

**RULES
AND
BYE-LAWS**

of

MACRA NA FEIRME

**EFFECTIVE FROM
10TH NOVEMBER 2018**

**PUBLISHED BY MACRA NA FEIRME
IRISH FARM CENTRE
BLUEBELL
DUBLIN 12**

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1. Definitions

Club or branch: the local branch of Macra na Feirme where volunteers engage with Macra na Feirme which are volunteer led units where Ordinary Members engage with the organisation.

Constitution: Governing document of Macra na Feirme CLG.

County: Collection of clubs/branches that coordinate competitions and other events along traditional county boundaries through a committee structure. County committees can also be referred to as a Region, as in the case of the five cork regions sub-dividing County Cork, e.g. Avondhu Region. Within this document where Region appears, it also imports County.

Director: Member of the Board of Directors of Macra na Feirme CLG.

Even & Odd years: Calendar years which are divisible by two (2016, 2018 etc) are referred to as Even Years, while calendar years which are not divisible by two (2015, 2017 etc.) are referred to as Odd years.

Macra na Feirme Board: the members of the Board of Directors of the Organisation.

Macra Year/Affiliation Year: 1st September – 31st August.

National Council: the members of the Organisation - elected as set out in these bye-laws. Members of National Council shall be deemed to be Members of the Company.

National Office: Location of the national head office of the organisation.

Ordinary Member: People aged between 17 and 40 who are members of Macra na Feirme clubs.

Organisation: Macra na Feirme CLG.

Volunteer: Volunteers, include ordinary members, mentors, judges, and others that support the activity within a Macra na Feirme Club.

2. General

Interpretation and force of Bye-Laws

- 2.1 Until the first Macra na Feirme Board takes office following the date at which these Bye-Laws become effective, the functions of the National Executive shall be carried out by the Macra na Feirme Board as at 1st January, 2018.
- 2.2 The body of final appeal in all matters relating to the interpretation of these Bye-Laws shall be the Macra na Feirme Board, whose decision, taken in accordance with the main objects of the Organisation thereon shall be final.

- 2.3 By accepting membership or affiliation to Macra na Feirme each individual or affiliated club shall be bound by and shall submit to the Constitution, Bye-Laws, policies, procedures and regulations of the Organisation.
- 2.4 By accepting the position of Club, County or Regional Officer each Leader and volunteer shall be bound by and shall submit to the Constitution, Bye-Laws, policies, procedures and regulations of the Organisation.
- 2.5 In these Bye-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.
- 2.6 In these Bye-Laws, where the context so admits and unless contrary intention appears, words in the masculine shall include the feminine or neuter and words appearing in the feminine or neuter shall include masculine.
- 2.7 In these Bye-Laws, where the context so admits and unless a different intention appears the word “year” shall be interpreted as meaning the Macra na Feirme affiliation year.
- 2.8 The Organisation is governed by its Constitution and no changes shall be made to the Bye-Laws which are not in keeping with the 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.

3. Name

- 3.1 The name of the Organisation shall be “Macra na Feirme” which is herein after referred to as “the Organisation” or “the Company”.

4. Macra na Feirme Flag & Logo

- 4.1 The Organisation shall have a flag, which shall also be the flag of each club of the Organisation. The flag shall be tri-colour, horizontally placed, of the colours gold, green and brown, intended to represent the sun, plant and animal life, and soil, respectively.
- 4.2 The Organisation shall have a corporate logo for use on publications, website and other such locations as necessary. All branches of the Organisation must adhere to the appropriate use of the logo and flag.

5. Structure

- 5.1 As specifically set out in the rules hereunder, the ordinary members of the Organisation are the *raison d'etre*. They, in groups of not less than 10, shall constitute the clubs of the Organisation. Clubs shall co-ordinate their activities through a County Executive. The management and control of the Organisation and the direction of its policy at the National level shall rest and be vested in a National Council. Ordinary members shall elect club officers, representatives to the County Executive and the representatives from their County to the National Council. The National President and three National Vice-Presidents shall also be elected by the ordinary members through club ballot.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The Organisation shall consist of ordinary members and patron members.

