

P. O'Hanlon

na fíanna éireann



Irish National Boy Scouts.



President :

COUNTESS DE MARKIEVICZ.

Vice-Presidents :

BULMER HOBSON AND JOS. ROBINSON.

Hon. Treasurer :

ṖÁṬṚAIC MAC A' BÁIRD.

Hon. Assistant Sec. :

mÍCEÁL Ó LONNARGÁIN.

Hon. Gen. Sec. :

ṖÁṬṚAIC Ó RÍAIN,

41 RUTLAND SQUARE, DUBLIN.

na fianna éireann

(IRISH NATIONAL BOY SCOUTS).

The Constitution of Na Fianna Éireann as
amended by the Ard-Fheis, 1912.

OBJECT.

TO RE-ESTABLISH THE INDEPENDENCE OF IRELAND.

MEANS.

The training of the youth of Ireland, mentally and physically, to achieve this object by teaching scouting and military exercises, Irish history, and the Irish language.

DECLARATION.

I promise to work for the Independence of Ireland, never to join England's armed forces, and to obey my superior officers.

THE CONSTITUTION.

I.—GENERAL.

1. Na Fianna Éireann (Irish National Boy Scouts' Organisation) shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Hon. Assistant Secretary, an Hon. Treasurer, an Ard-Fheis (Congress), an Ard-Coisde (Central Council), Coisdi Ceanntair (District Councils), and Sluaighthe (branches or troops). The officers of the Ard-Coisde shall be members *ex-officio* of all Coisdi Ceanntair and Committees of the organisation.

2. Membership of Na Fianna Eireann shall be open to all boys who endorse its Constitution and make the Declaration of the Fianua.

II.—ARD-FHEIS (Congress).

3. The Ard-Fheis shall be the supreme governing and legislative body of the organisation.

4. Representation at the Ard-Fheis shall be as follows :—Sluaighte with eight to fifty members shall be entitled to two delegates, and one delegate for every additional fifty members. Each authorised Coisde Ceanntair shall be entitled to one delegate.

5. The Ard-Fheis shall meet at least once a year. A special meeting shall be convened at any time on a requisition of at least one-third of the Sluaighte affiliated, or by resolution of the Ard-Coisde.

6. The Ard-Fheis shall, at its annual meeting, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Hon. Secretary, an Hon. Assistant Secretary, and an Hon. Treasurer. It shall also elect by ballot six members who, together with these officers, shall form an Ard-Coisde.

7. Notices of motion for the agenda of the Ard-Fheis, and nominations for the Ard-Coisde, must reach the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days before date of Ard-Fheis.

III.—AN ARD-COISDE (Central Council).

8. The Ard-Coisde shall be (except when the Ard-Fheis is in Session) the supreme governing body of the organisation.

9. The Ard-Coisde shall meet at least once every three months.

10. Each member of the Ard-Coisde shall belong to a *bona-fide* Sluagh.

11. The Ard-Coisde shall appoint or approve of the appointment of the chief officer of every Sluagh, and shall have the power to depose or reduce such officers at their discretion.

12. Annual reports of the working of the Ard-Coisde shall be forwarded to the Sluaghte at least seven days before date of Ard-Fheis.

IV.—COISDI CEANNTAIR (District Councils).

13. A Coisde Ceanntair may be formed, under the authority of the Ard-Coisde, in centres with three or more sluaighte, and all sluaighte in these centres shall be subject to the control of the Coisde Ceanntair.

14. A Coisde Ceanntair shall be composed of the chief officer (or his deputy) and secretary from each local Sluagh.

15. Coisdi Ceanntair shall appoint the leaders and higher officers for the sluaighte under their control.

16. The examinations in first, second and third class Fianna tests shall be carried out under the supervision of the Coisdi Ceanntair.

17. Meetings of Coisdi Ceanntair shall be held at least once every fortnight.

18. A Coisde Ceanntair shall be entitled to one delegate to the Ard-Fheis.

19. All Coisdi Ceanntair shall submit their rules for approval to the Ard-Coisde.

V.—SLUAIGHTE (Branches or Troops).

20. No person will have power to start a Sluagh of Na Fianna Eireann without first getting a written permission from the Ard-Coisde.

21. Sluaighte shall be affiliated by vote of the Ard-Coisde, and shall pay an affiliation fee (as provided for in Rule 22) to the funds of the Ard-Coisde.

22. A Sluagh of eight to sixteen members shall pay an affiliation fee of 2/6 ; a Sluagh of 16-50 members shall pay 5/- ; a Sluagh of over 50 members shall pay, for every 50 or part of 50 members, 2/6 extra.

