



By Laws

FORÓIGE

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These By Laws came into effect on 1st January, 2015.

They were reviewed and amended in March 2017 as per Article II.7 and came into effect on 7/5/2017

Article IX.4 was amended on 25/11/2017 as per Article II.7 and came into effect immediately

These By Laws were reviewed and amended in January 2019 as per Article II.7 and came into effect immediately.

These By Laws were reviewed in February 2021 and came into effect on March 26th, 2021

These By Laws were reviewed in December 2021 and came into effect on December 17th, 2021

I. Definitions

Adult Leader: Volunteers over the age of 18 in a volunteer led club as defined by Article III.1.(i) who are not Ordinary Members

Adult Volunteer: Volunteers over the age of 18 in a Foróige operated project

Clubs: Volunteer led clubs

Even years: Calendar years which are divisible by two (2016, 2018 etc)

Event/Meeting: Includes in-person and online

Affiliation Year: 1st September – 31st August

National Council: the members of the Organisation - elected as set out in these by-laws

Foróige Board: the members of the Board of Directors of the Organisation

Odd years: Calendar years which are not divisible by two (2015, 2017 etc.)

Ordinary Members: Young people who are members of clubs

Organisation: Foróige the National Youth Development Organisation

Projects: Projects operated by the Organisation

Term Commencement Date: the date which is one calendar month before the date fixed by the Board of Foróige for the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation in a year when a general election to the National Council has taken place

Youth Participation Structure: a structure for young people with the primary purpose of promoting youth participation and duly registered with Foróige

II. General

Interpretation and force of By-Laws

1. Until the first Foróige Board takes office following the date at which these By-Laws become effective and on which date all previous Constitution, Rules, by-laws and regulations are rescinded, the functions of the National Executive shall be carried out by the Foróige Board as at 31st December, 2014
2. The body of final appeal in all matters relating to the interpretation of these By-Laws shall be the Foróige Board, whose decision, taken in accordance with the main objects of the Organisation thereon shall be final
3. By accepting membership or affiliation to Foróige each individual or affiliated body shall be bound and shall submit to Foróige's Constitution, By-Laws, policies, procedures and regulations of the Organisation
4. By accepting the position of Adult Leader in a club or membership of a Volunteer Association each Adult Leader and volunteer shall be bound and shall submit to Foróige's Constitution, By-Laws, policies, procedures and regulations of the Organisation
5. In these By-Laws, where the context so admits and unless contrary intention appears, words in the singular shall include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular.

6. In these By-Laws, where the context so admits and unless a different intention appears the word “year” shall be interpreted as meaning that period of time occurring between two consecutive Annual General Meetings
7. No alteration or addition to these By-Laws shall be made except as a result of a vote by the Foróige Board and only then when a simple majority of those voting are in favour of such alteration or addition.
8. The Organisation is governed by its Constitution and no changes shall be made to the By-Laws which are not in keeping with Foróige’s Constitution or that would enable the Organisation to further objects and/or engage in activities which are not exclusively charitable in law or in keeping with the main object of the Organisation.

III. Clubs – Foróige Clubs, Foróige Juniors, Foróige Special Interest Groups, Foróige Youth Cafés

1. A Club shall be admitted to affiliation based on the following criteria:
 - (i) **(a) A Foróige Club** shall consist of not less than eight ordinary members and not less than 2 adult leaders as per Article IV of these By-Laws. Ordinary Members are defined as those persons who have attained the age of 12 years but not yet attained the age of 18 years, with the exception of those already existing Ordinary Members who reach their 18th birthday during the Foróige Club’s current Affiliation year until the end of that Affiliation year.
 - (b) Foróige Juniors** shall consist of not less than six Ordinary Members and not less than 3 adult leaders as per Article IV of these By-Laws. Ordinary Members are defined as those persons who have attained the age of 10 years but not yet attained the age of 13 years, with the exception of those already existing Ordinary Members who reach their 13th birthday during the Foróige Juniors’ current Affiliation year until the end of that Affiliation year.
 - (c) A Foróige Interest Club** shall consist of not less than three Ordinary Members and not less than 2 adult leaders as per Article IV of these By-Laws. Ordinary Members are defined as those persons who have attained the age of 10 years but not yet attained the age of 18 years, with the exception of those already existing Ordinary Members who reach their 18th birthday during the Foróige Interest Clubs current Affiliation year until the end of that Affiliation year. Interest Clubs must declare to the Organisation in writing their specific interest and purpose, in keeping with the fundamental purpose of the Organisation.
 - (d) A Foróige Youth Café** shall consist of not less than eight Ordinary Members and not less than 2 adult leaders as per Article IV of these By-Laws. Ordinary Members are defined as those persons who have attained the age of 14 years but not yet attained the age of 18 years, with the exception of those already existing Ordinary Members who reach their 18th birthday during the Foróige Youth Café’s current Affiliation year until the end of that Affiliation year.
 - (e)** For the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Articles III.1(i) (a) to (d) inclusive shall be suspended with the exception of the age criteria. All Clubs operating during these Affiliation Years i.e. having registered members and leaders on the online Club Management System shall be deemed to meet the Affiliation Criteria.

