

Deaf Sports Ireland

CONSTITUTION

SECTION – GENERAL.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The name of the Association shall be Deaf Sports Ireland (DSI)
- 1.2. DSI shall be affiliated to International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) - the rules and regulations as framed and interpreted by ICSD shall be recognised and enforced by DSI and also affiliated to European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO).
- 1.3. The Articles in this Constitution, together with the by-laws in the schedules to this Constitution, shall collectively form the laws of DSI.
- 1.4. DSI shall be the sole authority in all sports competitions of the Deaf on national, regional and inter-club levels in Ireland.
- 1.5 The word ‘Deaf’ shall be deemed to define such a person as:
 - (a) One who is deaf or hard of hearing on any scale.
 - (b) May have a facility of hearing up to a certain level (decibels) in accordance with the decision of ICSD.

2. OBJECTS

- 2.1. The main objects of DSI shall be:

To Advance, promote, and support voluntary therapeutic participation by the Deaf in sporting activities of all kinds; to provide a positive basis for the participation of all those interested in the growth and development of sporting and recreational activities for the hearing impaired and their various organisations, in Ireland and elsewhere, and to contribute to the advancement of the aforesaid on an international. National and/or regional basis.
- 2.2. The subsidiary objects are
 - (a) to develop, assist, provide and promote facilities and amenities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation for Deaf persons having need of such facilities and amenities as aforesaid by reason of their disablement; to represent the interests of the hearing impaired of all ages in all matters relating to sporting, recreational and leisure-time activities and to ensure that the needs of the Deaf are borne in mind when programmes of sporting, recreational and leisure-time activities are arranged within communities.
 - (b) to hold Annual Sports Championships and other such Meetings for the Deaf as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

- (c) to provide or arrange courses of instruction in sports for the Deaf, subject to conditions as set out by the Executive Committee.
- (d) to facilitate the representation of its selected competitors in international sports and Deaflympics and
- (e) to promote international matches and competitions in sports.
- (f) To promote and develop sports at grassroots.

2.3 In furtherance of the above main object but not otherwise the DSI shall have the following powers:

2.3.1 To enter into any arrangements with any Governments or authorities, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise, that may seem conducive to the main object of the company and to obtain and from any such Government or authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the DSI may think it desirable to obtain and carry out, exercise, and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.

2.3.2 To sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage enfranchise, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any of the property and in the rights of the DSI; to sell; dispose of the undertaking of the DSI or any part thereof for such consideration as the DSI may think fit and in particular for shares, debentures or securities of any other company having objects altogether or in part similar to those of the DSI.

2.3.3 To furnish and provide the DSI property with such furniture, implements, machinery and conveniences as the DSI may think desirable.

2.3.4 The borrowing or raising of money, without limitation as to amount, from any person or persons, and on such terms as the Executive Committee may deem fit, upon banking account or otherwise, by the issue of or upon bonds, debentures, bills or exchange, promissory notes, mortgages or other securities of the DSI; the undertaking and executions of any trusts for the advancement of the main and subsidiary objects of the DSI; the acceptance of donations and subscriptions from persons or bodies desirous of promoting the main object of the DSI, and the lending of money either with or without security or the giving of financial assistance by way of donation or subscription or otherwise to any body or person not formed or carrying on business for profit for the purpose of the advancement of the main and subsidiary objects of the DSI or to any such body or person whose objects are similar to those of the DSI, provided that the DSI shall not at any time pay any of its assets to any body or person which is not restricted to any extent at least as great as is imposed on the DSI and to make, draw, accept, endorse, issue, discount and otherwise deal with promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques, letters of credit, circular notes and other mercantile instruments.

2.3.5 To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the main and subsidiary objects.

2.4 DSI shall make every effort to ensure that no racial, religious or political considerations, or any other kind of discrimination shall be allowed in our sports and in the administrative work of our Association and to take the necessary steps to prevent such discrimination arising.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of DSI shall be open to:
- (a) all the Deaf of Ireland.
 - (b) active officials, provided that they conform to the rules as laid in the Article of this Constitution 1.5
 - (c) co-operators and sponsors, being persons who are actively interested in furthering the objects of DSI, in either in coaching or officiating duties.
 - (d) Such persons shall be considered Honorary Members
- 3.2. All members shall comply with and observe the laws of DSI, including the payment of appropriate fees as determined by the Association from time to time.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall have the final say on the eligibility of an applicant for membership of DSI.

3. MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The administration of the affairs of DSI shall be vested in its Executive Committee and Regional Council Committees
- 4.2. The Officers on the Executive Committee shall comprise of a President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and a nominated representative from each of the four Regional Councils, making a total of 8 people. The functions and duties of each Officer shall be as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- 4.3 The title, “President” shall be reserved for the President of DSI. The Senior Officers on each Regional Council shall be termed the Chairperson. The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.5 The Officers of the DSI shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for a term of four years – until the conclusion of the fourth AGM. For the purpose of DSI, the term, fourth AGM shall be deemed to mean the AGM that is being held immediately following the conclusion of Deaflympics, normally taking every fourth year or in a year, the Deaflympics is being held.
- 4.6 All Officers shall be honorary. The President shall have a casting vote at Executive Committee meetings.
- 4.7 Officials nominated for the offices of President, Vice-President shall have served a full term previously and the offices of the Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall have served at least 2 years’ sports administration experience
- 4.8 The position of DSI Public Relations Officer shall be filled at the discretion of the Executive Committee who shall, also decide on the functions and duties of such an appointed PRO within a specified period of time. Such an appointed PRO may be exempt from the rules as laid in this Constitution. (Article 1.5)

SECTION 2 – MEETING

4. GENERAL MEETING

- 5.1 A Meeting of DSI, hereinafter called Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year on a weekend in the month of April at a time and place in Ireland as determined by the Executive Committee to coincide with the annual Inter Provincial Competition.
- 5.2 The AGM voting entitlements shall consist of: the Officers of the Executive Committee (4) each with one vote and four delegates from each Regional Council (to include those sitting on the Executive Committee) each with one vote. Each Regional shall notify the DSI Secretary in writing of its proposed delegates at least two weeks before the AGM. Any other member may attend the proceedings of the AGM but he/she shall not be eligible to vote.
- 5.3 At least one months' notice, specifying the place, date and hour of the AGM, shall be given in writing.
- 5.4 The Presidential address, Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, together with an Account of Receipts and Expenditure, duly certified, shall be issued with the Agenda and Notices of motion not less than one month before AGM. Each Motion shall bear the signature of its proposer and seconder, both of whom shall be members of the Committees entitled to be present at the AGM in accordance with the rule of this Constitution (Art. 5.2.), subject to approval by its Regional Council.
- 5.5 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present at the AGM. A quorum shall be not less than two-thirds of those entitled to be present in accordance with the rule (Art. 5.2.) and personally present. If a quorum is not present within half an hour, the President or a person appointed by the Executive Committee to deputise for the President, may adjourn the meeting to another date.
- 5.6 The business of the AGM shall be:
- (a) to scrutinise the credentials of those present;
 - (b) to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM;
 - (c) to receive and consider the Presidential and Secretary's Reports;
 - (d) to receive and consider the Treasurer's Report;
 - (e) to elect an Officer for the Executive Committee if such an office becomes vacant in the preceding year;
 - (f) to transact any business on the Agenda and Notices of motion in accordance with the rule of this Constitution (Art. 5.4.).
- 5.7 In accordance with the provisions of Article 4.5., every fourth year, an election shall take place at the AGM at which
- 5.8 all outgoing Officers of the Executive committee shall resign along with such other officials as provided for in Article 5.2. For this AGM, which may be designated "the election year", the Articles of the Constitution (5.2 – 6) shall

apply but additional provisions shall be laid down as follow:

- a) Nominations may be made by all those entitled to be present at the AGM with the exception of the President.
- b) Nomination papers for officership of the Executive Committee shall be sent with the notice of the AGM (Art.5.3.) to all those entitled to vote at the AGM.
- d) Nomination papers shall be returned so as to reach the DSI Secretary at least a month before the AGM. In the event of any nominated candidate not meeting the required qualification rules of DSI, the General Secretary shall immediately check the qualifications of the candidates, as defined in Article 3. and any other relevant articles. In the event of any candidate not meeting the qualification rules, the General Secretary shall notify in writing the Hon. Secretary of the Regional Council, responsible for the void nomination. Then this Regional Council shall be given two weeks to propose alternative candidates.

5.9 The AGM shall have power to amend existing laws of DSI to make new laws and to rescind decisions of previous meetings on Notice of Motion from the Executive Committee or Regional Councils. Such Notices of Motion must be received not later than the date on the Notice convening the AGM and may not be passed unless by a two-thirds of those present and voting. (Voting shall be done by a show of hands with DSI cards at the AGMs)

5.10 When this Constitution comes into force, any Article of this Constitution and any by-law of DSI, may be amended only at every AGM.

5.11 All changes of laws adapted at the AGM, shall come into force at the commencement of the calendar year following the AGM.

5.12 No other business than specified in the Agenda set out in the Notice convening the AGM, may be transacted at the AGM. The Executive Committee may , however, introduce a special business that demands a prompt approval with a view to reaching at a satisfactory solution. This special business shall be of an administrative nature and shall not have less than two-thirds of those present and voting.