Qualification for Ordinary Membership

- 6.2 It shall be a condition precedent to ordinary membership of the organisation that the member shall be a member of a club of the organisation. Membership of the club of Macra na Feirme shall be open to all members of the community who:
- a) have attained the age of 17 years and are under the age of 40 years (except as in Clause 6.5 hereunder); and
 - b) have paid the membership subscription determined by the club, where applicable; and
 - c) are willing to promote and conform to the objects of the organisation and these rules.
- 6.3 In addition to the fulfilment of the requirements for club membership ordinary membership of the Organisation shall also require:
- a) receipt at National Office of his application for membership together with the membership fee as determined by National Council at its AGM, and
 - b) inclusion on the current register of clubs as a member of '[Club name] Macra na Feirme'.
- 6.4 A club member who is in default of the requirements for ordinary membership of the Organisation shall not be entitled to the benefits of the ordinary memberships which, inter alia, include:
- a) The right to participate in nationally organised competitions and other programmes.
 - b) The right to go forward for election to any position of responsibility in the organisation at any level including club officer or club delegate to the Regional/County Executive.
 - c) The right to vote at club meetings in the election of the National Council Representative, National President or National Vice-President.
 - d) The right to vote in a club ballot relating to a referendum of clubs.
 - e) Cash savings on the Macra na Feirme travel/exchange programmes and through the organisation's discount scheme.

- 6.5 A person who is elected to the position of club or County President or Vice-President shall not be required to be under the age of 40 years during the term of office when they shall be deemed to be a member of the club without voting rights.
- 6.6 The membership year shall extend from 1st September to 31st August in the following year. The Board may, at its absolute discretion, authorise the acceptance of prepayment of membership fees by National Office and the consequent conferring of the full benefits of ordinary membership in advance of the 1st September in any year.
- 6.7 A person who has been duly elected a member of a club and has fulfilled the requirements for ordinary membership as set out in Section 6 hereof shall automatically become a full ordinary member of the Organisation. Such membership of the Organisation shall cease when the annual fee(s) shall be unpaid in accordance with Rule 0 hereof.

Patron Membership

- 6.8 A Patron Member is person over the age of 40 who has paid an affiliation fee to the organisation.
- 6.9 Any person may become a Patron Member through payment of an annual affiliation fee to the Organisation, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

7. Sponsorship

- 7.1 Any person, corporate body or company desiring to be associated with the promotion of the objectives of the organisation may become an Associate Sponsor at national level by contributing financially to the Organisation, subject to Board approval.
- 7.2 Appropriate contributions and duration of association may be agreed with individual members subject to Board agreement. Annual and multi-annual associate sponsorship agreements are provided for, with the agreement of the Board.

8. Clubs/Branches

- 8.1 Each branch or club, hereafter referred to as club, shall consist of not less than ten ordinary members, one of whom must be the registered club secretary.
- 8.2 Each club shall be called '[Club Name] Macra na Feirme' with the name of the club inserted in the appropriate space.

Formation and Recognition of Club

- 8.3 A club shall be deemed to exist only when it has complied fully with the affiliation procedure as determined from time to time by the Board. People who are eligible for membership under Section 6 hereof and who wish to form a club of Macra na Feirme shall in the first instance apply for recognition as a club and affiliation to the

Organisation. Such people may be assisted by the appropriate County/Regional Executive or the National Council.

- 8.4 A club shall comprise such persons only as are eligible for membership under Section 6 hereof.
- 8.5 The catchment area shall be defined by each club for the area of that club. Any person aggrieved by the catchment area of a club shall have a right of appeal to the Board of Directors, whose decision thereon shall be final.
- 8.6 An existing club is one which is affiliated and included on the current register of clubs.
- 8.7 A club of the organisation may not be formed within a radius of eight kilometres of an existing club of the organisation existing in the same parish; or within a radius of five kilometres of a club of the organisation existing in a neighbouring parish. On the recommendation of the County Executive concerned, however, this distance limit may be modified at the discretion of the Board.

