

**CONSTITUTION OF
THE BRITISH BOY SCOUTS
AND
BRITISH GIRL SCOUTS
ASSOCIATION.**

Version 20/02/2017

PART 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

1. AIM AND BASIS.

1.1 The organisation shall be called 'The British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association', herein after called 'The Association' or 'BBS & BGS'.

Note: The Association was founded in 1909 as 'The British Boy Scouts'. From 1909 Girl Scouts were included in the membership and circa 1913 onwards the title 'The British Boys Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association' was used. In 1932 the Association adopted the title 'The Brotherhood of British Scouts' to avoid confusion with the Boy Scouts Association. The optional addition of 'and Girl Scouts Association' was also used with the 1932 title. The present title has been used interchangeably with the 1932 title since 1983.

1.2 The aim of the Association shall be to promote education of young people and to develop good citizenship among them by forming their character; training them in habits of observation, obedience and self-reliance; inculcating loyalty and thoughtfulness for others; teaching them services useful to the public, and handicrafts useful to themselves; promoting their physical, mental, and spiritual development.

1.3 The methods employed for the attainment of the aims of the Association shall be, the creation of a desired fraternity of which the young person shall be a member, which guided by adult leadership is increasingly self-governing in its successive age-groups, by opening to the young person a succession of congenial activities and achievements in a largely outdoor setting and opportunities of service to others; by putting upon the young person progressively increasing measures of responsibility for himself or herself and others so that he or she acquires competence, self reliance, character, dependability and powers both of co-operation and leadership.

1.4 The principles and practices of the Association shall be based on the Scout Promise and Scout Law.

2. THE SCOUT PROMISE AND SCOUT LAW.

2.1 On investiture, the Scout makes the following Promise:-

On my Honour I Promise,
That I will do my Best,
To do my Duty to God and the Queen,
To Help other people at all times,
and to Obey the Scout Law.

2.2 On investiture the Wolf Cub makes the following Promise:-

I Promise to do my Best,
To do my duty to God and the Queen,
To keep the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack,
And to do a Good Turn to someone every day.

2.3 On investiture the Beaver makes the following Promise:-

I Promise to do my Best,
To obey my Leaders and Parents,
And to do a Good Turn every day.

2.4 On investiture, the Senior Scout or Rover Scout makes, or reaffirms, the Scout Promise.

On the presentation of a Warrant for the first time, a Scouter makes, or re-affirms the Scout Promise in 2.1 above.

Other persons connected with the Movement may make the Scout Promise.

2.5 The Scout Law is:-

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal to the Queen, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers, and to those under him.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class or creed, the other may belong.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is kind to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster, without question.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

[A verse to remember the Scout Law :-

Trusty, Loyal and Helpful,
Brotherly, Courteous and Kind,
Obedient, Smiling and Thrifty,
Clean in Body and Mind].

2.6 The Wolf Cub Law is:-

1. The Cub gives into the Old Wolf;
2. The Cub does not give into Himself/Herself.

2.7 The Beaver Law is:-

1. The Beaver is always Busy and Bright;
2. And helps other People by doing a Good Turn Everyday.

ACCEPTED ALTERNATIVES.

1.1 The BBS & BGS Law and Pledge is based on the original Scout Promise and Scout Law given by Baden-Powell. Both are in essence the same. Therefore for uniformity throughout the BBS & BGS Groups are to use the original alternative Baden-Powell Scout Promise and Scout Law.

1.4 This permitted alternative includes the 'Outlander Promise' which modifies the 'Duty to God' clause as it applies to adherents of different faiths.

Christians, Jews and Sikhs make the standard promise. Muslims substitute 'Allah' for 'God'. Hindus substitute 'my Dhama' for 'God'. Buddhists, Taoists, Confucians substitute 'my Religion' for 'God'.

The inclusion of the Outlander Promise is subject to Part 2, Rule 2.1 (Membership) of the Constitution.

1.5 Rover crews wear the BBS/BGS Membership badge and no longer the ISC (Imperial Scout Corps) Membership badge. The Imperial Scout Corps was the original section in 1910 for the senior age section of the BBS.

3. RELIGIOUS POLICY.

3.1 The Association is first and foremost a Christian organisation and seeks to serve the Christian Church as a means of advancement of the Christian Faith. This is achieved through local Churches sponsoring BBS & BGS Groups or Companies, in which leisure, education and Christian influence are combined in an attractive way. It can provide both an activity for Christian young people and to be the means of introducing young people to the Christian Faith.

3.2 Each BBS & BGS Group will be encouraged to become a full part of the sponsoring Church's life. Also positive participation in the Church to which each member belongs will be encouraged. If a Scout does not belong to a Church, the Scouter in Charge in consultation with the Parents, must endeavour to put him/her in touch with one, which may be either, that which his/her parents belong or into which he/she may have in the past been baptised or otherwise admitted, or the Group's sponsoring Church.

3.3 The definition of 'Christian' accepted by the BBS & BGS is 'a person or a corporation of persons (Church, Fellowship etc.) who can accept the ecumenical version of the Nicene Creed' [set in Appendix A]. In a similar way the 'Christian Faith' as it applies to Part 2 Rule 2.1 of the Constitution (Membership), is defined as the teaching of any Church or Christian organisation, which is not incompatible with the Nicene Creed.