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- (ii) The purpose of the Club is to enable young people involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society
 - (iii) Ordinary Membership of a Club remains effective only while a person is an Ordinary Member of an affiliated Club. Application for and acceptance of Ordinary Membership of the Club shall be governed by such regulations as may be decided from time to time by the Foróige Board
 - (iv) The Foróige Board shall have the power and authority to expel any Ordinary Member of a club, suspend any Ordinary Member of a Club from participation in the Organisation's activities or take such other action as the Foróige Board shall deem appropriate in relation to any Ordinary Member of a Club where, in the opinion of the Foróige Board, disciplinary action is required.
 - (v) Every Club shall on formation, apply for affiliation to the Organisation. A Club shall apply for affiliation by duly completing and submitting to the Organisation via the online Club Management System, detailing the Ordinary Members and adult leaders of the Club together with such fees as shall from time to time be stipulated by the Foróige Board. Provided always that the Foróige Board may in exceptional circumstances waive the fee or fees or part thereof in respect of any Club.
 - (vi) A Club that meets the criteria for affiliation as determined by the Board from time to time shall be accepted as affiliated to Foróige, but subject to payment of annual fees as stipulated from time to time, unless waived by the Foróige Board, shall be entitled to all the benefits and advantages of affiliation. The Foróige Board may refuse or cancel affiliation.

2. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation a Foróige Club shall adhere to the following:

- (i) The control of the affairs of each Foróige Club shall be exercised by the Foróige Club members and the Foróige Club Adult leaders
- (ii) Subject to Article III.2.(i) the day to day management of the Foróige Club on behalf of its members shall be exercised by the Foróige Club Committee
- (iii) There shall be elected annually from amongst the members a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer and not more than two other members to form, along with one adult leader (appointed from among the adult leaders in the Foróige Club), the Foróige Club committee
- (iv) There must be a minimum of two adult leaders present at any event or meeting of the club and further, there must be a minimum ratio of 1 adult leaders to 10 members at any meeting or club event.

3. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation a Foróige Juniors shall adhere to the following:

- (i) The control of the affairs of each Foróige Juniors shall be exercised by the Adult leaders in consultation with the members of the Foróige Juniors
- (ii) At each meeting a "Huddle" shall be held involving Foróige Juniors members and adult leaders in reviewing the previous meeting and planning the next one

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- (iii) There must be a minimum of two adult leaders present at any event or meeting of the club and further, there must be a minimum ratio of 1 adult leaders to 8 members at any meeting or club event.
4. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation a Foróige Interest Club shall adhere to the following:
- (i) The control of the affairs of each Foróige Interest Group shall be exercised by the Foróige Interest Group members and the Adult leaders
 - (ii) There must be a minimum of two adult leaders present at any event or meeting of the club and further, there must be a minimum ratio of 1 adult leaders to 10 members at any meeting or club event.
5. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation a Foróige Youth Café shall adhere to the following:
- (i) Each Foróige Café shall have a youth committee, elected from among the members and supported by adult leaders that will operate the Foróige Youth Café
 - (ii) There must be a minimum of two adult leaders present at any event or meeting of the club and further, there must be a minimum ratio of 1 adult leaders to 10 members at any meeting or club event.
6. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation the following shall apply to all affiliates:
- (i) A Club that has not met in six consecutive months and has not formally notified the Organisation that it has closed will be deemed to have closed provided that no information to the contrary has been provided to the Organisation.
 - (ii) Each Club shall keep proper books of account in relation to all sums of money received and expended by it
 - (iii) Each Club shall, on receiving a request in writing from the Foróige Board, produce to the Foróige Board or its representative, the accounts of the Club for the period specified in the request
 - (iv) A Club shall be accepted for affiliation to the Organisation as per Article III.1(i)
 - (v) Each Club shall submit to the Organisation in each Affiliation Year the names and addresses and contact details of the Club Leader, Designated Leader as per Article III.3 or III.6, Adult Leaders, the Officers (where relevant) elected for the current year and a list of its Ordinary Members for the current Affiliation Year and any other information deemed relevant through the processes as set out by Foróige Board from time to time.
 - (vi) Each club shall adhere to the relevant legal and regulatory requirements as set down by law from time to time.
 - (vii) Each Club shall adhere to the By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules and of the Organisation as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Foróige Board.
 - (viii) Each club must adopt the relevant club constitution when provided by the Organisation.
 - (ix) Each Club shall have the power to make its own Club rules but only insofar as such rules shall not be inconsistent or at variance with the Club Constitution, By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation. In the event of there being any difference or conflict between the rules of a Foróige Club

