



Introduction

The National Management Committee has initiated a project to review the management structures of Scout Groups to take account of changes required by the Charities legislation and best practice in governance. This will take time. Research and extensive consultation with Scout Groups is necessary. The outcome will be based on what Scout Groups believe will work to achieve their primary objective - the development of the youth members in the Scout Group – while meeting the new regulatory requirements and best practice in governance.

The registration of the Scout Group as a Charity in Northern Ireland has occurred. The registration of the Scout Group as a Charitable Organisation in the Republic of Ireland will occur in the coming months. The registration requirements in each jurisdiction are similar and a change to the management structure of the Scout Group was necessary.

The National Council agreed to make changes to the Rules of Scouting Ireland to facilitate this at its meeting in April 2017.

The National Council introduced a new Rule 46A to permit the National Management Committee to provide for additional organisational structures to support Scout Groups.

To assist Scout Groups in changing their organisation structures as a result of the change to the Rule providing for the membership of the Scout Group Council the National Management Committee propose some options which Scout Groups could consider.

The Scout Group Plan

Every Scout Group should have an annual plan to co-ordinate the objectives and activities of the Scout Group. A written plan is the best way of ensuring that all members of the Scout Group are familiar with the way forward. Using the Scout Group QSE process is one way to develop a plan for the Scout Group. The Scout Group Plan requires input from both youth members and adult members to succeed, it should be Programme driven, and should consist of the Scout Group budget, the equipment investment programme, the recruitment plan, the training plan and other smaller areas as needed.

While the Scout Group Plan requires sign off by the Scout Group Council, the designing and developing of the Plan could be passed to a body within the Scout Group which would include the members of the Scout Group Council but also Programme Scouters and youth members in the Scout Group. In fact, the more willing to participate in the designing and developing of the Plan the better. Ultimately the Plan will have to be adopted by the Scout Group Council but any issues that members of the Scout Group Council may have with the plan, should have been aired and discussed at the plan design stage.

To deliver on the Scout Group Plan, the Scout Group Council should set up a number of Sub Committees as needed. Below are some options for these Sub Committees:



A Scout Group Programme Committee

The Group Leader oversees and co-ordinates the activities of the Programme Sections. The Scout Group Council could request the Group Leader to convene a Programme Committee. The purpose of the Scout Group Programme Committee is to ensure that the Youth Programme is operated effectively to the best ability of the Scout Group and to provide for the support of Youth Programme within the Scout Group across all Programme Sections.

The relationship between the Scout Group Council and its sub-committee the Scout Group Programme Committee is instrumental to a positive and healthy Scout Group. The aims, principles and ethos of Scouting Ireland should guide all members of the Scout Group Programme Committee in their deliberations.

The members of the Scout Group Programme Committee could include:

- a) The Group Leader and/or Deputy Group Leader(s)
- b) An equal number of youth member representatives from the Scout, Venture Scout, and Rover Scout Programme Sections, where possible.
- c) An equal number of Programme Scouters from each of the Programme Sections within the Scout Group, where possible
- d) The Quartermaster / Bo'sun
- e) The Scout Group Trainer
- f) Others as agreed by the Scout Group Council

The functions of the Scout Group Programme Committee are:

- To ensure that the Youth Programme is operated effectively to the best ability of the Scout Group
- To provide for the support of Youth Programme within the Scout Group across all programme sections
- To ensure that the Programme Sections operate the Youth Programme in accordance with the Aim, Principles, and Method of Scouting Ireland
- To co-ordinate the training of all Group Scouters and youth members as required
- The Scout Group Programme Committee shall provide for the expression of views of the youth representatives of each programme section. It shall also provide for the formulation of recommendations from all members, recognising that such fora in Scouting provide a dual opportunity for both adult and youth members to discuss issues of interest to them and to make recommendations on these.

The Scout Group Programme Committee could meet as often as necessary or suggested at least four times a year.



Ad-hoc or Smaller Committees / Team options

Some examples of teams or sub committees that a Scout Group may need to set up are:

- Social Team – to co-ordinate a social programme for Adult members of the Scout Group
- Large Event Team – to co-ordinate the Scout Group's involvement in any large-scale event involving a number of Programme Sections such as a Community event like the St. Patrick's Day parade
- Specialist Programme Teams – such as Water Activities, where certification requirements exist
- Minibus / Transport Committee
- Scout Den / Property Committee

The Parents and Friends Support Group is defined elsewhere within the Rules, but their clear role is vital to the support of the Scout Group and its fundraising activities.