

Constitution of the Leinster Chess Union v1.3
July 2023



CONSTITUTION OF THE LEINSTER CHESS UNION

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Version History

- v1.0 27 July 2009 Electronic controlled version V.1.0 created from archived print copy by Bryan Tobin
- v1.1 14 May 2012 Exposure draft revisions to text incorporated into v1.1 for AGM prepared by LCU committee.
- v1.2 20 June 2012. v1.2 is the Constitution approved by the AGM of the Leinster Chess Union on 19 June 2012. This version is v1.1 incorporating
- v1.3 Approved by the AGM of the Leinster Chess Union on 17 July 2023 to provide for remote attendance of AGMs by clubs outside Dublin.

Name

1. The name of the Union shall be “An Cumann Ficheall Laighean” or, in the English language “The Leinster Chess Union”.

Objects

2. The primary object for which the Union is established is to encourage and promote in its functional area the study and practice of chess in all its branches, having due regard to the educational nature of chess, its general social benefit to the community as an inexpensive sport, and its accessibility to a wide variety of people, all of which are generally recognised, and to that end:-
 - To raise and accumulate funds and income and to receive subscriptions, donations and bequests.
 - To invest any monies paid to the Union in any forms of investment authorised by law as proper investments for charity funds
 - To adopt such measures for making known the activities of the Union as may seem expedient.
 - To arrange and administer winter league competitions between the clubs affiliated to the Union and to arrange such tournaments as it may decide from time to time.
 - To assume such other functions and responsibilities (if any) within its functional area as it may choose to assume after consultation with the Irish Chess Union or with clubs affiliated to the Leinster Chess Union provided always that no function or responsibility shall be assumed which shall be outside the scope of the primary object of the Union as set out above or which may prejudice the charitable status of the Union or its eligibility to receive grants from the Government or from any other body concerned with the advancement of education or culture or welfare of the community or promotion of sport.
 - To do all such other things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the charitable objects of the Union.
3. The income and property of the Union irrespective of its source shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Union as set out in this constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to the clubs affiliated to the Union; but nothing in this constitution shall prevent the payment by the Union of grants to clubs, tournament organisers, tutors or coaches to aid the promotion of the Union’s object as set out in Article 2 above. No member of the executive committee or of any sub-committee of the Union shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Union and no remuneration or other benefit in money or monies worth shall be given by the Union to any member of the executive committee or any sub-committee except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses.

Membership of the Union

4. The Union shall consist of clubs affiliated to the Union and situated in the province of Leinster or in such other places accepted by the Union and with the agreement of any relevant provincial union from time to time.

Affiliation Procedure

5. Applications from clubs for affiliation to the Union must be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary. All such applications will be duly considered by the executive committee of the Union.

Suspension and Expulsion of Clubs

6. The Union has the right to suspend or expel by due procedure clubs whose conduct has brought or may bring the Union into disrepute or who are or may be in breach of either this constitution or of the rules prescribed by the Union for any tournament or of any resolution or decision of the executive committee or of the Union which is binding on the club under the provisions of Article 23 hereof.

Club Secretaries

7. The name and address of the honorary secretary of each club must be furnished to the Union at the commencement of each season (1st September) and any subsequent changes must be notified immediately in writing.

Annual Subscription

8. The annual subscription to the Union shall be as decided by the executive committee and ratified by the Annual General Meeting, payable on affiliation and thereafter at the commencement of each season (1st September).

General Meetings

9. The Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be held not later than the end of August in each year, to receive reports of the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, and to approve the audited accounts of the Union, to elect officers and an executive committee for the ensuing year. and for the transaction of any other business. Accidental failure to advise any club of any meetings shall not invalidate the holding of that meeting.
10. Each affiliated club which shall have paid its annual subscription to the Union shall be obliged to send either one or two voting delegates to the general meetings and it may also (but shall not be bound to) send non-voting observers. The executive committee shall have the power to fine any club which does not send a voting delegate or delegates to any general meeting in breach of this rule.
11. Clubs based outside Dublin shall be entitled to attend and vote in the AGM by Zoom Videoconferencing or other similar remote means, and any such clubs will be counted for the purposes of the quorum (see Article 13).
12. Clubs based outside Dublin not in attendance at the AGM, either in person or remotely under Article 11, shall be entitled to submit their votes on motions to be considered at the AGM to the Honorary Secretary by email no later than 24 hours before the notified start time of the meeting, such votes to be included for the purposes of Article 15. Where the wording of a motion is changed during the course of a meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall decide whether this change is sufficient to invalidate email votes, or whether the intention of the motion is sufficiently unchanged such that the email vote may be considered to stand.
13. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business; the quorum shall consist of voting delegates of not less than one-third of the total number of clubs affiliated to the Union.
14. The President or, in his absence, the Vice-President shall preside at general meetings. If neither the President nor ice-President are present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or if neither of them is willing to act, the voting delegates and the members of the executive committee who are present shall elect one of their number to act as chairman.

