- Guides (ages 10-14 years)
- Senior Branch members (ages 14-30 years)

Adult Members:

- Adult Leaders (18 years and over)
- Trefoil Guild members (18 years and over)
- Commissioners
- Non-Unit Volunteers

Annual Subscription

Membership of Irish Girl Guides is maintained through the payment of a subscription fee which is annually renewable.

Membership for Non-residents

The following exceptions apply to the residency requirement:

- Irish students attending colleges abroad are considered residents of Ireland and can retain their membership of Irish Girl Guides
- Members of IGG who work in WAGGGS World Centres are entitled to keep their membership of IGG
- Members who travel or live abroad may continue to be members for up to two years

Any further exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Irish Girl Guides Board.

Screening and Appointment of Leaders

- Applications to be Leaders shall be approved by a Commissioner or Regional Development Officer, on satisfactory completion of Irish Girl Guides Screening Procedure.
- Prior to receiving a warrant, an adult Leader must:
 - Successfully complete the IGG Screening Procedure, including Garda Vetting
 - Agree to adhere to the IGG Safeguarding Policy and undertake relevant training
 - Undertake other relevant training prescribed by the Programme and Training Committee
 - Make or renew the Guide Promise

Termination of Membership

- The Board shall have power to remove from office, suspend or terminate the membership of any member or office holder of the Company, subject to the right of appeal to General Meeting.
- Procedures for termination of membership are stated in "IGG Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy".

Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if circumstances require it.

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Members of the Company (Irish Girl Guides Company Limited by Guarantee)

This section relates specifically to members of Irish Girl Guides Company Limited by Guarantee who are entitled to vote at General Meetings. General meetings serve several vital functions, including a presentation of the company's statutory financial statements and reports, reviewing the organisation's affairs, electing the President, ratifying key appointments and constitutional changes, and addressing any properly notified resolutions.

Members of the company, as defined in Article 4 of the Constitution, have the right to attend, speak, and vote at general meetings, with each member holding one vote. The Members of the Company are national office holders, regional, area and district commissioners. Conditions regarding cessation of membership are outlined in Article 6 of the Constitution.

Please refer to the Constitution and Bye Laws for further details.