

# Association Rules

## Proposed changes to RULES OF ASSOCIATION 2023 annotations in bold font

1. That this Society shall be called the "Irish Association of Change Ringers".
2. That it shall have as its objectives the promotion of ringing Church Bells for Divine Service and the study of scientific change ringing.
3. That it shall consist of Life, Ringing and **Non-Resident Members Non-Resident Life Members**.
4. That a Life Member shall be a person whom the Association desires to honour for exceptional services rendered by him or her to the exercise.
5. That a Ringing Member (being a person who is capable of ringing a bell unassisted in rounds) shall pay an annual subscription to the District Treasurer. The annual subscription shall consist of a District and an Association levy; the amount for the Association shall be set by the Executive Council and that for the District by a General Meeting of the District.

~~6. That a Non-Resident Member (being a person who, upon leaving the jurisdiction of the Association, has decided to continue to pay their annual membership subscription through their tower) shall have the following rights:~~

- ~~a. To be recorded in the annual report as a member of that tower with the suffix (NRM) after their name.~~
- ~~b. To attend and speak but not vote at District AGMs.~~
- ~~c. To qualify to take part in competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association (i.e. Murphy Cup) classified as a visitor for their chosen tower.~~

~~NRMs may not hold a District or Association office.~~

~~Only Ringing Members may become NRMs. Should an NRM fail to pay the annual subscription then Rule 9 will automatically apply.~~

That any Ringing Member taking up residence outside the jurisdiction of the Association will automatically become a Non Resident Life Member (NRLM) ~~unless they decide to take up, at that time, the opportunity provided in Rule 6.~~ Any ringer normally resident outside the jurisdiction of the Association may become an NRLM on payment of the appropriate fee, which shall be determined by the Executive Council. NRLMs may also be elected according to rule 24 relating to peal ringing.

7. That persons may be admitted as Ringing Members at any District Committee or District Annual Meeting. Proposals for Life Membership must reach the General Secretary not less than 14 days before the holding of the Executive Council with the reasons for such nominations.
8. That the name of any Ringing Member ~~two years in arrears~~ shall be removed from the books, but may be re-instated at the discretion of the District Committee.
- ~~9. That any Ringing Member taking up residence outside the jurisdiction of the Association will automatically become a Non-Resident Life Member (NRLM) unless they decide to take up, at~~

~~that time, the opportunity provided in Rule 6. Any ringer normally resident outside the jurisdiction of the Association may become an NRLM on payment of the appropriate fee, which shall be determined by the Executive Council.~~

10. That all subscriptions shall be due on 1st January in each year for that year.
11. That the management and property of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of a President, Ringing Master, General Secretary, General Treasurer and Librarian. In addition, each District shall be represented by a Vice President, Ringing Master, Secretary and representative for each 50 members or part thereof. No Association Officer shall hold the same post for more than five consecutive years, with the exception of the Association Librarian who may be re-elected for a sixth year and subsequent years.
12. That the Executive Council shall have power and control over all the Association's funds.
13. ~~That the Association be affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and loyally abide by its Rules and Decisions. Each District shall nominate one representative for election to the CCCBR and notify the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual meeting of the Executive Council. In the event of a nil return from a District the Executive Council will elect a representative.~~  
That the Association be affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and **loyally** abide by its Rules and Decisions. Each District shall nominate at least one representative, annually, for election to the CCCBR and notify the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General meeting of the Executive Council. In the event of a nil return from a District the Executive Council will elect a representative. The Council will then elect to the CCCBR the number of CCCBR representatives that the IACR is entitled to have. There is no restriction on the number of yearly terms CCCBR representatives can serve.
14. That all nominations for the offices of President, Master, Librarian, General Secretary and General Treasurer shall be in the hands of the General Secretary at least 14 days before the **Annual General Meeting** of the Executive Council. **The Executive Council may suggest potential nominations to the District Meetings if such suggestions are made at the February meeting of the Executive Council. The nominations received by the General Secretary shall be considered by the Executive Council at its Annual General meeting (held in May),** and in the event of their accepting more than one nomination for any office a ballot of those present **who are** entitled to vote shall decide. Incoming officers shall take up their positions on 1st January of the year following their election.
15. That the Master, who shall be a change-ringer, shall have control of the ringing at all Executive and General Meetings **of the Association.**
16. That the Annual Council Meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the last of the three District Annual Meetings for the purpose of the election of officers and for the transaction of the business of the Association.
17. That the General Secretary shall distribute printed copies of the Annual Reports and State- ments of all Accounts as soon as possible after 31 January in each year, and in any case be- fore the District Annual Meeting.
18. That three Districts shall be **maintained as** established and the names of the Districts shall be "Northern" (embodying all affiliated societies in Northern Ireland), "Eastern" (embodying all affiliated Societies in Leinster except Kilkenny and "Southern" (embodying all Societies in Munster with Kilkenny). The Executive Council, bearing in mind the geographical position of the various Societies, shall decide in which District they shall be affiliated.
19. That each District shall manage its own affairs in all matters save and except where otherwise provided for in these rules, or when they affect the principles and well-being of the Association, in

which case the Executive Council shall have power to intervene.