3.4 An equal opportunities policy will be exercised in relation to the welfare and opportunities the Association offers to young people. Members of faiths other than the Christian Faith may be members of the Association without any disadvantage.

3.5 Combined Church Parades of Groups, composed of various religious backgrounds may take place, provided it has the agreement of the parents concerned, and under no circumstances should a Scouter urge Scouts to attend places of worship other than those of their own form of religion.

3.6 Gatherings of Scouts, known by the term Scouts' Own, are held for the worship of God and to promote a fuller realisation of the Scout Promise and Scout Law, but these are supplementary to, and not in substitution for, the religious observances outlined in this religious policy.

4. POLITICS & MILITARISM.

4.1 The Association does not support, and is not supported by, any political party.

4.2 The Association encourages; loyalty to the Community and Nation in which we live; statesmanship above political positions; and members to make their own open enquiries in their training and exercising of citizenship, especially those of an age to vote. As a positive measure of responsible citizenship the Association encourages support to organisations that are concerned with; the welfare of young people; international friendship; the disadvantaged; and the environment, as being examples of knight errantry in practice.

4.3 The Association is not connected with any military organisation and the use of drill, military titles etc, should not be taken to imply that the Association is a military movement.

5. FINANCE.

5.1 The Association shall appoint a Treasurer who shall inform the Executive Committee at every meeting about the financial state of the Association.

5.2 An Auditor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to Audit the Associations Accounts, which shall be presented at the Association's Annual General Meeting, following the end of the financial year.

5.3 The Executive Committee shall levy annual registration fees for members under the following categories at rates set by the Executive Committee.

Corporate: Scout Groups.

Individual: Lone Scouts, Lone Senior Scouts, Lone Rover Scouts, Life Associates and Scout Officers who do not belong to a Group.

5.4 The Assets of the BBS & BGS (Monies, Equipment, Property, Uniform, Badges, and Manuals) shall only be that as held by the Executive Committee, as Trustees of the Association.

5.5 With the exception of monies, the details of all Assets held by the Trustees shall be entered into an Inventory and Terrier Log Book. Monies shall be accounted for by the Association's Treasurer.

5.6 Each Group shall adopt a Trust Deed based on guide-lines issued by the Executive Committee from time to time, provided that such Trust Deed does not infringe or alter the charitable status of the Association.

5.7 In the case of the winding up of a local Group that is registered with the Association and in the absence of instructions to the contrary, all remaining assets shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of current legislation by the Association's Executive Committee.

5.8 Donors to GHQ funds, of a fixed rate and upwards as set by the Executive Committee from time to time, are regarded as Life Associates of the British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association.

5.9 Groups and District Associations are expected to support themselves locally; but no unit may make any appeal outside of its own area.

5.10 Groups may only issue a general appeal if authorised to do so by the appropriate Commissioner.

5.11 The spirit of the Association is, that on the part of the young people themselves, money should be earned and not solicited.

5.12 Members of the Association may assist National Registered Charities in fund raising activities.

5.13 Fund raising by members shall be carried out within the law of the land.

5.14 Annual Accounts for the BBS & BGS GHQ, Extra-Provincial Organisations, District Associations and Groups must be prepared in accordance with current legislation as applicable to Charities registered with the Charity Commission. Accounts and reports must be kept for at least seven years.

5.15 Copies of the annual accounts of Groups must be submitted to the Group Sponsoring Authority without application, and to the Association's Headquarters only upon request.

5.16 Copies of the annual accounts of District Associations and Extra-Provincial Organisations must be submitted to the Association's Headquarters upon request.

PART 2 GENERAL ORGANISATION.

1. LEGAL STATUS.

1.1 The British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association was founded May 24th 1909 as the British Boy Scouts. It was founded and remains as an un-incorporated society. The Association was registered as a Charity at Law, 6th March 1984, Registration Number 288631.

1.2 The Trustees of the Charity shall consist of all members of the Executive Committee.

1.3 In the event of winding up the Association, after the payment of all Creditors;

(a) all assets shall be given to charitable Bone fide Youth organisations,

(b) all records to be deposited with The Youth Movement Archive, University College, Cardiff, with a catalogue of such items to be deposited in The Scout Association Archives to be kept alongside other records on the British Boy Scouts.

(c) the rights to the titles of the Association (Brotherhood of British Scouts, British Boy Scouts, British Girl Scouts, National Peace Scouts, Order of World Scouts Etc), shall be given to The Scout Association, and that The Scout Association be requested within their own publications to publicise the fact that the BBS & BGS has wound up, to prevent the use of the title or titles by any individual or organisation.

1.4 For the purposes of winding up all badges and regalia, peculiar to BBS & BGS are to be regarded as records.

1.5 The Constitution can be amended by the Executive Committee and only if the amendments carry 90 per cent majority, and have the approval of the Grand Scout provided that no amendment shall be made, the effect of which would cause the Association to cease to be a Charity at Law.

2. MEMBERSHIP.

2.1 The membership of the British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association shall be open to all British subjects of every class and creed, on the understanding that they accept, that the Association subscribes to the advancement of the Christian Faith.

