

SKIBBEREEN WALKING GROUP

CONSTITUTION (amended October 2021)

1. NAME

1.1 The Skibbereen Walking Group shall hereinafter be referred to as "SWG".

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

2.1 To promote the interests of Rambling and Hill-Walking amongst SWG members.

2.2 To provide the opportunity for members of SWG to meet and participate in Rambling and Hill-Walking together.

2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of SWG members.

2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access to, and the conservation and protection of, the country environment.

2.5 To take part in the work and activities of Mountaineering Ireland.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of SWG shall be open to individuals over 18, who apply for and are granted membership, hereinafter referred to as "Members".

3.2 All SWG Members shall also become full members of Mountaineering Ireland and are, therefore, eligible for the benefits that this confers.

3.3 Membership of SWG shall only be open to individuals who recognise that Rambling and Hill-Walking can be activities with a danger of personal injury or death. (Members must be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement)

4. MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Management of SWG shall be entrusted to the SWG Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

4.2 The Committee shall be composed of at least SIX Members comprising the Officers and additional Members elected at the AGM.

4.3 The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional members to fulfill specific tasks and duties for the current membership year. Members of the Committee to be notified to all SWG members. (non-Officer roles such as Walk Coordinator(s), PRO, Expedition Officer, Training Officer, Safety Officer may be filled in this way.)

4.4 The Chairperson of SWG shall normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee. In the case of the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, the remaining members of the Committee shall appoint one member of the Committee to chair the meeting

4.5 An Annual General Meeting of SWG is to be held in October/November each year to consider the progress of SWG, approve the annual Accounts, elect Officers and Committee members for the next year and discuss any other matters submitted by SWG Members for consideration.

4.6 An Extraordinary General Meeting of SWG must be called by the Secretary on receipt of a formal written request to consider a specified matter of concern to Members. This request must be supported by the signatures of a minimum 20% of the current SWG membership.

4.7 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter, the agreed minutes being made available to SWG members within two weeks following said meetings.

5. SWG OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

5.1 The elected Officers of SWG shall be the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Environmental Officer and the Treasurer. Further elected posts may be agreed by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting.

5.2 Voting for the election of the Officers and Committee members shall take place at the AGM.

5.3 The elected Officers and Committee members shall serve for a term of 1 year and may stand for re-election in subsequent years. No officer shall serve for more than 3 years running in the same role.

5.4 A quorum for a meeting of the SWG Committee shall be half of the current members. All members of the committee must be given at least one week's notice of any meeting and all are entitled to attend such meetings.

5.5 The Committee may nominate a representative or representatives of SWG to attend Council Meetings of Mountaineering Ireland to represent the views of SWG and vote on behalf of SWG.

5.6 The Committee shall have responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the SWG walk programmes.

6. DUTIES

Chairperson

6.1 The Chairperson will normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee and of Annual/Extraordinary General Meetings. They shall be responsible for reporting SWG activities over the preceding year to the Members at the AGM.

Secretary

- 6.2a The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to SWG affairs, for calling Committee meetings, for the recording and distribution of the minutes from those meetings and of the minutes of the General meetings of SWG.
- 6.2b The Secretary shall be responsible for announcing the AGM and its Agenda and shall give no less than 10 days' notice of such meeting and its Agenda. Items for inclusion are to be submitted to the Secretary at least 21 days prior to the AGM.
- 6.2c Upon receipt of an application for an Extraordinary General meeting (in accordance with 4.6 above), the Secretary shall arrange such a meeting, specifying the subject matter and giving Members at least 10 days' notice.
- 6.2d The Secretary shall keep records of the membership of SWG and shall provide Mountaineering Ireland with the details of SWG members that are required.

Treasurer

- 6.3a The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of subscriptions and will account for any other income and expenditure made on behalf of SWG.
- 6.3b The Treasurer shall be responsible for the payment of the membership subscriptions and the insurance premiums to Mountaineering Ireland.
- 6.3c The Treasurer shall prepare an annual statement of SWG accounts for presentation to the Membership at the AGM.

Environmental Officer

- 6.4a The Environmental Officer shall be responsible for liaising with Mountaineering Ireland on behalf of SWG regarding access and conservation issues that arise in the areas of activity of SWG.
- 6.4b The Environmental Officer shall participate in activities of Mountaineering Ireland related to access, the natural environment and conservation, and shall provide feedback to SWG members and the Committee on issues arising from this participation.

7. SWG SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RULES

- 7.1 The Committee shall have the power to set SWG membership subscriptions on an annual basis.
- 7.2 The SWG year shall run from 1st November to 31st October.
- 7.3 The Committee shall have the power to set SWG rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the SWG Constitution and the policies of Mountaineering Ireland.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE SWG CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of SWG Members at an Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting of the Skibbereen Walking Group.
- 8.2 Notice of any proposal for amendment must be delivered to the Secretary in time to allow at least 10 days' notice of the required General Meeting to SWG Members (see 6.2b and 6.2c above).

9. DISSOLUTION OF SKIBBEREEN WALKING GROUP

- 9.1 SWG can be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of SWG members at an Annual General Meeting whereupon the Committee shall arrange to dispose of any assets in a manner to be decided by a majority vote of the Members present. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all SWG Members.

Amendment No.1 This SWG Constitution amended following AGM 18/11/09 agreement and subsequent Mountaineering Ireland approval. April 2010.

Amendment No.2. This SWG Constitution amended following AGM 28/10/14 agreement, consisting of amendments (not requiring Mountaineering Ireland approval) in articles 3.4, 4.2, 4.7, 5.1, 5.3 and addition of articles 6.4a & 6.4b

Amendment No 3. This SWG Constitution amended following AGM November 2018.

4.3 The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional non-voting Members.

change to: 4.3 The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional members to fulfil specific tasks and duties for the current membership year. Members of the Committee to be notified to all SWG members. (non-Officer roles such as Walk Coordinator(s), PRO, Expedition Officer, Training Officer, Safety Officer may be filled in this way.)

5.4 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected members.

change to: 5.4 A quorum for a meeting of the SWG Committee shall be half of the current members. All members of the committee must be given at least one week's notice of any meeting and all are entitled to attend such meetings.

4.7 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least two meetings each year.

change to: 4.7 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter, the agreed minutes being made available to SWG members within two weeks following said meetings.

Amendment No 4 This SWG Constitution amended following AGM November 2021.

3.1 Membership of SWG shall be open to individuals who apply for and are granted membership, hereinafter referred to as "Members".

change to: 3.1 Membership of SWG shall be open to individuals, over 18, who apply for and are granted membership, hereinafter referred to as "Members".

Amendment No 5. This SWG Constitution amended following AGM November 2021.

3.4. Membership of SWG is open to minors only with parental/guardian written consent. Participation in SWG activities is not open to infants and only open to minors when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Within the context of this constitution, "minors" means people under the age of 18.

change to: 3.4 Delete from constitution.