



At the Council Chamber, Whitehall

THE 3rd DAY OF JULY 2026

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL

The Privy Council has approved the amendments to the Bye Laws of The Scout Association as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Richard Tilbrook, CVO

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYE LAWS OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

1. **Delete** Bye Law 3 and **substitute**:

“3. The Council shall consist of six hundred members at the most and three hundred at the least who shall be appointed or elected as prescribed below.

(a) Ex-Officio Members:

- i. The President or both of the Joint Presidents
- ii. The Chief Scout
- iii. The Treasurer
- iv. The UK Chief Volunteer
- v. The Chief Executive
- vi. The Chief Volunteer for International
- vii. The Chairs of the national boards of the Association

- viii. Any person holding appointment as a Chief Volunteer or a role designated as a National Commissioner by the Board of Trustees
- ix. The County Lead Volunteers of the United Kingdom
- x. The Country and County Youth Leads of the United Kingdom
- xi. The Chair and Members of the Board of Trustees

A Chief Commissioner of a British Overseas Territory may by notice in writing under the Chief Commissioner's hand delivered to the Association at its Head Office appoint a person [whether or not a member of the Council] to be the Chief Commissioner's representative.

Every such representative who shall have communicated to the Association an address in the United Kingdom shall be entitled to the notice and agenda of meetings of the Council (which shall be sent in accordance with Bye Law 49) and to attend and vote as a member at such meeting at which the appointing Chief Commissioner is not personally present and at such meeting to have and exercise all the powers, rights, duties and authorities of the appointing Chief Commissioner.

Provided always that a person so appointed shall not thereby acquire any eligibility for membership of the Board that the representative would not otherwise possess.

Any such Commissioner may by similar notice revoke any such appointment.

If such a Commissioner shall die or cease to hold office the appointment of a representative shall not be deemed to have been thereby determined.

(b) Nominated Members:

- i. A representative or representatives – without age restriction – nominated from time to time by each County Scout Council in the United Kingdom on the basis of one representative for every 10,000 or part of 10,000 of the total membership of the Scout Movement in the County as shown in the Annual Census return made by the County to the Head Office of the Association for the year immediately preceding the date of such nomination. The representative must be a Member or Associate Member of the Association in the nominating County at the time of nomination and throughout their term in office.
- ii. A representative or representatives (18–24) nominated from time to time by each County Scout Council in the United Kingdom on the basis of one representative for every 10,000 or part of 10,000 of the total membership of the Scout Movement in the County as shown in the Annual Census return made by the County to the Head Office of the Association for the year

immediately preceding the date of such nomination. The representative (18–24) must be a Member or Associate Member of the Association in the nominating County (at the time of nomination and throughout their term in office) and on nomination must have passed their 18th birthday but not reached their 24th birthday.

- iii. A representative or representatives nominated from time to time by the Scout Council of each British Overseas Territory of the Association on the same basis as in [i] and [ii] in respect of the total membership of the British Overseas Territory shown in the Annual Census made by the British Overseas Territory to the Head Office of the Association for the year immediately preceding the date of such nomination. The representative must be a Member or Associate Member of the Association in the nominating British Overseas Territory at the time of nomination and throughout their term in office.
- iv. A County Scout Council or the Scout Council of a British Overseas Territory may if it so desires nominate for membership of the Council one of its salaried officials, but in no case shall any person in the full-time employment of the Association itself be eligible for such nomination.
- v. The full name and addresses of all persons nominated in accordance with b[i]-[iii] above and the date of the meeting of the County Scout Council or Scout Council of the British Overseas Territory [as the case may be] at which the nomination was approved must be notified in writing to the Association at its Head Office by the person for the time being acting as Secretary of the County Scout Council or Scout Council of a British Overseas Territory [as the case may be] but the Association shall not be under any obligation to ascertain whether the person giving such notification is in fact authorised to do so.
- vi. A person so nominated for membership of the Council shall be deemed to become a member on the twenty-eighth day following the receipt by the Association of such notification as aforesaid. Thereafter except as provided for in Bye Law 42 and Bye Law 3(b)vii below a Nominated Member shall remain such a member for a period of three years from the date having become such a member or until some other person shall have been previously been nominated and become the replacement.
- vii. A County representative (18-24) nominated in accordance with b[ii] or b[iii] above shall be eligible to serve until the third AGM in their nominating County following their nomination in accordance with b[ii] or [iii] above or until some other person is nominated and appointed as the County's representative (18-24), whichever is earlier.
- viii. Byelaws 3(b)[i] and [ii] shall not apply to Northern Ireland, which shall instead nominate representatives via the national board of Northern Ireland up to (unless otherwise agreed by the Board of Trustees) a maximum of 14

Nominated Members, 50% of which at the time of their nomination must be between the ages of 18 and 24. The representative must be a Member or Associate Member of the Association in Northern Ireland at the time of nomination and throughout their term in office. (For the avoidance of doubt, Byelaws 3(b)[iv], [v] and [vii] shall also not apply to Northern Ireland).

- ix. In the absence of a County structure within a particular geographic area, the Board of Trustees may agree variations to Byelaws 3(b)[i] to [vii] with the relevant national board to make alternative provision for the nomination of Nominated Members.

(c) Elected Members

- i. Not more than 60 persons elected from time to time by the Council at an Annual General Meeting.
 - ii. Of the Elected Members not more than three may be persons in the full-time paid employment of the Association.
 - iii. Every Elected Member of the Council shall retire from office at the Annual General Meeting in the third year after the year in which the Elected Member was elected but shall be eligible for re-election.
 - iv. No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council unless that person has been proposed and seconded by members of the Council who have at least 28 days before the meeting at which such a proposal is to be made given to the Association at its Head Office notice in writing of their intention to do so.
 - v. An Elected Member may be removed or suspended by the Board (or by any other person or committee appointed by the Board to consider the matter) where this is considered to be in the best interests of the Association. Such removal/suspension may not be passed unless the Elected Member has been given at least 14 days' notice of the proposed removal/suspension, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal/suspension, and has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by or making written representations to [the Board, or to any other person or committee appointed by the Board to consider the matter)]. In exceptional circumstances, the notice requirement may be waived where the Board (or any person or committee appointed by the Board to consider the matter) is satisfied that it is necessary to do so.”.
2. In Bye Laws 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 43 *delete* “Chairman” and *substitute* “Chair” wherever it occurs.

3. **Delete** Bye Law 8 and **substitute**:

“8. The notice of the Annual General Meeting shall either be accompanied by the Annual Report of the Board and the accounts; or, the report and accounts shall be provided to the members of the Council at least twenty-eight days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Failure to provide the report and accounts to the Council through no fault of the Association shall not invalidate the holding of the Annual General Meeting so long as the said documents are circulated to the Council at least twenty-one days before the meeting.”.

4. In Bye Law 16 **delete** “an Overseas Branch” and **substitute** “a British Overseas Territory”.

5. **Delete** Bye Law 22(d) and **substitute**:

“(d) Ex-Officio Members of the Board

The UK Chief Volunteer, the UK Youth Lead and the Chief Executive.”.

6. In Bye Law 42(f) after “possess the necessary qualification” **insert** “or meet the necessary criteria”.