2.2 Foreign subjects may join, on the understanding outlined in 2.1 above, but will modify the Promise by replacing the words "the Queen" with "the Country in which I am living" the words "the Queen and" are omitted from Law number 2.

2.3 The following are considered members of the Association while they are properly serving in the ranks or positions enumerated:-

(a) Members of Registered Groups. Registered; Lone Scouts, Lone Senior Scouts, Lone Rover Scouts and other Individual Members.

(b) Scouters.

(c) Persons holding Non-warranted or Honorary rank.

(d) Members of Group Committees.

(e) Members of District Associations.

(f) Members of the Executive Committee.

2.4 The Executive Committee shall have power to include or exclude from membership of the Association, any person without being called upon to assign any reason for its decision. Any decision for exclusion does not need to be final and permission may be given for further applications.

3. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

3.1 The details of Uniform, Drill, Regulations, Organisation, etc. shall be kept in accordance within the scheme laid down in the Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules, Handbooks and Manuals.

3.2 Any person desirous of acting under the Association shall conform to this Constitution, the Policy, Organisation and Rules, the Association Handbooks and Manuals, and shall do nothing to infringe the Rules and Regulations, or alter the charitable status, of the Association. Only members and if authorised, affiliated members of the Association shall have the right to wear badges or regalia peculiar to the Association.

3.3 No member of the BBS & BGS shall make any decisions, or undertake any agreements or contracts, on behalf of, or binding upon either the Executive Committee, or the Association as a whole, unless specifically authorised, in writing, to do so by the Executive Committee.

3.4 No person who has a criminal conviction (whether legally 'spent' or not) in connection with offences against young people shall be Warranted as a Scouter/Leader, or hold any position, at Headquarters, District or Group Level.

4. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS.

4.1 The Association desires co-operation with other youth organisations of similar aims.

4.2 The constitution, organisation and finances of other Scout organisations, and the Guides (previously know as the Girl Guides) are entirely separate from the British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association.

4.3 Co-operation between the Association and other organisations that are based on the original Scout Promise and Scout Law formulated by Baden-Powell will be sought as fully as possible. Members of these organisations will be accepted as brother and sister Scouts.

4.4 Where circumstances are suitable, joint training may be undertaken with youth organisations with similar aims, but with Association members acting under the regulations provided in the Associations Handbooks and Manuals.

4.5 The Association may affiliate to, and form alliances with, other organisations, if such affiliations and alliances will assist the Association in achieving its aims, and providing such affiliations are not incompatible with the charitable status of the Association.

4.6 Scout Troops/Groups/Organisations that operate under their own constitution may affiliate to the BBS & BGS, providing that such affiliations are not incompatible with the charitable status of the BBS & BGS. Each affiliated organisation may send a representative to the BBS & BGS AGM, and its members wear such BBS & BGS badges as is determined by the BBS & BGS Executive Committee.

5. GENERAL SCHEME.

5.1 The general scheme of organisation is set out in an accompanying chart.



6. GENERAL HEADQUARTERS; ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

6.1 The Executive Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting each year, providing at least 30 days notice.

6.2 All members of the Association (as defined in Part 2 Rules 2.3 (a)-(f) are entitled to attend the AGM.

6.3 The purpose of the AGM is;

(a) to formally publish the Audited Annual Accounts and a Record of the Charity's Activities for the past year.

(b) to provide contact between Scout Groups and to promote Christian fellowship and the scout spirit amongst members.

(c) to provide a forum for discussion on matters which are of interest to the Association and its development.

(d) to allow a vote on matters of importance which the Executive Committee place before the AGM.

6.5 The Agenda for each meeting shall be sent out with the notice.

6.6 Voting on any decisions of importance shall be allowed by postal ballot in lieu of attendance.

6.7 The Executive Committee may also call a Special General Meeting at any time providing 30 days notice, subject to the provisions of 6.2 to 6.6 above.

7. GENERAL HEADQUARTERS; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

7.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 members eligible to vote (see Rule 7.10 of this Section), and a maximum of 12 members. The posts held by Executive Committee members will be; Chief Commissioner, Assistant Chief Commissioner(s), Headquarters Commissioners, Treasurer, and other posts as deemed necessary. Posts may be held in plurality.

7.2 The General Government of the Association shall be invested in the Executive Committee. All debatable points should be brought before the members of that committee for final decision. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year, to decide any changes within the Handbook and Manuals, to discuss

appointments of Commissioners and Scout Officers, and to receive any suggestions that may benefit the Association.

The Chief Commissioner and any assistant Chief Commissioners shall be responsible for the day to day running of the affairs of the Association.

7.3 Committee meetings shall be convened upon the request of the Chairman with at least 21 days notice in writing to the members. The Agenda for each meeting to be sent out with the notice.

7.4 Voting on any decisions of importance to be allowed by postal ballot in lieu of attendance. A quorum to legitimise Executive Committee Meetings shall be at least 51 per cent of the members.

7.5 The tenure for Office of the Chief Commissioner shall be for life excepting resignation, and ineligibility due to Part 2 Section 3 and Rule 7.10 of this Section.