New Club Affiliation Procedure

- 8.8 An application for new club affiliation shall be made in writing to the Chief Executive of the organisation and shall be in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

New Club Affiliation Sponsor

- 8.9 An application for affiliation by a group wishing to be a Macra na Feirme club shall not be considered by the Board unless it is sponsored by the County Executive Committee, where applicable, or by the President of the organisation.
- 8.10 The Board may at its absolute discretion allow affiliation without a sponsor where a club was affiliated and included on the club register in either of the two immediate previous membership years.
- 8.11 It shall be a condition of affiliation that the new club affiliate also to the appropriate County or Regional Executive.
- 8.12 A club shall not be affiliated to the Organisation unless and until the Board shall have approved such affiliation. Such affiliation may be refused entirely at the discretion of the Board.

Register of Clubs

- 8.13 Each club shall between the 1st of June and the 1st August each year send to Macra na Feirme National Office the names and contact details of the officers elected for the forthcoming year, and a copy of the club's annual report for the preceding year, the format of which will be agreed by the Board of Directors.
- 8.14 The Organisation shall keep a register of all clubs and members thereof. In it shall be recorded all such particulars as the Board shall from time to time determine and on the

affiliation of a club all such requisite particulars concerning it shall be entered in said register.

- 8.15 The Honorary Secretary of the club shall be provided with a copy of the Constitution & Bye-Laws of the Organisation.
- 8.16 On the affiliation of a club to the Organisation the members for the time being of the club shall thereupon be deemed to be and shall be bound by the Bye-laws, rules, policies, procedures and the Constitution of the Organisation and shall accept the liabilities and ensure compliance with the obligations of membership of the Organisation. On their ceasing to be members of such club or on such club ceasing to be affiliated they shall cease to be so bound.

Club Fee

- 8.17 Each club shall subscribe annually to be organisation by way of Club Fee at such a rate or rates as the National Council shall from time to time determine, and such annual fee(s) shall fall due to the National Council prior to the 1st of November each year. The membership year for clubs and members shall run from the 1st of September to the 31st August in the following year.
- 8.18 Any club whose club fee shall be unpaid on the 1st November in each year shall be prohibited from participating in Macra na Feirme National Competitions, until such time as outstanding fees are paid.
- 8.19 The members of any club whose individual membership fee(s) shall be unpaid in any year shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of the membership for so long after that date as the membership fee(s) remain unpaid.
- 8.20 On a club ceasing to exist pursuant to Section 12 and being struck off the register of clubs, by the Board, its members shall be reallocated to an appropriate club but on the reinstatement of the club the members, whose membership fee, as determined by National Council at its Annual General Meeting is currently paid up and received by National Office, may be reinstated as members of that club.

9. Club Government

- 9.1 The control of the affairs of each club shall be exercised by the members of the club.
- 9.2 The management of the club on behalf of the members shall be exercised by the officers which shall consist of a President, a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Public Relations Officer and such other assistant officers as may be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the club.
- 9.3 Club Annual General Meetings shall be held between the 1st of June and the 1st of August each year or at such other time as the National Council shall from time to time determine. At such meetings clubs shall elect their officers for the subsequent Macra

year and present the club's annual report and a statement of accounts for the preceding year.

- 9.4 Mid-year changes in Club officers must be notified to National Office by the Club Secretary within 7 days of the date of the change.
- 9.5 Members under the age of 35 only shall be eligible for election as Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Public Relations Officer of a club or to act on a club committee provided that a person under the age of 35 years at the date of election who attains that the age during his year of office shall be entitled to continue to act in whatever capacity he has been elected until the end of the year of his term of office.
- 9.6 Each club shall have the power to make its own club rules for the management and control of the club, but only insofar as such rules shall not be inconsistent or at variance with the Constitution and Bye-laws of the organisation. In the event of there being any difference or conflict between the Rules of a club and Constitution or Bye-laws of the organisation, the Constitution or Bye-Laws of the organisation shall prevail.