and the Club Constitution, By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation, the Club Constitution, By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation shall prevail.

- (x) The Foróige Board shall have full power and authority to disaffiliate a Club from the Organisation, suspend it from participation in the Organisation, or take such other action as deemed appropriate in relation to any Club, where, in the opinion of the Foróige Board, disciplinary action is required.
- (xi) In the event of a dispute arising within a Club or between Clubs or between a Club and District Council or Volunteer Association that cannot be resolved through existing Organisation procedures the matter may, in the final instance, be submitted for arbitration to the Foróige Board whose decision on the matter shall be final.

IV. Adult Leaders

1. Any individual, not less than 18 years of age may apply to be an Adult Leader with Foróige following the Recruitment and Selection Process as set out by the Foróige Board. **Note:** As per the Recruitment and Selection Process no Adult Leader may commence in the role until such time as the person's Garda Vetting has been successfully processed through the Organisation.
2. Each Club shall have two or more Adult Leaders. They shall be the guides, facilitators and mentors of the Club and shall exercise collective responsibility. Each Adult Leader shall regularly attend Club meetings and no Club meeting should be held without a least two Adult Leaders being present and in accordance with Article III.2 – 5 as appropriate.
3. In each Affiliation Year the Adult Leaders shall select one of their number to be the Club Leader¹ who shall act as their Chairperson.
4. Each Adult Leader must be not less than 18 years of age.
5. In each Affiliation Year the Adult Leaders shall select one of their number to be the Designated Leader² who shall be the person eligible to nominate and/or stand for election, to the National Council and to vote at such elections.
6. In such cases where the Adult Leaders do not select one of their number to be the Designated Leader the person eligible to nominate and/or stand for election to the National Council and to vote at such elections shall be the Club Leader.
7. All Adult Leaders are required to operate as a team and to act collectively in the best interests of the club including, but not limited to, collective decision making and also undertaking shared responsibilities and roles within the club.
8. Adult leaders are required to attend training regularly, i.e. a minimum of one training/facilitated session within a 12 month period. Starting Out in Foróige which must include Child Protection is mandatory for all Adult Leaders.
9. The Club Leader may propose one or more Adult Leaders where none already exist(s) or propose additional Adult Leaders to an already existing number subject, in both cases, to the approval of the Club and that such Adult Leaders have applied to the Organisation to be accepted by the Organisation as Adult Leaders as per Article IV.1.
10. The Club Leader may appoint Occasional Volunteers in line with procedures determined from time to time by the Foróige Board.

¹ A Club Leader cannot be an employee of Foróige

² A Designated Leader cannot be an employee of Foróige

11. The Club Leader must submit via the online Club Management System to the Organisation the names, addresses and contact details of any such leaders as per Article III.9 and Article III.10 and any new members of the Club once they have been accepted as members or Leaders of the Club in line with procedures determined from time to time by the Foróige Board.
12. The Club Leader must notify the Organisation of any leaders and/or members of the Club once they have left as members or Leaders of the Club in line with procedures determined from time to time by the Foróige Board.
13. An Adult Leader having left the Club and wishing to return as an Adult Leader may do so within a 12 month period from their date of leaving without undergoing Foróige Recruitment and Selection Procedure. Should more than 12 months have elapsed they shall be required to complete Garda Vetting as per Foróige procedures and other relevant training as required.
14. The Foróige Board shall have full power and authority to remove from office any Club Leader, Adult Leader, Designated Leader or Occasional Volunteer and further shall have full power to expel from the Club, suspend from participation in the Organisation's activities, or take such other action as deemed appropriate in relation to any Club Leader, Adult Leader, Designated Leader or Occasional Volunteer, where, in the opinion of the Organisation, disciplinary action is required.
15. A Club Leader who, on the day immediately preceding the coming into force of these By-Laws, is the Club Leader of a properly affiliated Club shall continue as Club Leader of that Club until a Club Leader is appointed in accordance with Article IV.5.