20. That each District shall hold at least two meetings in each year. The election of District Officers shall take place at the District Annual Meetings only.
21. That no alteration or addition to these rules shall be made except at the Annual Council Meeting. Particulars of a proposed alteration or addition shall be notified (in writing) to the General Secretary not later than 1 February, who shall distribute such particulars to the District Secretaries for discussion at the various District Annual Meetings.

## **RINGING OF PEALS**

22. That Peals rung for the Association shall comply with the Rules and Decisions of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers relating to Peals.
23. That all ringers taking part in Peal attempts for the Association must be members of the Association.
24. That non-members wishing to ring Peals for the Association must be proposed by one member and seconded by another prior to the Peal attempt. The name of any newly elected member, proposer and seconder, together with the relevant subscription, should be sent to the General Secretary within one month of the Peal attempt, **and be added to the list of NRLMs.**
25. That a Peal Fee which will be determined by the Executive Council, be forwarded to the General Secretary. This Peal Fee is to be lodged in the Bell Restoration Fund.
26. That details of all Peals should be sent to the General Secretary within one month of the Peal being rung.
27. **That** should any of the above rules not be complied with, the Association may choose not to accept the Peal.

## **BELL RESTORATION FUND**

1. **That** the Bell Restoration Fund of the Irish Association of Change Ringers exists to make donations towards the cost of restorations and the transfer of redundant rings of bells.
2. **That** grants shall be considered only in the case of applications made by churches in Ireland where bells are, or will be, rung by teams of ringers.
3. **That** the fund shall comprise that sum existing on 1 June 1993, augmented annually by the Executive Council. The balance of the fund shall not be allowed to fall below £400.
4. ~~It is strongly recommended that any work grant aided by the Bell Restoration Fund is conducted by a professional bellhanger.~~ **That any work grant aided by the Bell Restoration Fund must be conducted / overseen by a professional bellhanging company.**
5. **That** the decision to make grants towards the restoration of rings of bells shall be made by the Executive Council on receipt of a written request from the local Church Authorities. If a grant is pledged, the General Treasurer will make payment following the receipt of a certificate of completion of the work.
6. **That** any grant not claimed after three years of it being pledged shall be considered void.
7. **That** all decisions by the Executive Council in regard to these rules shall be considered binding and final.

## **MURPHY CUP COMPETITION**

1. That a competition shall be held annually in the three Districts and the qualifying teams from each District to compete for the Murphy Cup. For every three teams, or part thereof, participating in the District competition, one shall qualify.
2. That the Murphy Cup shall be held on a date to be decided by the Executive Council.
3. That the Murphy Cup shall be awarded to the Society producing the best performance in the opinion of the judges. Judging shall be in accordance with guidelines as approved by the Executive Council **take account of rules 14, 15 and 16 below.**
4. That the Ringing Master shall select the bells, ensuring that the competition venue is neutral, such that no Society shall have home advantage.
5. That 8 bells be the standard number rung for the test. A six bell tower shall not be required to ring more than six bells. A five bell tower shall not be required to ring more than five bells. All teams must ring to a common Tenor.
6. That all Societies affiliated to the Irish Association shall be eligible to compete so long as all ringing in the test are life or fully paid-up ringing members as defined in Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Association Rules.
7. That any Society finding itself short for the contest may have the assistance of not more than two members in the case of a band ringing 8 bells, and not more than one member in the case of a band ringing 6 or 5 bells.
8. That the order in which teams will ring shall be decided by lot in the presence of the Ringing Master and the Captains of all teams.
9. That no member shall ring for two teams in the same competition.
10. That call changes or scientific change-ringing may be rung.
11. That bands ringing call changes shall ring at least thirty different changes
12. That change-ringing bands shall ring a minimum of two hundred and ten changes of which at least seventy must be different.
13. That each band shall be allowed the use of the bells for fifteen minutes. They shall be allowed practice rings and to adjust ropes. The treble shall then be struck handstroke and backstroke and then the band shall ring ten minutes for the test piece. Only the test piece shall be judged.
14. **That** for teams ringing an open lead then the handstroke gap shall be consistent.
15. **That** for teams ringing a closed lead, the lead shall be consistently on the next beat after that of the last bell.
16. That for any bell not set at the end of the test, no penalty will be incurred.
17. That any band breaking down **is** to be counted out.
18. That the President and the Ringing Master shall select at least **three** Judges.

19. That the Judges shall be in some suitable position so as to hear the bells but not know who is ringing.
20. That the Ringing Master and his / **her** deputies shall take charge of the tower during the competition, receive the Judges' report and announce results at the conclusion of the competition.

## **ATTENDANCE SHIELD COMPETITION**

- 1) **That this** shield is awarded to the Society showing the best improvement in the average percentage of bells rung for Service compared to the previous year provided that a minimum standard is achieved.
- 2) **That the** percentage **attendance** is calculated on the following basis:
  - a. **That** towers are classified as **having** 5, 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells.
  - b. **That** only ringing of at least 15 minutes duration will qualify, and so only ringing of this length or more should be recorded.
  - c. **That** only one Service in the week is counted, and where there is more than one, the Service with the most bells rung by both resident members and visitors is recorded.
  - d. **That** the 48 best weeks in the year will count.
  - e. **That** the minimum standard is 60%.
  - f. **That** the competition is based on the calendar year.