10. County Executives

- 10.1 The current county/regional executives are numbered at 31 and include:

Leinster Region

- 1) Carlow
- 2) Dublin
- 3) Kildare
- 4) Kilkenny
- 5) Laois
- 6) Louth
- 7) Meath
- 8) Offaly
- 9) Westmeath
- 10) Wicklow
- 11) Wexford

Munster Region

- 1) Avondhu
- 2) Carbery
- 3) Clare
- 4) Imokilly
- 5) Kerry
- 6) Limerick
- 7) Muskerry
- 8) Seandun
- 9) Tipperary North
- 10) Tipperary South
- 11) Waterford

North West Region

- 1) Cavan
- 2) Donegal
- 3) Galway
- 4) Leitrim
- 5) Longford
- 6) Mayo
- 7) Monaghan
- 8) Roscommon
- 9) Sligo

- 10.2 In each county there shall be formed, on approval of the National Council, a County Executive Committee, for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts and activities of the clubs, to promote the formation of new clubs, attract new members, and to render help and guidance to all branches/clubs.
- 10.3 Counties, where the number of clubs or other circumstances warrant, may, with the express approval of the National Council, be divided into Regions and Regional Executive Committees formed, who shall be deemed to be a County in the context of the Macra na Feirme's structure.

- 10.4 Each County Executive Committee shall consist of the County Representative to the National Council, together with an equal number of representatives of each Regional Executive Committee in the county, or where there are no Regional Executive Committees in the county, an equal number of representatives appointed annually by each club in the county.
- 10.5 Each County Executive Committee shall hold its Annual General Meeting between 1st of June and 1st of August each year and officer changes notified to national office within seven days.
- 10.6 Each County Executive Committee shall determine its own procedure, the number of representatives to be appointed to its Sub-Committees, and the county affiliation fees (if any) to be paid.

11. National Council

- 11.1 National Council has specific reserved power and functions which are enshrined in the Constitution of Macra na Feirme CLG, where the configuration of National Council is also enshrined.
- 11.2 An ordinary member for a county shall be elected by the clubs in that county only, in the manner hereinafter provided, and known thereafter as a National Council Representative. A club must vote in the County to which it is affiliated as defined by Article 5.1. Candidates for election must be members of a club of the organisation and must be under the age of 40 years on the 31st March in the year of election.
- 11.3 Ordinary members elected to the National Council shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of the AGM following their election or from the date of their election if voted in outside the bi-annual election cycle. A National Council Representative shall only hold office for the term of the National Council to which he has been elected. Outgoing members shall be eligible for re-election to the next ensuing National Council.
- 11.4 All members elected to National Council shall be full voting members.
- 11.5 Elections to National Council shall take place in even years, except for a bye-election within a county, which must take place within 3 months of a National Council Representative ceasing to represent their respective county.
- 11.6 Any county having 50 or more affiliated clubs shall be entitled to elect a second representative to National Council, and any county having 75 or more affiliated clubs shall be entitled to elect a third representative to the National Council.

11.7 An exception has been made previously for Tipperary & Cork which are divided into two regions and five regions, namely North & South Tipperary and 5 Cork Regions namely, Avondhu, Carbery, Imokilly, Muskerry and Seandun, respectively.

11.8 The counties as per Article 10.1 are eligible to elect a member to National Council.

12. Expulsion & Suspension of Clubs and Members

12.1 The Board shall have the power to expel any club from the Organisation or any particular member or members of a club from membership of the Organisation provided that a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, vote for such expulsion.

12.2 In the event of expulsion the expelled club or member or members shall automatically cease to have any rights or interest in the organisation and shall forfeit all right to or claims on the organisation or its property or assets and shall be struck off the register. On the expulsion of a club each and every member of it shall be automatically expelled.

12.3 Grounds for expulsion of any member of Macra na Feirme include:

- a) a gross breach of the Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy concerning anti-bullying and anti-harassment
- b) bringing the Organisation into disrepute, the definition of which shall be determined by the Board at its discretion
- c) gross breaches of the Child Protection Policy
- d) any other reason which impugns the reputation and integrity of Macra na Feirme

12.4 The Board shall have the power to suspend any member or members from membership of the Organisation for a fixed period of time not exceeding one year on any single occasion provided that a majority, of two-thirds majority of those present and voting, vote for such suspension.