7.6 Other Executive Committee members shall cease their membership of the Executive Committee if they resign in writing, to the Chief Commissioner; or are dismissed from the Executive Committee by the Chief Commissioner in consultation with other members of the Executive Committee and the Grand Scoutmaster; or are ineligible by virtue of Part 2 Section 3 and Rule 7.10 of this Section.

7.7 Where a vacancy occurs the Chief Commissioner is appointed by the members of the Executive Committee in consultation with the Grand Scoutmaster.

7.8 Other new members of the Executive Committee may be appointed upon the agreement of the Chief Commissioner and all other Executive Committee members.

7.9 All Members or potential Members, of the Executive Committee must;

(a) be willing to maintain the specific Christian character and witness of the Association and;

(b) sign in the minute book of the Association a declaration of acceptance and a willingness to act in the trusts of the Association.

(c) in normal circumstances have served a minimum of 3 years as an Scouter of the Association.

7.10 No person can be a Member of the Executive Committee if they;

(a) are in the full time employment of the Association.

(b) have been convicted at any time of any offence involving deception or dishonesty, unless the conviction is legally regarded as spent; or have at any time been removed by the Charity Commissioners or by Court in England, Wales or Scotland from being a Trustee of a Charity because of misconduct.

(c) become incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs.

7.11 Any Member of the Executive Committee who is an undischarged bankrupt; or who has made compositions with their creditors and has not been discharged; or who is disqualified from being a company director; or who is subject to an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 shall cease to be a Trustee of the Association, but may remain on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member.

7.12 The Chief Commissioner shall be Chairman of both the AGM and the Executive Committee.

7.13 The Executive Committee may sponsor various sub-committees and Scouter Conferences from time to time to deal with specific issues within the Association, consisting of co-opted members and chaired by an Executive Committee member. Resolutions and findings will be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion and final decision.

7.14 The Executive Committee may appoint Headquarters staff, for various tasks, such as a Camp Chief, Secretaries, Publicity, Field Commissioners etc.

8. GENERAL HEADQUARTERS; GRAND SCOUTMASTER.

8.1 Upon the vacancy of the position of Grand Scoutmaster, the succeeding Grand Scoutmaster shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner in agreement with the Executive Committee.

8.2 The tenure of office shall be for life, excepting that the office of Grand Scout may be vacated by resignation, or the Executive Committee by unanimous vote in accordance with Part 2 Rule 7.4, determine the vacancy of office for a sufficiently good reason.

8.3 The qualification for appointment shall be a willingness to maintain the specific Christian character and witness of the Association and either;

(a) long service to the Scout Movement in general and/or to the Association in particular, or

(b) past membership of the Scout Movement and/or an interest in supporting the aims of, and furthering, the Movement, and

(c) sufficient age and social standing as to be able to represent and further the interests of the Scout Movement in general and the Association in particular.

(d) no impediment due to Part 2 Section 3 or Part 2 Rule 7.10.

8.4 Upon appointment, in the absence of previous membership of the Scout movement, the Grand Scoutmaster shall make the Scout Promise as in Part 1 Rule 2.1

8.5 It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner to keep the Grand Scout informed about the decisions of the Executive Committee and about the state of the Association.

8.6 The Grand Scoutmaster may attend the Association's General Meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee.

9. TRAINING SCHEME, UNIFORM AND GENERAL PROVISIONS.

9.1 The training scheme as laid down by the Association's Policy, Organisation & Rules, and Handbooks having been developed from the scheme in 'Scouting for Boys' Baden-Powell Horace Cox 1908, and from the adaptations of this scheme in; 'How to become a British Boy Scout' Cassell & Co 1909, 'Official Handbook and Guide of the Brotherhood of British Scouts', Brotherhood of British Scouts 1932, and other training literature of the Boy Scout movement in the UK.

9.2 The present scheme of training of the Association shall be that as published in the Association current Policy, Organisation and Rules and Association's Handbooks, Manuals, and as advised by the Association's Journal 'The British Scout'. No amendments or changes shall be made, that will substantially depart from that scheme. All alterations to the scheme must gain the approval of the Grand Scout.

9.3 The scheme of organisation of the Association shall be that as contained in this Constitution, the Policy, Organisation and Rules, the Association's current Handbooks, Manuals, and as advised by the Association's Journal 'The British Scout'.

9.4 The British Boy Scouts (BBS), and British Girl Scouts (BGS), are parallel divisions of the Association, each with their own distinctive Membership badge. Both follow the same training scheme and are organised under the same General Headquarters. The differences in Uniform and nomenclature are as stated in the Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules, Handbooks and Manuals. Joint activities between the British Boy Scouts, and British Girl Scouts may take place including joint/combined age section meetings with the condition that (a) Scouters of both sexes are present, except for those activities that exclusively involve those of 18 years of age and above, and (b) the young people are organised by single sex patrols. Those in direct charge of young people must be of the same sex with the exception that women may be warranted for work with those under 15 years of age, either for boys activities or for joint/combined activities with girls.

10. CORRESPONDENCE.

10.1 Correspondence shall be reduced to the minimum necessary in the conduct of the Association's affairs.

10.2 All communications to GHQ are to be addressed to the Chief Commissioner, unless otherwise directed.

10.3 All correspondence will normally follow the lines indicated by the organisational chart, except otherwise directed or in special cases or matters of extreme urgency.