V. Associate Affiliates

1. Any person, association, society, council, institution, corporate or unincorporated body, having a principal object similar to that of the Organisation or desiring to be associated with or to promote the principal object of the Organisation, may, at the discretion of the Foróige Board, be admitted as Associate Affiliates of the Organisation.
2. Application for and acceptance of Associate Affiliate shall be governed by such regulations as may be decided from time to time by the Foróige Board which shall also have the power to cancel Associate Affiliation.
3. Associate Affiliates shall have only such rights and privileges as laid down from time to time by the Foróige Board provided that at no time and under no circumstances shall Associate Affiliates have the right to vote on any question, become a member of Foróige or hold any officer ship within the Organisation.

VI. Youth Projects

1. The Foróige Board may apply for and operate youth projects that have a principal object similar to that of the Organisation and are complementary to achieving the Main Object of the Organisation.
2. All staff, volunteers and management advisory committees of Foróige Youth Projects shall adhere to the policy, procedures, guidelines, Rules and By-Laws of the Organisation as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Foróige Board.

VII. Foróige Volunteer Associations

1. A Foróige Volunteer Association may be admitted to affiliation based on the following criteria:
 - (i) The name of the Volunteer Association shall be [Project Name] Foróige Volunteer Association.
 - (ii) The function of a Foróige Volunteer Association is to exchange ideas, to support volunteer recruitment for the project, to make representations to the Organisation, to promote the main objects of the Organisation and to provide peer support.
 - (iii) A Foróige Volunteer Association shall consist of not less than 2 members. Members are project volunteers defined as those persons who have attained the age of 18 years and volunteer regularly with a Foróige operated Project. Such volunteers meeting this criteria are automatically registered to a Volunteer Association.
 - (iv) For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article VII.1(iii) shall be suspended
 - (v) Membership of the Foróige Volunteer Association remains effective only while a person is a volunteer with a Foróige operated project. Application for and acceptance of membership of the Foróige Volunteer Association shall be governed by such regulations as may be decided from time to time by the Foróige Board. The Foróige Board shall have full power and authority to expel any member of a Foróige Volunteer Association from the association and/or project, suspend any member of a Foróige Volunteer Association from participation in the Organisation's activities or take such other action as the Foróige Board shall deem appropriate in relation to any member of a Foróige Volunteer Association where, in the opinion of the Foróige Board, disciplinary action is required.
 - (vi) Each Foróige Volunteer Association shall on formation apply for affiliation to the Organisation. A Foróige Volunteer Association shall apply for affiliation by duly completing and submitting to the Organisation the affiliation procedure as set down by the Foróige Board detailing the members of the Foróige Volunteer Association.
 - (vii) A Foróige Volunteer Association whose application is accepted shall be entitled to all the benefits and advantages of affiliation. The Foróige Board may refuse or cancel affiliation. This shall be notified in writing to the Volunteer Association.
 - (viii) Volunteer Associations may work together in one or more groupings in a county to exchange ideas, make representations to the Organisation, provide peer support and promote the main objects of the Organisation.

2. In accepting affiliation to the Organisation a Foróige Volunteer Association shall adhere to the following:
 - (i) A Foróige Volunteer Association shall be accepted for affiliation to the Organisation as per Article VII.1. A Foróige Volunteer Association shall not be affiliated to the Organisation unless and until the Foróige Board shall have approved such affiliation.
 - (ii) Each Foróige Volunteer Association shall submit to the Organisation in each affiliation year the names and addresses and contact details of its Members for the current year in line with procedures as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board.
 - (iii) The Volunteer Association Leader must submit to the Organisation the names, addresses and contact details of any new members of the Foróige Volunteer Association once they have been accepted as members.

