



# Constitution

## 1. Name

The name of the club is the Irish Christian Hillwalking Club.

## 2. Objectives

To facilitate the joining together for hill walking of hillwalkers who wish to incorporate their Christian faith within the club.

## 3. Spiritual Foundation and Statement of Faith

The club incorporates Christian ethics as a basis of the club, and bases this upon biblical theology. The Statement of Faith clarifies the core values of the faith basis of the club, which can broadly be interpreted as an Evangelical Christian faith.

## 4. Club Activities

The club engages in hiking at different levels on weekends and on Saturday day hikes. Members are those who enjoy hiking and socializing in a Christian environment. The club is a hiking club, as opposed to a walking club, where hikes would require a reasonable level of fitness to climb hills at a reasonable pace. Hikers are required to have adequate clothing and foot-ware to enable them to hike across rough ground.

The club will be affiliated to Mountaineering Ireland. All members names will be submitted to Mountaineering Ireland for insurance purposes.

Everyone who is a paid member and goes away on weekends should be willing to offer their assistance in some way to making the weekend happen. So everyone has a role to play to foster a participatory ethic. Distribution of roles shall be agreed with the weekend organiser.

## 5. Membership

Membership of the club is open to all who are at least 17 years of age and who agree with the aims of the club, and who agree to adhere to the club constitution.

Membership is open to people who may not fully agree with the statement of faith, but agree to abide by the Christian ethical practice of the club.

Election to the executive committee by paid members of the club is open to committed Christians who can demonstrate agreement to the statement of faith.

Membership is from November to October, in line with the yearly calendar of Mountaineering Ireland.

People who have been on three hikes with the club, or who have been on one weekend away with the club would be required to become a paid member of the club before continuing to join the club on additional hikes or weekends.

Cost of membership should cover the Mountaineering Ireland membership plus enough to fund basic club activities such as web fees, marketing and training. This is decided on a year by year basis by the executive committee.

## **6. Voting and Quorums**

All fully paid members are entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM.

A motion at an AGM or EGM will be carried by a simple majority of valid votes. In the event of a tie in any vote on a motion, the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second casting vote.

A quorum for an AGM or EGM is 33% of the paid members of the club.

For executive committee meetings decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes by elected committee members, with the club chairperson having a second casting vote in the event of a tie.

Each person going forward for election to a position on the Executive Committee must be proposed and seconded at the AGM. If only one candidate is proposed and seconded for a given position, the candidate is considered elected. Voting is carried out in the same fashion as voting on a motion.

## **7. Appointment of Executive Committee**

The affairs of the club shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the following positions:

- Chairman: leads the Executive Committee and oversees the operation of the club
- Secretary: keeps details of members and activities of the club
- Treasurer: manages financial matters on behalf of the club
- Training officer: promotes the training of future leaders of hikes
- PR officer: promotes the club and its activities
- Web administrator: maintains the website of the club

Additional non-executive Committee members help with the organization of activities of the club.

All positions shall be open to election at the AGM.

The executive committee meets at least twice a year, apart from the AGM, to manage club affairs. The executive committee decisions shall be decided by majority vote as described in 6. Voting and Quorums.

## **8. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and Constitutional Amendments**

An EGM shall be held on the request of the Executive committee or by the request of a quorum of the club members.

Agendas to EGMs and AGMs shall be made available to members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Amendments to the constitution should be brought about by a motion at an AGM or EGM.

## **9. Finance**

The financial year of the club shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Accounts shall be balanced on 31<sup>st</sup> October of each year. Accounts for the financial year must be presented for adoption to the membership at the AGM.

The executive committee shall have the power to open and operate a bank account in the name of the club.

Signatories to the bank account of the club should be any three of the Chairman, Treasurer and any other member of the executive committee. Payments up to a value of €500 require one signature. Any amounts over €500 require two signatures.

The executive committee has the power to revise the membership fee.

## **10. Training**

Each year the club aims to see at least one person sponsored 50% by the club in attaining the Mountain Leadership Award. Funds will be approved by the Executive committee.

## **11. Equipment**

Club members are expected to take responsibility for themselves in providing sufficient clothing and equipment to pursue the sport of hiking in a safe and secure manner. Typical gear lists are posted on the website of the club for members to consult. The executive committee may authorize the purchase of equipment for the use of club members as it feels is suitable.