15. All questions arising at the general meetings of the Union except matters arising under Article 30 shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting; each of the members of the executive committee present shall have the right to exercise one vote. In the event of a tie, the presiding chairman shall have a second or casting vote, save in the election of a President of the Union where a second vote will be taken. If the second vote is also tied the matter shall be resolved by lot.
16. Notice of the time and date of general meetings, and of the business to be transacted thereat, shall be circulated to affiliated clubs at least twenty-eight clear days prior to the relevant meeting in each case. Notice of motions proposed to be tabled at general meetings shall be lodged with the Honorary Secretary at least twenty one (21) clear days prior to the relevant meeting in each case, and he shall circulate them to affiliated clubs at least fourteen (14) days before the relevant meeting in each case. (Clear days shall be reckoned by excluding both the date of issuing the notice of the meeting or the motion concerned and the date of the meeting.) Nothing in this article will apply so as to contravene the requirements or operation of Article 30 of this constitution.

Extraordinary General Meeting

17. An extraordinary general meeting of the Union shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary at the request of the President or on the written requisition of not less than three affiliated clubs which shall have paid their annual subscriptions to the Union. The requisition must state the objects of the meeting and must be signed by the requisitionists and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more requisitionists.
18. The rules applicable to the general meetings shall also be applicable to the extraordinary general meetings.

The Executive Committee

19. The executive committee of the Union shall consist of a president, a vice-president, an honorary secretary, an honorary treasurer, an honorary leagues controller, one or two honorary tournament controllers, one or two honorary junior chess officers and an honorary webmaster, all to be elected annually on an individual basis and not en bloc.
20. The executive committee shall have power to constitute such sub-committees as it may consider necessary and to appoint as members of such sub-committees such persons as it may select. Members of union committees and sub-committees shall be considered to be representative of all affiliated clubs and not merely of those to which they belong.
21. The business of the Union shall be managed by the executive committee which may exercise all powers of the Union which are not by this constitution required to be exercised by the Union in general meeting subject to any directions, being not inconsistent with these articles, as may be given by the Union in general meeting; but no such direction given by the Union in general meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the executive committee which would have been valid if that direction had not been given.
22. The members of the executive committee may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by majority vote of those present and voting. In the event of a tie the presiding chairman shall have a second or casting vote. If the committee so resolves it shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting of the committee to any member of the committee who being ordinarily resident in the state is for the time being absent from the state.

23. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the executive committee unless four members of the committee are present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
24. The executive committee shall have power as often as necessary to co-opt any person to act as an acting officer or acting member of the committee if an elected officer or member of the committee shall have indicated his or her intention to resign or shall have failed to carry out (after written warning) any decision or resolution of the committee. The acting officer or acting member of the committee shall be entitled to exercise all the powers and responsibilities of the elected officer or elected member for such period of time as the committee shall think fit. The executive committee shall also have power as often as necessary to co-opt another person to act as an acting officer or acting member of the committee in place of the person originally co-opted under the provisions of this article at any time and for any reason.

Resolutions and Decisions

25. Subject to the provisions of this constitution all resolutions and decisions of the executive committee and of the Union in general meeting shall be binding upon each affiliated club. In the case of resolutions and decisions of the Union in any general meeting these shall be immediately binding on those affiliated clubs which shall have sent delegates to the general meeting and shall be binding on each of the other affiliated clubs when the Honorary Secretary have circulated the resolutions and shall decisions to the honorary secretary of each such club.

Accounts

26. Accounts of the Union shall be prepared annually by the Honorary Treasurer and a copy of the same audited by an auditor acting in an honorary capacity approved by the Union in general meeting shall be furnished to each affiliated club.

Irish Chess Union

27. The Union shall be fully represented on the Irish Chess Union. Delegates to the Irish Chess Union shall be appointed by the executive committee.

Competitions

28. Competitions (including inter-club leagues and individual tournaments) shall be held annually under the auspices of the Union. All such leagues and tournaments shall be played in accordance with the rules of the Union and with the Laws of Chess as defined in the official Code compiled by the International Chess Federation (F.I.D.E.)

Trophies

29. Each affiliated club shall be responsible for the safe keeping of any union trophy held by the club and shall be bound to make good any loss of or damage to the trophy. If there should be no competition for any such trophy in any year, that trophy shall be retained in the custody of the Honorary Secretary of the Union.

Alteration of the Constitution

30. This constitution shall not be altered except at a general meeting of the Union. Any proposed alteration shall be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary who shall circulate them to all affiliated clubs at least 28 days prior to the meeting. A three-quarters majority of delegates present and voting shall be necessary before any alteration may be carried.

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