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- (iv) The members of a Foróige Volunteer Association shall select one individual Member for each eight members to be the Foróige Volunteer Association Leader(s)³. The Foróige Volunteer Association Leader(s) must regularly volunteer for a minimum of 4 hours per month with a Foróige operated project.
 - (v) The Volunteer Association Leader is eligible to nominate and/or stand for election to the National Council and to vote at such elections in the region the Foróige Volunteer Association operates. Regions will be determined from time to time by the Foróige Board.
 - (vi) For the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Article VII.2 (iv) and (v) shall be suspended. Any volunteer registered with a Volunteer Association shall be eligible to stand and vote in elections that may take place during the Affiliation Year. They shall be deemed to be Volunteer Association Leaders
 - (vii) Each Foróige Volunteer Association shall adhere to the policy, procedures, guidelines, Rules and By-Laws of the Organisation as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Foróige Board.
 - (viii) The Foróige Board shall have full power and authority to expel a Foróige Volunteer Association from the Organisation, suspend from participation in the Organisation's activities, or take such other action as deemed appropriate in relation to any Foróige Volunteer Association, where, in the opinion of the Foróige Board, disciplinary action is required.
 - (ix) In the event of a dispute arising within a Foróige Volunteer Association or between Foróige Volunteer Association or other Foróige volunteer led clubs or Foróige District Councils and the matter cannot be resolved through existing Organisation procedures it may in the final instance may be submitted for arbitration to the Foróige Board whose decision on the matter shall be final.

VIII. District Councils

1. Clubs, with the approval of the Foróige Board, may form District Councils. The District Council shall, in so far as is practicable, be coterminous with the county or statutory divisions of the County. Each Club may appoint not more than two voting delegates, one of whom must be an Adult Leader from the Club to sit on the District Council. The functions of such Councils shall be to exchange ideas, to co-ordinate and stimulate the activities of the Clubs, to help in the formation of new Clubs and to make representations to the Foróige Board on all matters relating to the Organisation.
2. Each District Council shall elect annually its own Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and other such Honorary Officers as may be necessary and may make such co-options as it thinks fit.
3. Each District Council may determine its own procedures, frequency of meetings and all matters relating to it within the framework of these By-Laws but only insofar as such rules shall not be inconsistent or at variance with the By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation. In the event of there being any difference or conflict between the rules of District Council and By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation, the By-Laws, policy, procedures, guidelines, regulations and rules of the Organisation shall prevail.
4. Each District Council shall adhere to the relevant legal and regulatory requirements as set down by law from time to time.

³ A Volunteer Association Leader cannot be an employee of Foróige

5. The Foróige Board shall have the right to determine the boundaries and number of these groupings and shall also have the right of redistribution of units within these groupings and of suspension or abolition of District Councils.
6. The Foróige Board shall have the right to be represented by an observer at all District Council meetings.
7. Every District Council shall keep proper books of account relating to all sums of money received and expended by it.
8. Each District Council shall, on receiving a request in writing from the Foróige Board, produce to the Foróige Board or its representatives the accounts of the District Council for the period specified in the request.
9. Any Club member, Club Leader, Designated Leader or Adult Leader being a District Council Member shall automatically cease to be a Member of the District Council should that person cease to be a Club Member, Club Leader, Designated Leader or Adult Leader.

IX. Regional Conference of Clubs

1. In order to give Club Members, an opportunity of exchanging views, influencing local, regional and national decisions and making representations concerning the Organisation to the Foróige Board or District Councils, there shall be annual Conferences of Club members on a regional basis. The Foróige Board shall from time to time define the boundaries of regions for Conferences of Clubs. The Foróige Board shall convene these conferences.
2. Each club may elect a minimum of two and a maximum of six delegates as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board to attend the annual Regional Conference of Clubs. Delegates must have a minimum of one year's experience in the Club except in instances where the club affiliated for the first time in the previous 12 months. In the case of Foróige Clubs the first two delegate places must, in the first instance, be offered to the Club Chairperson and Club Secretary.
3. Only those delegates of properly affiliated clubs are entitled to nominate and vote in elections to the Reference Panel. Candidates for the Reference Panel must have attained the age of 14 years but not yet attained the age of 18 years, with the exception of those already existing delegates who reach their 18th birthday during the Club's current membership year.
4. Each Annual Regional Conference shall elect a minimum of two and a maximum of eight of its number, determined from time to time by the Foróige Board, in proportion to affiliated club numbers in the region, to be the club member representatives on the Reference Panel which shall not exceed forty eight in total.
5. All elected Club Member Representatives on the Reference Panel shall upon expiry of their first term be eligible for re-election for a second, consecutive term to the Reference Panel but are not eligible for any further consecutive terms.
6. Article IX.5 shall be suspended for the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 providing that no member of the Reference Panel shall serve more than three consecutive terms.
7. The Foróige Board shall have the right to be represented by an observer at all Regional Conferences of Clubs. Such conferences and meetings shall be subject to the Foróige Board and shall not assume any power or authority other than that vested in them by the Foróige Board.