10.4 All correspondence concerning the registration of Groups and the issue of Warrants for Group Scouters should be sent direct to the Chief Commissioner, except otherwise directed.

10.5 Correspondence relating to Scout matters must not be addressed to any Royal Personage, or to any Department of State, or to any Embassy or Legation at home or abroad, except through GHQ.

10.6 No member of the Association may express opinions in the public press on any matter of Scout policy or principle, or be concerned in any sound or television broadcast referring or relating to the Scout movement without previous approval of GHQ.

11. CENSUS.

11.1 Each Scout Group shall send to the Association's General Headquarters', a yearly report of the numbers of members in their Group, with the names and addresses of the Scouters.

11.2 The necessary forms and instructions will be issued without application.

PART 3 WARRANTS & APPOINTMENTS

1. ABBREVIATIONS.

AChC	=	Assistant Chief Commissioner,
ARSL	=	Assistant Rover Scout Leader,
ASM	=	Assistant Scoutmaster,
BBS	=	British Boy Scouts,
BGS	=	British Girl Scouts,
ChC	=	Chief Commissioner,
GSM	=	Group Scoutmaster,
GrSc	=	Grand Scoutmaster
HQC	=	Headquarter's Commissioner,
RSL	=	Rover Scout Leader,
SM	=	Scoutmaster.

2. APPOINTMENT OF A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS.

2.1 The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint a President and Vice Presidents as honorary positions.

3. COMMISSIONERS.

3.1 The appointment of Commissioners to aid and assist Group Scouters and to provide a link with Headquarters, will be made by the Executive Committee. They will act on behalf of the Headquarters.

3.2 All Headquarters staff rank as Honorary Commissioners.

4. ALL OTHER APPOINTMENTS.

4.1 All other appointments made shall be the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner, an appointed deputy or the appropriate Headquarters Commissioner.

4.2 Before any Warrant is issued ratifying an appointment, the Chief Commissioner, an appointed deputy or the appropriate Headquarters Commissioner shall seek to establish the applicant's bone-fides.

4.3 The application forms for Scouter Warrants shall be forwarded to the Chief Commissioners Office unless otherwise directed. No Warrant shall be issued without the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

Note: See also Part 6, Section 6 REGISTRATION OF A GROUP.

5. AGE QUALIFICATION FOR WARRANT HOLDERS.

5.1 Commissioners should be in normal Circumstances at least 30.

5.2 DSM, GSM, should be in normal circumstances at least 30.

5.3 RSL, should be at least 25. ARSL, 21.

5.4 SM, at least 21. ASM Ltn 18.

5.5 SM, for the Junior and pre-Junior sections at least 20. Assistants 18.

6. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ALL WARRANT HOLDERS.

6.1 Before a Warrant is issued the applicant should have read 'Scouting for Boys'; the 'Official Handbook and Guide of the British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association', (especially the General Conditions for Membership, the General Conditions for all Warrant Holders and General Rules: Regulations for Activities); the relevant Scout literature and Sectional Handbook (Wolf Cub, Scouts/Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts); 'Safety in Outdoor Education', published by the Department of Education and Science, HMSO; 'First Aid Manual' (joint First Aid Societies) and 'First Aid for Children Fast' published by Dorling Kindersley; relevant codes of practice for outdoor activities as appropriate.

6.2 Each Warrant Holder must have read and understood the Regulations on; Discipline, Child Abuse, and All Activities especially Hazardous Activities, as laid down in Part 9, Sections 1 - 3 of the Official Handbook.

6.3 Applicants should possess sufficient experience to perform the duties of the post for which the Warrant will be issued.

6.4 Warrants are issued on a probationary period initially for six months. Permanent issue to be ratified by the Executive Committee and continue in force, so long as the Warrant holder is registered by the annual registration.

6.5 Applicants for Group Scouter Warrants should be approved by both the Group Council, and the Sponsoring Authority, and provide two personal referees.

6.6 If a Group ceases to be registered with the Association, the Scouter Warrants associated with that Group cease to be valid.

6.7 Before issuing, or ratifying a Warrant the Executive Committee reserves the right to make such enquiries as are necessary concerning the suitability of the applicant, and all applicants must disclose in writing any offence committed against young people, whether considered 'spent' or not.

6.8 Each Warrant holder should have a willingness to avail themselves of any facilities offered for training appropriate to his/her rank.

6.9 If deemed necessary Warrants can be cancelled by the Chief Commissioner or an appointed deputy, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee.

6.10 The Warrant ceases to be effective on the holder ceases or fails to perform the duties for which it was issued.

6.11 All Warrants are the property of the BBS & BGS and must be returned upon demand.

6.12 If a Warrant holder alters his or her rank he or she must return the warrant for amendment.

PART 4 EXTRA PROVINCIAL ORGANISATION.

1. GENERAL.

1.1 A Church Denomination or Christian Organisation may form their own organisation of Scouts within the BBS & BGS.

A Commissioner in-charge shall be appointed and will hold the rank of Headquarters' Commissioner.

1.2 The Commissioner in-charge will act as a Deputy to the Chief Commissioner and make appointments or issue Warrants in accordance with Part 3 (Warrants & Appointments) of this manual.