12.5 On the expiry of the time period that suspended member shall be entitled to membership of the Organisation provided he meets the criteria set down in Section 6.

13. Honorary Officers

13.1 The officers of the Organisation shall consist of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Chair of the Board, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. All Honorary Officers must be ordinary members.

President

- 13.2 The President shall be elected by the clubs voting in the manner hereinafter appearing. She/he shall hold office for a period of two years subsequent to her/his election in odd years, and shall not be eligible for re-election for the ensuing period of two years.
- 13.3 In the event of the office of the President falling vacant during its term, due to death, resignation, or any other cause, the National Council shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to fill it for the remainder of the term.
- 13.4 The President, on retiring, shall automatically become a member of National Council and the Board for the ensuing two years.
- 13.5 Only persons who have been affiliated members of the Organisation for a period of at least three years prior to the date of election shall be eligible as candidates for the office of the President.

Vice-Presidents

- 13.6 There shall be three Vice-Presidents.
- 13.7 One Vice-President shall be elected from each of the three Regions being the Munster Region; the North West Region and the Leinster Region, as outlined in Article 10.1, and shall hold office for the same period as the President and shall have full power to speak and vote at National Council meetings.
- 13.8 The Vice-Presidents shall retire at the AGM of the second year after their election.
- 13.9 They shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Each Vice-President shall be ordinarily resident in the Region he shall represent.
- 13.10 Only persons who have been affiliated members of the Organisation for a period of at least three years prior to the date of election shall be eligible as candidates for the office of the Vice-President.

14. Board of Directors

- 14.1 As outlined in the Macra na Feirme CLG Constitution, the Members of National Council shall, at the AGM, appoint by ballot, directors from its own members as follows: an Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and such other members not exceeding three in number who shall, together with the President, three Vice-Presidents, the Immediate past-President, and three Independent Non-Executive Directors form the Board of Directors of Macra na Feirme CLG, and they will take office from the first board meeting after the AGM.
- 14.2 The detail of the role of the National Chair and Honorary Secretary are addressed in the Constitution.

Honorary Treasurer

- 14.3 The Honorary Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee established by the Board of Directors under the Constitution.
- 14.4 He shall render a full and clear account at each audit and whenever required by the National Council or Board of Directors duly authorised by it.
- 14.5 He shall carry out all such other duties as he may be directed from time to time by the National Council or Board of Directors duly authorised by it and he shall on all occasions in the execution of his office act under the superintendence, control and direction of the National Council or by the Board of Directors duly authorised by it.
- 14.6 He may be supported in providing financial reports to the Board of Directors or National Council by a suitably qualified member of staff.

15. Dissolution

- 15.1 The dissolution of Macra na Feirme can occur only by a ballot of clubs, with 75% of voting clubs, voting in favour of the dissolution. If, upon such dissolution, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatever of the national organisation the same shall be given to an organisation of similar objectives as Macra na Feirme.

16. Mode of Election of National President, Vice-Presidents and National Council

- 16.1 The Returning Officer at an election for the office of President, Vice-Presidents and ordinary members of the National Council shall be the President at the time or such other person as he shall appoint and he may appoint such persons to assist in the election as he may deem necessary.
- 16.2 The Seal of the Company must adorn a paper used in nomination and ballot papers for the election of the National President, Vice-Presidents, and National Council members.
- 16.3 Every candidate for election to the office of President shall be nominated by at least four clubs. The secretary of the nominating club shall, before sending forward such nomination, obtain the consent of the person so nominated to act if elected. Each nomination paper shall reach the Returning Officer of the organisation on or before the 4th March or three weeks after date of issue from National Office, whichever is the later, in the year of election.
- 16.4 Every candidate for election to the office of Vice-President shall be nominated by at least four clubs within his Region. The Secretary of the nominating club shall, before sending forward such nomination, obtain the written consent of the person so nominated to act if elected. Each nomination paper shall reach the Returning Officer on