X. Regional Seminars of Youth Participation Structures

1. In order to give members of Youth Participation Structures an opportunity of exchanging views, influencing local, regional and national decisions and making representations concerning the Organisation to the Foróige Board, there shall be annual seminars of Youth Participation Structure members on a regional basis. The Foróige Board shall from time to time define the boundaries of regions for Regional Seminars of Youth Participation Structures. The Foróige Board shall convene these conferences.
2. Each Youth Participation Structure may elect a minimum of two and a maximum of fifteen delegates as determined from time to time by the Foróige Board to attend the Annual Regional Seminar of Youth Participation Structures. Delegates must have a minimum of one year's experience in the Youth Participation Structure except in instances where the structure registered for the first time in the previous 12 months with the exception of the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 where delegates shall be nominated directly by Foróige staff
3. Only those delegates of properly registered Youth Participation Structures are entitled to nominate and vote in elections to the Reference Panel, with the exception of the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 where all delegates attending the Regional Seminar are entitled to nominate and vote in elections to the Reference Panel. Candidates for the Reference Panel must have attained the age of 14 years but not yet attained the age of 18 years, with the exception of those already existing delegates who reach their 18th birthday during the Youth Participation Structure's current membership year
4. Article X.3 shall be suspended for the Affiliation Year 2021/2022
5. Each Annual Regional Seminar shall elect a minimum of two and a maximum of four of its number, determined from time to time by the Foróige Board, in proportion to registered youth participation structures in the region, to be the Youth Participation Structures representatives on the Reference Panel which shall not exceed sixteen in total.
6. All elected Youth Participation Structure Representatives on the Reference Panel shall upon expiry of their first term be eligible for re-election for a second, consecutive term to the Reference Panel but is not eligible for any further consecutive terms.
8. Article X.5 shall be suspended for the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 providing that no member of the Reference Panel shall serve more than three consecutive terms.
7. The Foróige Board shall have the right to be represented by an observer at all Regional Seminars of Youth Participation Structure. Such seminars and meetings shall be subject to the Foróige Board and shall not assume any power or authority other than that vested in them by the Foróige Board.

XI. Reference Panel

1. Membership of the Reference Panel will consist of those duly elected at the Regional Conferences of Clubs and the Regional Youth Participation Seminars. There will be a maximum 64 members.
2. The functions of the Reference Panel will be determined from time to time by the Foróige Board and include but are not limited to:
 - (a) Electing 16 of its own members in accordance with Article XII.4 of these By Laws to the National Council
 - (b) Bringing forward representation regarding the Organisation from the Regional Conferences of Clubs and the Regional Youth Participation Seminars

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- (c) Influencing Organisation decisions that affect young people
 - (d) Producing a report on their activities and determining local and regional actions based on this report
 - (e) Advocating on behalf of the Organisation.
3. The term of office of a Reference Panel Member shall be such period of time from the date of the first Reference Panel Meeting in the calendar year to one day before the date of the first Reference Panel meeting in the next calendar year.
 4. No Reference Panel Member may remain a Member of the Reference Panel for more than two consecutive terms.
 5. For the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Article XI.4 shall be suspended provided that no member can serve more than three consecutive terms.
 6. A member of the Reference Panel who during such Member's term of office shall cease to be a Club member or a member of a Youth Participation Structure, shall automatically cease to be a member of the Reference Panel. However, a Member of the Reference Panel who, during such member's term of office reaches the age when membership of the Club or youth participation structure would normally cease, may remain a member of the Reference Panel until the expiry of such Member's current term of office.
 7. A Member of the Reference Panel may be removed by the Foróige Board if the Foróige Board considers that the Member so to be removed has become unable or unfit for whatever reason to properly perform the functions of a Member of the Reference Panel.
 8. There shall be a minimum of two meetings of the Reference Panel per calendar year. Such meetings shall be convened by the Foróige Board.
 9. The Foróige Board shall have the right to be represented by an observer at all meetings of the Reference Panel.