1.3 The relationship between a conventional BBS & BGS district and an extra-provincial district, or a conventional BBS & BGS district and an extra-provincial Troop or Group within that district (and vice versa) shall be by mutual association. If desired by the Scouters or Commissioners concerned.

1.4 For the purposes of Part 2 Rule 11 (Census) of the Constitution, the Commissioner in-charge of an extra-provincial organisation shall act as Scoutmaster for all of the Troops or Groups concerned.

1.5 If conventional BBS & BGS districts or Troops/Groups, wish to invite extra-provincial Troops/Groups to events in their area (or vice versa) a list of such Troops/Groups, can be gained from the General Headquarters.

1.6 Annual Accounts for Extra-Provincial Organisations must be prepared in accordance with current legislation as applicable to Charities registered with the Charity Commission. Accounts and reports must be kept for at least seven years.

1.7 Copies of the annual accounts of Extra-Provincial Organisations must be submitted to the Association's Headquarters upon request.

PART 5. THE SCOUT GROUP.

1. GENERAL SCHEME.

The basic unit in the BBS & BGS is the Scout Group (BBS). The general scheme of organisation is included in the chart contained within the constitution.

2. GROUP SCOUTMASTER.

2.1 Where more than one section exists, an Scouter should be appointed senior to the section Scouters, who would rank as Group Scoutmaster (BBS). It is preferable that the senior Scouter is not a section Scouter.

2.2 Duties of the GSM.

- a) Where a Group does not contain all the age sections, to encourage the development of a complete Group.
- b) To exercise general supervision over all Sections and to co-ordinate their activities whilst delegating the fullest amount of responsibility to the Sectional Scouters.
- c) To chair both the Group Council and liaise with the supporters Committee.
- d) To represent the BBS & BGS in the local area.

3. BBS & BGS GROUPS.

3.1 The Sections making up a BBS & BGS Group.

The training scheme of the BBS & BGS caters for the age of 5 upwards to the adult. For a workable programme this wide age range is broken down into workable age sections.

- 1) Beavers 5/6 - 7/8
- 2) Wolf Cubs 7/8 - 11
- 3) Scout Troop 11 - 15] The Scout Troop and Senior Scout
- 4) Senior Scout Troop 15 - 18] Troop can be run as a single unit.
- 5) Rover Scout Crew 17+

3.2 Where one or more age sections exists this or these shall rank as a Group in the case of the BBS.

3.3 Each Group registered will be assigned a number, which will identify the district or area. The Group name tapes will contain this designation.

3.4 OLD SCOUTS

(a) Once invested by taking the Scout Promise, a member can remain a Scout until any age.

(b) The status of 'Old Scout' may be granted by GHQ on the recommendation of a Scouter to any Scout, Senior Scout or Rover Scout of not less than 2 years service, provided that the member can be trusted to maintain the credit of the Scout Movement but has a good and sufficient reason for not remaining an active member.

(c) Each 'Old Scout' will automatically be registered as a BBS & BGS Guild Member (See Part 11, Section 2).

4. SCOUTERS.

4.1 For each age section it is advisable that the Scouter in charge of each section is assisted by other Scouters, and/or competent adult lay helpers.

4.2 The Scouter in Charge would rank as a Scoutmaster. The Assistants would rank as Assistant Scoutmaster. They should be able to take charge if necessary.

4.3 The Scouter in Charge of a Rover Scout Crew ranks as Rover Scout Leader (BBS & BGS). The Assistants rank as Assistant Rover Scout Leaders.

5. SPONSORING AUTHORITY.

5.1 Each Group must have a sponsoring authority (a board of reference). The sponsoring authority can be a Church Council, Minister, School, or other institution. In lieu of this, two Leading local citizens can be approached to act as Referees for the Scout Group.

5.2 The role of the Sponsoring Authority is to vouchsafe the bone-fides of the Scout Group and for approving applications for Scouter Warrants.

6. REGISTRATION OF A GROUP.

6.1 Provided that the Executive Committee is satisfied that a Group seeking registration will be properly conducted, will meet the requirements of the BBS & BGS Constitution, that suitable Scouters are forthcoming, and that the prospective Scouter in Charge accepts the aims, methods, and policies of the BBS & BGS and undertakes to abide by the regulations contained in the BBS & BGS Policy, Organisation and Rules and manuals applicable to the development of a Scout Group, registration may take place. Each Group must re-register each year

6.2 The application for Scouter Warrant(s) must accompany the application for the registration of a new Group. Neither will be considered in isolation. Once the Group has gained successful registration and the initial Scouter Warrant(s) issued, further applications for additional/replacement Scouter Warrants will be considered, without the need to re-register the Group at the same time. Note: See Part 3, Section 4. ALL OTHER APPOINTMENTS.

6.3 All application forms must be return to the Chief Commissioners Office, unless otherwise directed.

6.4 No Certificate of Group Membership shall be issued without the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

6.5 The Executive Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel Group registration without being called upon to assign any reason for its decision. Any decision for non-registration does not need to be final and permission may be given for further applications.

6.6 If a Group ceases to be registered with the Association, the Scouter Warrants associated with that Group cease to be valid.

7. GROUP ADMINISTRATION.

7.1 Each Group shall work as a self-governing unit, subject the acceptance of the Association's Constitution, Policy, Organisation and Rules.

