

Constitution of the All-Ireland Scrabble Association

2023

Name

The name of the association is All-Ireland Scrabble Association (“the Association” or “AISA”), which shall be a non-profit-making association

Aims

The aims of the Association are as follows:-

- ♣ to promote interest in the playing of the Scrabble brand crossword game (“the game”) in Northern Ireland (“NI”) and Republic of Ireland (“ROI”) in an individually competitive format and to provide for the benefit of Scrabble enthusiasts in both jurisdictions the requisite amenities for the pursuit of the game and social activities ancillary to it
- ♣ to oversee the organisation of competitions, displays and events connected with the game at which cash and other prizes may be awarded to successful participants
- ♣ to oversee the maintenance of a fair and transparent player ratings system
- ♣ to seek sponsorship for such competitions, displays and events
- ♣ To determine the criteria by which representatives are chosen to represent NI or ROI or any All-Ireland team at international Scrabble events, subject to the format of the particular event.
- ♣ To liaise with the Association of British Scrabble Players (ABSP) for the maintenance of the player ratings database and other matters of common interest.
- ♣ To maintain active and participative membership of the World English-Language Scrabble Association (“WESPA”).

Memberships and Active Players

The Association does not allow individual membership.

Any player usually resident in NI or ROI who has played at least one ABSP-rated game in the twelve months preceding an AGM is deemed to be an “active player” and is eligible to submit a motion to that AGM and to vote on all motions at that AGM. In all cases of doubt pertaining to residency, the committee's verdict will be final.

The Committee

The Committee consists of not fewer than four people, fulfilling the roles of Chairperson, Treasurer Secretary and a minimum of one other specified position.

Any officer may retire by giving one month's prior written notice to the Secretary, and all shall retire by default during each Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election at that meeting.

Any casual vacancy on the Committee or of any office arising between Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Committee.

The Committee shall manage all the affairs of the Association and shall have the power to do everything necessary for that purpose.

Committee meetings shall be held not less than once in every six months, either via conference call facilities or through face-to-face meeting.

Decisions at meetings of the Committee are made by a simple majority and in the event of equality of voting the Chairperson (or the acting Chairperson of that meeting) shall have the casting vote.

Minutes of meetings of the Committee shall be circulated to AISA members within two weeks of any meeting taking place.

Communications

The Association will maintain an online presence to provide information on all aspects of Scrabble in Ireland including information on: local club details, tournaments, and ABSP ratings. <https://www.irishscrabble.org/>

Members are welcome to contribute to discussions on social media platforms and participate in conversations in a courteous and friendly manner.

Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting shall take place each calendar year. Not more than fifteen months shall elapse between two successive meetings. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- ♣ to receive the Chairperson's report on the activities of the Association during the preceding year;
- ♣ to receive and consider the accounts of the Association for the preceding year and the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the Association;
- ♣ to inform players of any upcoming rule / dictionary changes
- ♣ to ratify any proposed change to levies paid by players
- ♣ to elect officers of the Committee; anyone interested in becoming a committee member must submit their name to any member of the committee prior to the AGM.
- ♣ to transact any other business of an Annual General Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time either by the committee or at least ten active players.

The reason for the EGM must be submitted to the committee at committee@irishscrabble.org If the committee does not give notice of the meeting pursuant to the requisition on or before the expiry of fourteen days of the requisition, one or more of those requesting the meeting may, on behalf of the others, give notice of the meeting to the membership.

The business which may be conducted at an Extraordinary General Meeting may be any one or more of:-

- ♣ removal of any or all of the officers or other members of the committee, and filling the vacancies caused by such removal
- ♣ any other issues that arise
- ♣ dissolving the association

Proceedings at Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings

The agenda and / or resolutions to be discussed / proposed at a meeting shall be communicated to the membership not less than fourteen days' beforehand in writing.

Resolutions put to the vote shall be decided on a show of hands unless before or on the declaration of the result a poll is demanded. A poll may be demanded either by the chairperson or by not less than 5 Active Players present at the meeting. On a poll vote, the chairperson shall cast votes as directed by those Active Players who have given him / her their proxy in writing. In the absence of any specific direction, the chairperson may cast such votes at his / her discretion.

Alterations of the Constitution of the Association shall be passed by a majority of three quarters of the votes. Other resolutions at an AGM shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes. Only Active Players present at the meeting, or who have given a proxy to the chairperson, shall be entitled to vote.

Resolutions at EGMs shall be passed by a majority of three-quarters of the votes. Only Active Players present at the meeting, or who have given a proxy to the chairperson, shall be entitled to vote.

Each Active Player shall have one vote on every resolution.

In the event of equality in voting at an AGM, the chairperson (or acting chairperson at that meeting) shall have a second or casting vote, but there shall be no second or casting vote on any resolution proposed at an EGM.

Finances

The association is funded via a levy on entry to all ABSP / WESPA rated events. This levy is set by the committee and a percentage is used to pay the ABSP / WESPA ratings officer(s) in return for efficient provision of a player ratings system. All roles within AISA are unpaid and the remainder of the funds raised are to be used by the Association to support the aims outlined above.

The financial year of the Association shall end on 31st December in every year, to which day the accounts shall be balanced and drawn.

As soon as possible after the end of the financial year, there shall be prepared a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Association at the end of the financial year and a statement of income and expenditure during that year, which statements shall be made available to players through the Association publication with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.

All monies received by the Association shall be paid into an account in the name of the Association in a financial institution agreed by the Committee.

No member shall pledge the credit of the Association without the prior authority of either the chairperson or the Treasurer.

Indemnity

Members of the committee shall not be liable for any loss suffered by the Association as a result of the discharge of their respective duties on its behalf, except such loss as arises from their respective wilful default, and they shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities incurred by them in the discharge of their respective duties.

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

The Association acknowledges the intellectual property rights of Mattel, the Scrabble trademark owner in Ireland, and shall immediately bring to the notice of Mattel any infringement or threatened infringement or other improper or wrongful use of patents, trademarks, copyrights, designs, or other intellectual property rights or passing off in relation to the game and Mattel's rights therein. Any such information pursuant to the above shall be given in writing by the Secretary (or other duly authorised officer) to Mattel. The Association shall assist Mattel in protecting Mattel's intellectual property rights in whatever way Mattel may reasonably request.

Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed at an AGM or EGM. The dissolution shall take effect from the day when the resolution is passed. The Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Association.

If any property remains after the discharge of all debts and liabilities of the Association it shall be distributed to such charity as the Committee shall direct.

Principles of the Association

This section of the document covers the practical aspect of competitive Scrabble play in NI and ROI, including the rules and principles which govern the game and the methods of selection of players for events which require players to form teams either representing NI and ROI separately or as one All-Ireland team.

- 1) All rated games are played to WESPA Rules as most recently published and currently in force. The full games rules will be available on the WESPA website and through the irishscrabble.org website.
- 2) All files for ABSP / WESPA rated events must be submitted to the relevant ratings officer(s) in the required file format.
- 3) Criteria for qualification for future editions of the World Scrabble Championship will be determined by the AISA committee once the format of the event is known and will be published to all active players as soon as possible thereafter.
- 4) Qualification criteria for any other international event will be considered by the committee. Places on the team will be offered to active players in ratings order, starting with the highest.