XII. National Council

1. The members of the National Council are the members of the Company as per Foróige's Constitution. The National Council functions, responsibilities and liabilities shall be governed by Foróige's Constitution and relevant Company Law
 - (i) The National Council shall be constituted as follows:
 - a. One Designated Leader for each county in which there is at least one properly affiliated Club, provided that only those Leaders who have been duly elected may be admitted to the National Council. Any county having 50 or more affiliated Clubs shall be entitled to elect a second Designated Leader to the National Council, provided that there shall be no more than 35 Designated Leaders on the National Council.
 - b. Two Volunteer Association Leaders for each region in which there is at least one properly affiliated Foróige Volunteer Association provided that only those Leaders who have been duly elected may be admitted to the National Council and provided that there shall be no more than twenty one Volunteer Association Leaders on the National Council.
 - c. For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article XII.1.b shall be suspended. There shall be 10 representatives from BBBS Volunteer Associations and 6 representatives from project/programme Volunteer Associations provided that only those representatives who have been duly elected may be admitted to the National

Council and provided that there shall be no more than 21 Volunteer Association Leaders on the National Council

- d. No more than twenty one members of the Reference Panel.
- e. The former Chairperson of the Foróige Board for the year immediately following such Chairperson's term as Chairperson, who shall, ex officio, be a Member of the National Council for that year. For the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 the former Chairperson of the Board of Foróige shall ex-officio, be a member of the National Council for a maximum period of two years following such Chairperson's term as Chairperson.

2. Designated Leaders on the National Council

- (i) A general election of Designated Leaders to the National Council shall be held in the month of January (or as near to the month of January as circumstances reasonably permit) in even years by private ballot and shall be subject to such regulations as the Foróige Board may from time to time formulate. The term of Designated Leaders elected to the National Council shall commence on the Term Commencement Date in the year in which they are elected and shall expire on the next ensuing Term Commencement Date with the exception of the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 where it shall expire on the Term Commencement Date of the Affiliation Year 2021/2022. All elected Designated Leaders to the National Council shall upon expiry of their first term be eligible for re-election for a second, consecutive term to the National Council but are not eligible for any other consecutive terms.
- (ii) In the general election of Designated Leaders to the National Council the Chairperson for the time being of the Organisation shall be returned automatically to the National Council without any election being held in the county for which such Chairperson was elected at the preceding election.
- (iii) The National Council Member for a county shall be elected by the Designated Leaders of that county. The county in which a Designated Leader shall vote shall be the county in which the Club of which such person is Designated Leader normally holds its meetings. The Foróige Board may on the request of any Designated Leader grant such Designated Leader permission to vote in a different county than above provided, subject to revocation of such permission by the Foróige Board and provided also that the Club of which such person is a Designated Leader has its primary participation in that county and is not the only club in the county in which it normally holds its meetings.
- (iv) Any Designated Leader shall have one vote only irrespective of whether such a Designated Leader is a Designated Leader in more than one club or if they are a Volunteer Association Leader. Where two National Council Members are to be elected from a county then, subject to the foregoing, a Designated Leader shall be entitled to vote in favour of two candidates.
- (v) Where a Designated Leader is also a Volunteer Association Leader then such Designated Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the Foróige Board in which election they wish to participate in.
- (vi) Where a Designated Leader is a Designated Leader in more than one Club and such Clubs are located in more than one county then such Club Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the Foróige

Board, in which county such Designated Leader wished to vote and shall vote only in respect of that county in relation to which such declaration has been made, provided always, however, that where a Designated Leader is a Designated Leader of the only Club in a county then that Designated Leader shall only be entitled to vote in that county.

- (vii) Designated Leaders seeking election to the National Council shall do so only in the county in which they are entitled to vote.

3. Volunteer Association Leaders on the National Council

- (i) A general election of Volunteer Association Leaders to the National Council shall be held in the month of January (or as near to the month of January as circumstances reasonably permit) in even years by private ballot and shall be subject to such regulations as the Foróige Board may from time to time formulate. The term of Volunteer Association Leaders elected to the National Council shall commence on the Term Commencement Date in the year in which they are elected and shall expire on the next ensuing Term Commencement Date with the exception of the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 where it shall expire on the Term Commencement Date of the Affiliation Year 2021/2022. All elected Volunteer Association Leaders to the National Council shall upon expiry of their first term be eligible for re-election for a second, consecutive term to the National Council but are not eligible for any other consecutive terms.
- (ii) Electoral regions shall be determined by the Foróige Board and have regard to the geographic locations of projects and the numbers of Foróige Volunteer Associations.
- (iii) For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article XII.2(ii) shall be suspended.
- (iv) For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 there shall be two electoral panels
 - a) One electoral panel for BBBS Volunteer Association Leaders
 - b) One electoral panel for project/programme Volunteer Association leaders
- (v) The National Council Members for a region shall be elected by the Volunteer Association Leaders in that region. The region in which a Volunteer Association Leaders shall vote shall be the region in which the Volunteer Association of which such person is member normally operates.
- (vi) The number of National Council Members elected per Region shall be determined from time to time by the Foróige Board. However, there shall be a minimum of one elected per region.
- (vii) For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article XII.4.(v) and Article XII.4.(vi) shall be suspended
- (viii) Any Volunteer Association Leader shall have one vote only irrespective of whether such a Volunteer Association Leader is a Volunteer Association Leader in more than one Volunteer Association or is a Designated Leader. Where two or more National Council Members are to be elected from a panel then subject to the foregoing, a Volunteer Association Leader shall be entitled to vote in favour of two or more candidates as per the number to be elected.
- (ix) Where a Volunteer Association Leader is a Volunteer Association Leader in more than one Volunteer Association and such Volunteer Associations are located in more than one region then such Volunteer Association Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the National