7.2 Each Group shall adopt a Trust Deed based on guide-lines issued by the Executive Committee from time to time, provided that such Trust Deed does not infringe or alter the charitable status of the Association.

7.3 Each Scout Group is required to be covered by Legal Liability Insurance Policy (also known as Third Party, or Public Liability Insurance) for all activities it undertakes.

8. GROUP COUNCIL.

8.1 Each Group comprising of more than one age Section shall form a Group Council, consisting of Scouters and others who shall help in the direct running of the Group to be Chaired by the GSM.

9. GROUP COMMITTEE.

9.1 Each Group should have a small Group Committee to assist in raising funds for the running of the Group, with the exception, that if the Group owns no property, and/or has no income except that which is received from its members as subscriptions, the formation of a Committee is not necessary.

9.2 The Group Committee may either be composed of Scout Parents, former Scouts, Sponsoring Authority Representatives and others interested in the welfare of the Group, or may be another group acting in that role, eg, a Church Council.

9.3 The GSM is responsible for liaising with this Committee.

9.4 The Group Committee shall be in charge of the Group's property.

10. MONIES (& PROPERTY) BELONGING TO THE GROUP.

10.1 All money, except that given as subscriptions by the Scouts/Wolf Cubs/ Beavers, etc. received by or on behalf of the Group must be administered by the Group Committee acting in consultation with the Group Council, and must be paid into a Bank, Building Society, or Post Office Account, in the name of the Group and operated by a minimum of two Committee members who do not belong to the same household.

10.2 Each Group Committee must have a Treasurer to responsible for the accounts.

10.3 Subscriptions paid by the Scouts/Wolf Cubs/Beavers, etc., alongside any sums allotted by the Group Committee may be administered, either by the Section concerned or by the Group as a whole, and used for current expenses (i.e. use of hall, purchase of uniform and badges etc.). If these accounts are kept separately from those of the Group Committee, they must be included in the Annual accounts of the Group.

10.4 Annual Accounts for Groups must be prepared in accordance with current legislation as applicable to Charities registered with the Charity Commission. Accounts and reports must be kept for at least seven years.

10.5 Copies of the annual accounts of Groups must be submitted to the Group Sponsoring Authority without application, and to the Association's Headquarters only upon request.

10.6 In the case of the winding up of a local Group that is registered with the Association and in the absence of instructions to the contrary, all remaining assets shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of current legislation by the Association's Executive Committee.

11. AGE SECTIONS AND SECTIONAL LEADERS.

11.1 MAXIMUM NUMBERS PERMITTED IN ALL SECTIONS.

(a) The maximum number of members in all Sections will be 36.

(b) The Chief Commissioner or an appointed deputy may authorise exceptions to the above provided that;

(i) for sections of 11 years of age upwards, a Scouter to young person ratio of at least 1 to 16 exists for low risk activities (troop meeting, standing camps, etc.), and the advice in 'Safety in Outdoor Education' on leader/young person ratios is followed for all other activities.

(ii) for sections of 10 years of age and younger, and Scouter to young person ratio of at least 1 to 6 exists for all low risk activities, and the advice in 'Safety in Outdoor Education' on leader/young person ratios is followed for all other activities.

(c) In the case of Wolf Cubs and Beaver sections, ie, for children aged 7 or younger, the requirements of The Children Act 1989 must be followed. With meetings of more than 2 hours, the Scouter to children ratio is 1 to 8. If the section has 20+ children, an additional Scouter to this ratio is required, who will be the Scouter in charge. Further guidance is contained in 'The children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations' Volume 2 HMSO 1991 ISBN 0-11-321372-7.

(d) for the meaning of 'Scouter' for 11.3 (b) & (c) is taken to include competent adult lay help.

11.2 BEAVERS.

(a) Beavers are run as a single unit but may be separated into teams if thought necessary.

(b) Further information on Beavers and their training scheme is given in the Sectional Manual on Beavers.

11.3 WOLF CUB PACK.

(a) A Wolf Cub Pack is divided into Sixes, each Six consisting of up to six members, including the Sixer and Second.

(b) A member of each Six will be appointed Sixer (who is in charge of a Six), a further member of each Six will be appointed Seconder (to assist the Sixer and to deputise in their absence).

(c) A member of the Wolf Cub Pack may be appointed Senior Sixer.

(d) The Sixes within a Wolf Cub Pack belongs to will be identified by the name of a colour. All members of that Patrol will wear a small triangular patch of felt of the Sixes' colour, at the top of the left sleeve, immediately below the shoulder, with the point upwards.

(e) Further information on Wolf Cubs and their training scheme is given in the Sectional Manual 'Wolf Cubs'.

11.4 SCOUT AND SENIOR SCOUT TROOP.

(a) A BBS & BGS Troop consists of two or more Patrols, six to eight Scouts forming a Patrol. The Scout Patrol being the basic unit should form the basis for training and all activities.

(b) A member of each Patrol will be appointed Patrol Leader (a Scout who is in charge of a Patrol), a further member of each Patrol will be appointed Patrol Second (to assist the Patrol Leader and to deputise in his absence). A member of the Troop experienced as a Patrol Leader who has gained his/her First Class Badge may be appointed Troop Leader.

