

DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND RULES

CONSTITUTION

1) OBJECT

To inform public opinion in Great Britain with a view to securing the abolition of Partition, the Restoration of the Six Counties, and a Free and United Ireland.

2) MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the League shall be open to persons who accept the Constitution and undertake to support the objects of the League. The Executive Committee, however, is vested with discretionary power to ~~discontinue~~ the membership of any individual.

3) GENERAL

The ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE shall use only constitutional and legal means.

4) THE ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE shall not identify itself with any political party. Membership of the League is open to members of all political parties.

5) THE ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE is non-sectarian.

RULES

The Organisation of the Anti-Partition of Ireland League (London) shall be constituted and governed in accordance with the following rules:-

1) The Anti-Partition League shall consist of a General Council, and Executive Committee, and Branches.

2) The Supreme Governing and Legislative Body of the Organisation shall

consist of :

- a) A President and Vice-Presidents:
 - B) Officers as follows: A Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and the Organising Secretary;
 - c) The Hon. Secretaries of existing branches of the League;
 - d) Delegates from each existing branch of the League in the proportion of one delegates for every 20 members or major part thereof.
- 3) The President and Vice-Presidents shall be persons whose public support in the opinion of the Council, is likely to be of service to the League, They shall hold office for one year. Candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency shall be chosen by the Exec. ^{Committee} ~~Council~~ and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the General Council.
 - 4) The General Council shall meet quarterly and shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary after consultation with the Executive Committee. Fourteen (14) days clear notice of each quarterly meeting shall be given to all members.
 - 5) Resolutions for the consideration of the General Council at a quarterly meeting must be received in writing at least 7 clear days before the date on which such meeting is to be held.
 - 6) The Annual Meeting of the General Council shall take place in the month of Nov. of each year. At least twenty-eight days notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given by Hon. Sec. to all members and an Agenda shall be sent to all members at least seven (7) clear days before the Annual Meeting.
 - 7) Resolutions for the consideration of the General Council at its Annual Meeting, and nominations for election as officers of the General Council must be received by the Hon. Sec. at least fourteen (14) clear days before the Annual Meeting.
 - 8) The General Council at each Annual Meeting shall elect two qualified Auditors from among members of the League who shall present a report at the next Annual Meeting.

- 9) The quorum for a meeting of the General Council shall be one-third of the total membership thereof.
- 10) Casual vacancies among Vice-Presidents and Officers shall be filled at the following quarterly meeting of the General Council.

11) EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL

An Extraordinary Meeting of the General Council shall be summoned for aspecial purpose stated on a requisition endorsed by a simple majority of the membership of the General Council.

Seven (7) clear days notice of such Extraordinary Meeting shall be given to all members of the General Council.

12) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the General Council and shall consist of the following who shall take office immediately on election:-

- a) Officers of the General Council, who shall meet weekly.
- b) The Hon. Secretaries of existing branches of the League (or deputies who must be members of the General Council)
- c) Six members of the General Council elected by that body at its Annual Meeting.

- 13) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each month.
- 14) At least seven days clear notice must be given to the members for all meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 15) Resolutions for the consideration of the Executive Committee must be received in writing by the Hon. Sec. at least 3 days before such meeting of the Executive Committee.
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- 16) All Resolutions to the Executive Committee must be submitted through Branches.
- 17) The Executive Committee shall have discretionary power to determine

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the membership of any of its members resigning or failing to attend three consecutive meetings, or for any further sufficient reason, and to appoint or co-opt substitutes, subject to ratification by the General Council at its next meeting.

18) The Quorum for all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be one third of the total membership thereof.

RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

19) Membership is obtainable through a Branch only. A person becomes a member of the Anti-Partition of Ireland League when he or she signs the written declaration of acceptance of the Constitution and pays the minimum subscription of 1/ (One shilling)

20) A person whose membership of a Branch has been discontinued shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee and then, if necessary, to the General Council.

21) A person shall cease to be a member of the League when he or she resigns or when his or her membership is discontinued in accordance with the Rules.