Council, in which region such Volunteer Association Leader wishes to vote and shall vote only in respect of that region in relation to which such declaration has been made, provided always, however, that where a Volunteer Association Leader is a Volunteer Association Leader of the only Volunteer Association in a region then that Volunteer Association Leader shall only be entitled to vote in that region.

a) Where a Volunteer Association Leader is also a Designated Leader then such Volunteer Association Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the Foróige Board in which election they wish to participate in.

(x) For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article XII.2.(ix) shall be suspended

(xi) Where a Volunteer Association Leader is a Volunteer Association Leader in more than one Volunteer Association and such Volunteer Associations are eligible to vote in both panels then such Volunteer Association Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the National Council, in which panel such Volunteer Association Leader wishes to vote and shall vote only in respect of that panel in relation to which such declaration has been made

a. Where a Volunteer Association Leader is also a Designated Leader then such Volunteer Association Leader must declare, in writing, prior to any National Council election, to the Chairperson of the Foróige Board in which election they wish to participate in.

(xii) Volunteer Association Leaders seeking election to the National Council shall do so only in the panel in which they are entitled to vote.

4. Reference Panel Members on the National Council

- (i) The Reference Panel shall meet in the month of February (or as near to the month of February as circumstances reasonably permit) in each year to elect 16 of its own members to the National Council – a minimum of eight and a maximum of ten young people to come from Clubs and a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 to come from Youth Participation Structures.
- (ii) The election of these 16 National Council members shall be subject to such regulations as the Foróige Board shall from time to time decide. The term of Reference Panel Members elected to the National Council shall commence on the Term Commencement Date in the year in which they are elected and shall expire on the Term Commencement Date in the following year.
- (iii) A member of the Reference Panel elected to the National Council who during such Member's term of office shall cease to be a Club member or a member of a youth participation structure, shall automatically cease to be a member of the National Council, with the exception of the Affiliation Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. However, a Member of the Reference Panel elected to the National Council who, during such member's term of office reaches the age when membership of the Club or youth participation structure would normally cease, may remain a member until the expiry of such Member's current term of office.

5. No Designated Leader or Volunteer Association Leader member of the National Council may remain on the Council for a period longer than four consecutive years, provided that the Chairperson shall be entitled to continue in office until the expiry of such Chairperson's

current term of office. No person who has served as a member of the National Council for four consecutive years shall be eligible for reappointment or re-election until such time as two years have elapsed since such person was last a member of the National Council.

6. For the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 Article XII.5 shall be suspended.
7. In calculating, for the purpose of this article, the number of years which a National Council Member has served on the National Council, no account shall be taken of any period spent as an unelected Member of the National Council.
8. A member of the National Council who during such a Member's term of office shall cease to be a Designated Leader/Club Leader in the county wherein such Member was elected to the National Council or Volunteer Association Leader shall cease to be a member of the National Council unless within six calendar months such Member shall become a Club Leader/Designated Leader in the same county or Volunteer Association Leader in the same region wherein such Member was elected to the Council.
9. For the Affiliation Year 2020/2021 Article XII.8 shall be suspended.
10. A Member of the National Council may be removed by the Foróige Board as per Foróige's Constitution.
11. Any vacancies arising on the National Council shall be filled by a bye-election if the vacancy arises within twelve calendar months of the vacating members election, such bye-election to be held within two months of the next meeting of the Foróige Board following, or by co-option if the vacancy arises after that period, such co-opted Member, in the case of a Designated Leader, to be a Designated Leader in the county for which the vacating member was elected and in the case of a Volunteer Association Leader, to be a Volunteer Association Leader in the region for which the vacating member was elected
12. For the Affiliation Year 2021/2022 Article XII.11 shall be suspended. Any vacancies arising on the National Council shall be filled by co-option.