- or before the 4th March or three weeks after the date of the issue from National Office, whichever is the later, in the year of election.
- 16.5 Every candidate for election to membership of the National Council shall be nominated by at least one club. The secretary of the nominating club shall, before sending forward such nomination, obtain the written consent of the person so nominated to act if elected. Each nomination paper shall reach the Returning Officer on or before the 4th March or three weeks after the date of issue from National Office, whichever is the later, in the year of election.
- 16.6 The Returning Officer shall decide on the validity of every nomination paper and his decision shall be final.
- 16.7 If one person only is nominated for President, the Returning Officer shall forthwith without election declare that person elected to the position for the ensuing term.
- 16.8 In the event of only one person being nominated for any one Region for the position of Vice-President, the Returning Officer shall forthwith, without election, declare such person elected for the ensuing term.
- 16.9 In the event of one person only being nominated for any one county for membership of the National Council, the Returning Officer shall forthwith, without election, declare such person elected for the ensuing term.
- 16.10 A person shall only be eligible for nomination to one position at any one time. If the nomination papers in respect of two or more positions are signed by the same candidate he shall be deemed to have accepted the nomination to the higher officership and shall not be eligible for election to the other officership.
- 16.11 If the elections are contested the Returning Officer shall cause ballot papers to be printed and shall on or before the 14th March or no more than two weeks after the close of nominations in the year of election send one of each such paper to each club.
- 16.12 If in the opinion of the National Council a candidate for election to National officership breaches the election rules agreed each year by the National Council and published to candidates that candidate shall be automatically disqualified from holding office at any level in the Organisation. Such a decision shall require a two-thirds majority of National Council members present and voting.
- 16.13 Members of National Council are required to attend specific induction training related to their role.
- 16.14 In the event of all nominees for the office of National President or for the office of Vice-President withdrawing after close of nominations new nomination papers shall be issued to club secretaries and the intervals provided for in Rule 16.3, Rule 16.4, Rule 16.11 and Rule 16.14 shall apply.

- 16.15 The poll or election shall take place on the 4th day of April or three weeks after the issue of ballot papers, whichever is the later, in each year. The Returning Officer shall provide ballot box(es). The Returning Officer shall attend at such place as the Board of Directors duly authorised by it, shall have appointed on the said date from 11 o'clock a.m. to 1 o'clock p.m.
- 16.16 Each club desiring to vote shall, by representative, hand its voting papers for such elections to the Returning Officer and any club not finding it convenient to have a representative in attendance, and desiring to vote for any election, shall be at liberty to enclose the voting papers for such election in the envelopes forwarded to it for that election by the Returning Officer.
- 16.17 On the outside of this envelope an identification number of each club shall be printed. Envelopes must be delivered to the Returning Officer not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on the polling day.
- 16.18 The Returning Officer shall cause the envelopes to be opened in public and the voting paper after sorting, to be placed in the appropriate bundle by election.
- 16.19 The Returning Officer shall have ascertained that such club is entitled to vote and the envelopes shall be preserved until after declaration of the poll.
- 16.20 The Returning Officer shall be sole judge to decide on the admissibility of each voting paper, and his/her decision is final.
- 16.21 The election of members of the National Council shall be carried out in alternate years to the election of Presidents and Vice – Presidents.
- 16.22 The Returning Officer will cause all ballot papers to be destroyed 14 days after the declaration of a successful candidate by the Returning Officer.
- 16.23 The mode of election shall be based on the Proportional Representation Single Transferable Vote (PRSTV) model, with election rules to be issued by National Council.
- 16.24 As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the Returning Officer shall proceed to count the votes, at which counting any member of the organisation may be present. Upon the completion of the counting, the Returning Officer, shall declare the candidate for the election to the office of President, the three candidates for the election to the office of Vice-President and the candidate for each county for election to membership of the National Council securing the greatest number of votes based on the PRSTV system, elected to the respective officership for the ensuing term.
- 16.25 If after the counting and distribution of all votes cast, two or more candidates for any position secure an equal number of votes, the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which of them shall be elected.
- 16.26 If, after the declaration of the result of the election any county in which a properly affiliated club is situate shall not have secured representation on the National Council,

the candidates elected shall form the National Council and shall have power to co-opt one person to the National Council for each such county not having so secured representation as aforesaid. On the completion of the elections the President shall be responsible for the notification of the newly elected officers.