23. Each Sluagh having from eight to fifty members, shall be entitled to be represented at the Ard-Fheis by two delegates, and one delegate for every additional fifty boys.

24. All boys shall serve three weeks on approbation and pass the preliminary tests before being administered the Declaration or given the badge of the Fianna.

25. Each Sluagh shall hold a meeting for the election of civil officers, &c., at least once a year.

26. Each Sluagh shall forward a report of the working of the Sluagh at least seven days previous to quarterly meetings of the Ard-Coisde.

27. All Sluaighte shall be, as far as possible, divided into sections of eight boys, which includes leader.

28. No Sluagh of the Fianna shall take part in elections, either Parliamentary or municipal. Any member taking part in elections in his private capacity must not wear either badge or uniform of the Fianna.

29. All Sluaighte shall submit their rules for approval to the Ard-Coisde.

VI.—RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Uniforms recommended by Ard-Fheis :—

1. KILT UNIFORM.—Green jersey, with sage colour cuffs, collar and shoulder straps, brass buttons, dark green kilt with saffron *brat* caught by broach at left shoulder ; white haversack carried on left side, leather belt ; shoes and stockings.

2. KNICKS UNIFORM.—Olive green shirt (double-breasted, no pockets on outside, high collar, brass buttons, shoulder straps), navy blue knicks, dark green felt hat.

DRESS REGULATIONS.—Haversacks to be worn from shoulders to back knapsack fashion when empty or otherwise ; axes to be fixed to belt at left side ; knives on right side ; coats strapped to belt at back. No badges, ribbons or emblems of any description to be worn except Fianna ones. The Fianna badge to be worn in front of hat.

REGULATION FLAG.—The Fianna flag, which must be carried on all public parades and demonstrations shall be a likeness of the rising sun on a blue blackground, with the words “*Na Fianna Éireann*” in golden letters on top. Size of flag about 6 feet by 4½ feet ; pole about 9 feet.

The Fianna shall salute the National song concluding any public meeting by standing to attention and remaining at the salute during the final chorus of the song.

The uniforms and other articles used by the Fianna shall be of Irish manufacture as far as possible.

COURTS MARTIAL.

I.—PROCEDURE.

1. When any member of the Fianna has, in the opinion of his officers or of the committee of his Sluagh, or any higher committee, broken any rule or committed any misdemeanour, he may be court-martialled.

2. A member who has been notified that he is to be courtmartialled shall be a suspended member until the decision of the Courtmartial is announced, and he shall then be dealt with as the Courtmartial shall direct.

3. Every charge preferred against a member must be in writing, and the accused shall receive a copy of this charge at least two days before the charge is to be tried.

II.—CONSTITUTION OF COURTMARTIAL.

1. The courtmartial shall, save in exceptional circumstances, consist of three members appointed to try the case by the committee immediately superior to the officer or committee preferring the charge against the accused—that is to say, if a member is ordered for Courtmartial by the officer of a Sluagh, the court shall be appointed by the committee of the Sluagh; if by the committee of a Sluagh, the court shall be appointed by the District Council, or where none exists, by the Ard-Coisde; if by a District Council, the court shall be appointed by the Ard-Coisde; and if by the Ard-Coisde, the court shall consist of three members of the Fianna appointed by the Ard-Coisde itself.

III.—EVIDENCE.

1. The accused shall be accorded every reasonable facility to produce any witnesses in his favour, and

may cross-examine the witnesses brought by the prosecution, and the prosecution shall in all respects have equal facilities.

2. Only evidence that is relevant to the written charge shall be received, and the court shall give its decision impartially and solely on the evidence given at the trial.

3. Any person accused may select another member of the Fianna to act as defending counsel.

4. The court shall decide whether evidence tendered by persons who are not members of the Fianna is admissible or not.

IV.—APPEALS.

1. Both the accused and the prosecution shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the court to the next higher authority—that is, from the decision of a court appointed by the committee of a Sluagh to a District Council, or where none exists, to the Ard Coisde, or by the District Council to the Ard-Coisde, or by the Ard-Coisde to a court appointed by the Ard-Fheis, whose decision shall be final.

2. An expelled member may seek re-admission to his old Sluagh, or to another Sluagh, after a period of six months has elapsed from the date of his expulsion. The Sluagh desiring to re-admit him to the Fianna must obtain the permission of their District Council or (where no District Council exists) the Ard-Coisde.