22) A person who has already been a member of one Branch shall not be accepted as a member of another Branch without the written consent (signed by the Hon. Sec.) of his or her former Branch.

23) No person may be a member of two or more Branches at the same time.

24) Members of a Branch may visit other Branch meetings but may not vote at such meetings.

25) BRANCHES

A Branch of the League shall consist of not less than ten members.

26) The names of new Branches may be added to the Register of Branches at the Central Office from time to time on receipt by the Hon. Sec. of the Executive Committee of an application for registration signed by at least the minimum number of members necessary to form a Branch, and a report that a meeting of the Branch had been held and Officers elected.

- 27) A Branch shall have power, at a duly convened meeting, to make regulations binding on its members provided such regulations are not contrary to the Rules of the Organisation and to the Constitution.
- 28) Each Branch shall hold an Annual Meeting to elect a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Auditors and such other Officers and Committees as are considered necessary for the ensuing year. Casual vacancies may be filled at any monthly meeting.
- 29) Each Branch shall elect delegates for the ensuing year to the General Council upon receipt of notice of the Annual Meeting of the General Council from the Hon. Secretary.
- 30) All officers delegates and members of Branch Committees must be members of that Branch.
- 31) A Branch shall have power to impose weekly subscriptions or occasional levies on its members for the purpose of the Branch.
- 32) The Executive Committee shall have power to dissolve any Branch, which, in its opinion, has been guilty of a violation of the Rules or in which the number of members is less than that required by Rule 25.

33) DUTIES OF BRANCHES

It shall be the duty of the Branches and of the Members thereof to:

- a) Abide by the spirit of the Constitution of the League, and obey the Rules.
- b) Promote the interests of the League in its area and secure public support for its programme.
- c) Endeavour to increase its membership to include all supporters of the cause of Anti-Partition in its area.
- d) Carry out loyally such specific instructions as are from time to time transmitted to it from the bodies with authority to do so.

34) SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM BRANCHES

On or before a specified date in each month to be determined by the Executive Committee each Branch shall pay to the Hon. Treasurer of the Executive Committee all monies received by the Branch as

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subscription fees from members and, in addition, all monies over \$2 remaining to the credit of the Branch on such specified date.

35) DUTIES OF BRANCH CHAIRMAN

It shall be the duty of the Chairman of each branch;

- a) To see that meetings of the Branch are held regularly and at least once monthly and that such meetings are properly conducted.
- b) To see that the Officers of the Branch and any Committees appointed by the Branch for special purposes fulfil the duties allotted to them.
- c) To see that all resolutions passed by the Branch are put into effect.

36) DUTIES OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Branch:

- a) To convene all meetings of the Branch and of Branch Committees.
- b) To compile and forward all reports required by those with authority to request them.
- c) To keep up to date the Branch roll of members and the minutes of meetings.
- d) To carry out such specific duties as may from time to time be required of him.

37) DUTIES OF BRANCH TREASURERS

- a) To receive and forward to the Hon. Treasurer of the General Council all subscription fees received from members and such monthly contributions as are specified by Rule 34.
- b) To be responsible for the collection and custody of Branch funds and to disburse them as directed by the Branch.
- c) To submit at each Annual Meeting of the Branch a duly audited statement of the receipts and payments made by him during the year.

38) ALTERATION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES

The Constitution and Rules may only be altered or amended at the Annual Meeting of the General Council by resolution in writing to Hon. Sec. to be received at least 14 days before the date on which The Annual Meeting is to be held.

PROVISIONAL ARTICLES

The Constitution and Rules of the Anti-Partition of Ireland League hereinbefore defined shall come into force immediately upon ratification by a joint meeting of members of the Provisional Council and four delegates from each Branch in accordance with the terms of reference, but the officers of the General Council holding office at the time of ratification of the Constitution and Rules shall continue in office until the first Annual Meeting of the General Council when the election of officers in accordance with the above rules shall take place.

The Vice-Presidents of the General Council to be elected under Art 2 (a) of this Constitution at the first Annual Meeting of the General Council shall be those members of the existing Prov. Council who are not delegates from a Branch and who have attended at least three meetings of the Provisional Council.