(c) A Group need not form a Senior Scout Troop. Scouts of 15 and over will be ranked as Senior Scouts and may Provide Patrol Leaders and Seconds for the Scout Troop. They will be presented with Maroon Epaulettes.

(d) Each Patrol is identified by a Patrol name. A Shoulder Knot of identifying colours is worn by each member of the Patrol. The Patrol Knot consists of two pieces of braid 2.5cms wide, 27cms in length, laid

together and folded in half. The list of permitted Scout Patrol names is included in the Scout/Senior Scout sectional manual.

(e) Senior Scouts may be organised by a Separate Troop, or Patrols, (the Patrol may be part of a Scout Troop). Each Patrol must consist of not less than three, and not more than seven, Senior Scouts. Before being invested as a Senior Scout, he/she must either hold the First Class Badge or complete the Senior Scout Initial Test as included in the Scout/Senior Scout sectional manual. Invested Senior Scouts wear Maroon Epaulettes with gold fleur-de-lys. Senior Scouts in their own Patrols, replace the shoulder knot with a shoulder patch (3.5cms square) of two colours divided diagonally. The list of permitted Senior Scout Patrol names is included in the Scout/Senior Scout sectional manual.

11.5 COURT OF HONOUR.

(a) In each Scout Troop and Senior Scout Troop there should be a Court of Honour consisting of the Troop Leader (if one is appointed), Patrol Leaders and if desired, Patrol Seconds. The Court of Honour is responsible with the Scouters for; Guarding the honour of the Troop; Arranging the Troop programme; Troop administration; Appointment of Patrol Leaders, Seconds and Troop Leader.

(b) Further information on Scouts and Senior Scouts and their training scheme is given in the Sectional Manual 'Scouts and Senior Scouts'.

11.6 ROVER SCOUT CREW.

(a) A person becomes a Rover Scout after a probationary period (for those under 24 years of age - a period as a Rover Squire) and is Invested as a Rover Scout after some process of self-examination.

(b) Rover Scout Crews are run as a single unit. The Rover Scout Crew may be divided into teams or Patrols as and when necessary for any particular purpose.

(c) A member of the Crew is elected annually as Rover Mate. Additional Mates may be elected to provide one Rover Mate to every four to six Rovers.

(d) A member of the Crew experienced as a Rover Mate may be elected Senior Rover Mate. Any person elected as a Rover Mate must meet the approval of the RSL.

(e) Where the size of the Crew makes it desirable, a Crew Council may be formed, consisting of Warranted Rover Scouters, the Mates and other such Rovers as may be elected, to deal with internal matters of discipline, administration and expenditure of funds.

(f) Where the size of the Crew does not warrant setting up a Crew Council, the whole Crew shall exercise the functions of such a Council.

(g) Further information on Rover Scouts and their training scheme is given in the Sectional Manual 'Rover Scouts'.

11.7 SCOUT ORDERLY.

An outstanding and helpful member of a Scout Troop, Scout Troop or Senior Scout Troop, may be appointed to the Rank of Scout Orderly at the discretion of the Scouter in charge of the section.

11.8 LONE SCOUTS, LONE SENIOR SCOUTS, LONE ROVER SCOUTS.

(a) Where a person over the age of 11 cannot have access to membership of a BBS & BGS Group because of distance, or other special circumstance, that person may be registered as a Lone Scout, Lone Senior Scout, Lone Rover Scout according to age, experience and training.

(b) An Headquarters Commissioner appointed for the purpose will ensure such a person is given guidance with the training scheme, and that such a person and the nearest BBS & BGS Group or District are placed in contact with each other.

11.9 TRAINING SECTIONS.

(a) Where possible, area meetings shall be encouraged between Scouters of common age sections to discuss and share information and experience about the running of the training scheme.

(b) Periodic National meetings will be arranged by the Executive Committee for Scouters of the age sections to discuss the training scheme.

PART 6 UNIFORM & BADGES OF RANK.

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS.

1.1 In the description of uniform 'Scout Colours' refers to the traditional colours of Khaki, Navy Blue, Green or Grey (with variation in shade allowed). However the stocked 'Scout Colours' by the Association is Khaki

for shirts and Navy Blue for shorts and socks, to maintain uniformity and also to keep uniform stocking costs in check, only these colours must be considered BBS uniform.

1.2 Where options are provided, with the exception of Scouters the option chosen must be uniform within a Section.

1.3 Refer to the Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules for full details of uniform and badge requirements.

2. THE BBS & BGS GUILD.

2.1 Adults wishing to join the BBS & BGS and cannot belong to a local Group can become individual members. A Headquarters' register will be kept of all such members.

2.2 Where sufficient individual members can practically meet together they may form a local Guild of the BBS. Such Guild shall elect a Chairman who shall rank as a Scoutmaster and such directions as are appropriate to Groups shall apply to the local Guilds.

FURTHER STIPULATIONS.

Any further stipulations regarding the general organisation of the BBS & BGS, uniform, drill etc., will be included in the Sectional Manuals or regulations will be issued by the Executive Committee from time to time and be published in 'The British Scout' ISSN 0266-2264

APPENDIX A

THE NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our salvation he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.