16.27 In the case of death or resignation of any of the Vice-Presidents or any County Representative on the National Council, a by-election shall be held within two months of the next meeting of the National Council following the death or resignation.

17. Public Office

17.1 Members of the Parliament of the European Union, Dáil Eireann, Seanad Eireann and County or City Councils or consenting nominated candidates for any of these bodies shall be eligible for membership of Macra na Feirme but cannot hold and shall not be eligible for any position within Macra na Feirme as officer or staff member whether at club, county or national level during election and period in office if elected and for two years subsequent to relinquishing public office. Defeated candidates shall continue to be similarly excluded from any position in Macra na Feirme for a period of two years subsequent to the date of the relevant election.

17.2 An intending candidate for election to any of the bodies mentioned in Rule 17.1 shall resign from any officership or staff position he holds in Macra na Feirme at club, County or National level from the time of his nomination as a candidate for such election.

17.3 The National Council may waive Rule 17.1 and Rule 17.2 in the event that it decides to nominate a Macra na Feirme officer or staff member for election to public office in order to highlight a particular issue or particular issues.

18. Volunteers & Staff

18.1 The Board of Directors may appoint and remunerate a Chief Executive of the Organisation on such terms and conditions as may from time to time be determined. The Chief Executive may be dismissed during his term of office for good cause shown and by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at a Board meeting specially convened to consider a dismissal resolution of which 14 clear days notice shall have been given in writing.

18.2 The Chief Executive shall be responsible to the Board for the day to day business of the organisation and the direction of all staff of the organisation.

18.3 The Chief Executive shall, ex officio, have the right to attend all meetings of the National Council, Board and their sub-committees. He shall have speaking rights, but no voting rights.

18.4 The Board will ensure that a charter exists between staff & volunteers.

19. Miscellaneous

Service of Notice

- 19.1 Any notice or other document required or authorised by these rules to be served on a club may be so served by sending the same by prepaid post addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Club at his address and the date of service shall be the day following the date of posting.
- 19.2 Notice may be issued by postal service, email or other form of modern communications in use, where appropriate.

Saving clause as to Sundays

- 19.3 When anything is required by these rules to be done on any date which falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Bank Holiday such thing shall be done on the following working day.

National Office

- 19.4 The National Office of the organisation shall be in the Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12, D12 YXW5 until otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

20. Representatives to Outside Bodies

- 20.1 No representative of Macra na Feirme shall serve more than five years from the date of first appointment representing the organisation on an outside body.

21. Alteration of Bye-laws

- 21.1 No alteration or addition to these bye-laws shall be made, except with the agreement of not less than two-thirds of the members of National Council, present and voting in favour of such alteration or addition, at a General Meeting, except for items listed in Rule 21.3.
- 21.2 Proposals to amend, alter or add to these bye-laws, except for Rule 21.3, shall only be put to a ballot, with the agreement of not less than two thirds of the members of the National Council present and voting.

Alterations which require a Referendum of Clubs

- 21.3 Proposals to amend, alter or add to the following items shall only be put to a ballot of clubs, by way of club referendum, with the agreement of not less than two thirds of the Members of National Council present and voting. These include:
- a) the voluntary solvent winding up of the Company;
 - b) the merger with another Organisation;
 - c) changing of the common name by which the Organisation is known under the bye-laws;

- d) the manner in which National Council is elected in the bye laws and the Constitution;
- e) the manner in which the president and vice presidents are elected in the bye laws of the Constitution;
- f) Any other proposed amendment that receives a two-thirds majority of National Council, present and voting in favour of holding a referendum.

21.4 Postal ballots on changes to these rules shall at all times allow at least three weeks from the date of issue of the proposed amendment from National Office to the polling date.

21.5 A referendum shall be deemed to have passed if it secures a two thirds majority of clubs eligible and voting.

22. Interpretation

22.1 Where a conflict of interpretation arises between this bye-laws and the Constitution of Macra na Feirme CLG, the interpretation of the Constitution shall prevail.

22.2 From the date of coming into force, these rules and bye-laws shall supersede any previous rules.