5.13 The President of DSI may, with the consent of two-thirds of those present and voting, adjourn the AGM but no business other than the business left over at the adjournment may be transacted.

5.13 The Executive Committee shall summon an emergency General Meeting of DSI on receipt of a requisition to do so for a specific purpose and which has been signed on behalf of two-thirds of R. C. Officers , Executive Committee, and Sports Directors.

SECTION 3 – NATIONAL MANAGEMENT

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Executive Committee shall meet as often as the business of DSI may require. At every meeting of the Committee, - eight members including the President shall constitute a quorum. All meetings shall be convened by the Secretary and at least seven days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting.

6.2 The President shall chair all the meetings or in his absence, the Vice-President shall deputise. If both are absent, the meeting shall be adjourned.

6.3 Any business transacted by the Executive Committee, can only be rescinded by a quorum of five of the Committee, and then only on a Notice of motion handed in at a subsequent meeting.

7. DSI DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 The authority and general direction of the affairs of DSI shall be exercised by the Executive Committee which shall, in particular, be responsible for all financial matters of DSI.

7.2 (a) The Executive Committee shall not accept responsibility, nor shall it be held responsible, for any debts, expenses or liabilities incurred on its behalf or otherwise incurred by a Regional Council, Club or individual without written approval from the Executive Committee.

(b) The Executive Committee shall reserve the right to impose the conditions on the use of funds granted or guaranteed by the DSI.

7.3 The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint such other sub-committees as and when it is deemed necessary to carry out the work of DSI. Officers of DSI shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

7.4 The Executive Committee of DSI hereby resolves that from 1st June 2004, it shall abide by the anti-doping rules of the Irish Sports Council as follows:

“ The anti-doping rules of the DSI are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time as shown in the Irish Sports Council regulations in their website.

7.5 The Executive Committee shall have power to deal with any matter not provided for in these laws, but shall not have power to delegate the authority conferred by Article 7.5.

7.6 The Executive Committee shall have power to define the area of jurisdiction of any Regional Council in the event of any doubt or dispute arising.

7.7 The Executive Committee shall be the interpreter of the laws and no appeal from its decision shall be made except to the AGM.

7.8 The Executive Committee may, at any time, summon a meeting of any Regional Council and shall have power to enquire and examine the working of such Council. It shall also have power to suspend any Council and to direct the formation of another body to replace the dissolved Council. No Council, however, can be suspended or dissolved until it has been given an opportunity of being heard in its defence, and then only by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote at the Executive Council. Any members of the Executive Council who are subject to a conflict of interest must declare it and retire from the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed and voted upon.

7.9 The Executive Committee may expel or suspend any member who violates any of the provisions of the laws of DSI or who has been guilty of conduct likely to bring DSI into disrepute, provided always that such a member is given an opportunity of being heard in his / her own defence

7.10 DSI is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in DSI should at all times, show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the DSI and guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

In DSI, our first priority is the welfare of the young people and we are committed to providing an environment which will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

SECTION 4 – MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

8.1. 8. REGIONAL COUNCILS

8.1. The words “Regional Council” used in these rules shall mean Leinster Deaf Sports Council, Ulster Deaf Sports Council, Munster Deaf Sports Council and Connacht Deaf Sports Council which shall affiliate to DSI.

8.3 Where a member wishing to transfer to another Regional Council in order to represent in sports only, the facilitator, with the agreement of both Regional Councils and his/she Council from which he/she wishes to transfer, he/she may do so with the approval of the Executive Committee.

9. DUTIES OF A REGIONAL COUNCIL

9.1 The Officers of the Regional Council Committee shall comprise of: Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Sports Managers and such other officer as the meeting may consider necessary. Each Regional Council Committee shall have a minimum of five members who may not necessarily be delegates to the Annual General Meeting. The quorum for meetings of the Regional Council committee shall be five.

- 9.2 A Regional Council shall administer sports among the Deaf in its region as directed by the Executive Committee.
- 9.3 It shall have a direct responsibility for development and promotion of sports among the Deaf in its region, as directed (Article 2.1 of DSI Constitution).
- 9.4 a) The Regional Council shall ensure that National or Regional Championships are held in any of the sports being promoted by DSI, When directed by the Executive Committee and may organise sports competitions between the clubs in its region.
- 9.5 DSI Each Regional Council shall meet at least three times a year.
- 9.6 a) Each Regional Council shall summon an Annual Regional Meeting on a day and place as determined by its Committee. However, such a meeting may not be announced until it is approved by the Executive Committee.
b) The annual Account of Receipts and Expenditure, duly audited, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at least one month before its A.R.M.
- 9.7 The Regional Council, when elected, shall furnish the names and addresses of each officer to DSI Secretary not later than seven days of its election. For the purpose of DSI, it is desirable that three senior officers on the Regional Council reside within the area of its jurisdiction.
- 9.8 The elected officers shall hold office for at least a year and shall be honorary. If and when an officer terminates his/her office, he/she shall notify his/her Committee, which in turn, shall inform the Executive Committee of such an intention at once and propose a replacement if possible. Such a replacement must have an approval from the Executive committee.

10. ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING

- 10.1 The Annual Regional Meeting shall consist of the outgoing officers of the Council and all members of the Council
- 10.2 The business of the Annual Regional Meeting shall be:
- (a) to receive the Chairperson's address and Hon. Secretary's Reports;
 - (b) to receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report. This Report shall incorporate an Annual Account of Receipts and Expenditure duly audited;
 - (c) to transact any business of which due notice has been given and which is not reserved to the Executive Committee and
 - (d) to elect the officers of the Regional Council
- 10.3 No business other than specified on the Agenda set out on the Notice convening the A.R.M. may be transacted.
- 10.4 A representative appointed by the Executive Committee to act on its behalf shall be present at the Annual Regional Meeting.

SECTION 5 – CLUBS AND MEMBERS

11. CLUBS

- 11.1 The word “Club” shall where the context permits, be deemed to mean such a club affiliated to its Regional Council, consisting of active members for the purpose of the realisation of the Objects of DSI (Art. 2. C).
- 11.2 Affiliation of a Club and registration of its members shall be effected as provided for in by-laws and the Club shall ensure that all appropriate fees are paid in due time when requested by the Executive Committee.
- 11.3 A Club applying for affiliation to their Regional Council, shall
- 11.4 acquaint themselves with the laws of DSI and every application shall be deemed an admission by the applicant of agreement to be bound by the laws and every renewal of affiliation shall be deemed to be renewal of such agreement.
- 11.5 A Regional Council shall be responsible for the conduct of its members and shall not commit, permit or encourage an offence against the laws of DSI or any other conduct likely to bring DSI into disrepute. A Regional Council’s representative shall report to its Regional Council on the misconduct of a member at a meeting or competition held under the auspices of DSI.
- 11.6 A Club shall not be eligible to compete in any National, Regional or International sports competitions until its affiliation has been recorded as provided for in the by-laws 1-6.
- 11.7 A Club when accepted as a member-club of DSI shall make every effort to develop and promote the love of sports as a means of recreation among its members whenever possible.

12 MEMBERS

- 12.1 The registration of a member shall be effected through the Regional Council to which his club belongs in accordance with the provisions of by-laws 1.1-9.
- 12.2 a) A member shall not be eligible to compete in any National or regional Championships until the registration of his / her membership has been recorded by the Hon. Secretary of its Regional Council as provided for in By-laws 1.1-8.
- b) A person not registered with a club may apply to his / her Regional Council.

13 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 13.1 Where not specifically provided for in these laws, the proceedings of the AGM and all meetings of Committees and Councils shall be in accordance with the by-laws in Schedule thereto.

13.2 The qualifications of members to compete in sports under the laws of DSI shall be in accordance with the Qualification Rules set out in the Schedule thereto.

NATIONAL TRUSTEES (Supplementary)

1. There shall be three National Trustees of the Association consisting of the President, DSI Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.
2. In the event of any of the National Trustees being removed from office, or becoming from any cause incapable of acting or unwilling to act as such, another shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy, the remaining Trustees shall in all matters act as the Trustees of the Association.
3. All deeds, documents of title and securities for money of the Association shall be held by the National Trustees and they may take such measures for the custody and preservation there at the expense of the Association as they shall think fit and they shall be responsible for the safe custody of all such deeds, documents and securities as are placed in their hands or under their control; shall produce them when required by a resolution of an Annual or Special Meeting or of the Executive Committee or when required by the Auditor.
4. It shall be the duty of any trustee who has resigned or been removed from office to execute such documents and shall take such other steps as may be necessary to rest in the Trustees for the being of the Association all securities and other property held by him on behalf of the Association.
5. Office and financial documents, equipments, trophies and mementoes, the property of the Association, other than such as are ordered by the Executive committee to be left in the custody of the DSI Secretary and Honorary treasurer, shall be in the custody of the National Trustees, who shall be jointly and severally responsible thereof.
6. Winding Up: If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some charitable institution or institution having main objects similar to the main objects of the association. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Association under or by virtue of clause 6 hereof, Members of the Association shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.