CONSTITUTION FOR THE FENCING FEDERATION OF IRELAND

Article 1. The name of the organisation shall be CONNRA PIONNSOIRI or the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation.

Article 11. Part (1) The Federation shall be the competent body of all amateur fencing matters in Ireland.

Part (2) The objects of the Federation shall be:-

(a) The encouragement and control of the sport and art of fencing in Ireland.

(b) The defining of amateur status in respect to fencing and the formulation and enforcement of regulations relating thereto.

(c) The formulation and publication of rules for the management of fencing contests and exhibitions in Ireland.

(d) The grouping of all amateur fencers within its jurisdiction for the purpose of conducting annual local and national championships, and competitions preliminary thereto or designed to awaken and maintain interest in competitive fencing as well as in the art of fencing as a cultural pursuit and an exercise.

(e) The maintenance of relations with fencing associations and societies of foreign countries, and committees or other organisations interested in promoting international competition and the advancement of the sport and art of fencing.

Article 111. Membership.

Section (1) (a) Fencing Membership shall be open to any person who having tendered the appropriate fees to the Honorary Treasurer and not being disqualified by the Council as a Fencing Member.

(b) No professional Fencer shall be accepted as a fencing member and a fencing member who becomes a professional fencer shall on so becoming cease to be a fencing member.

(c) Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Council on any person who is not a fencing member. Honorary Members shall not have voting rights, nor shall they be entitled to hold offices

Article 111. Section (1) Continued...

of the Federation other than the Honorary President. Honorary Members who are Professional Fencers shall not be entitled to hold any office of the Federation.

(d) Fencing Members who have attained their 21st birthday shall be Senior Fencing Members and shall have the right to vote at General Meetings of the Federation and shall be entitled to hold the offices of the Federation other than the Presidency of Honour.

(e) Fencing Members who have attained their 18th birthday but who have not attained their 21st birthday shall be Junior Fencing Members and shall have the right to vote at General Meetings of the Federation, but shall not be entitled to hold the offices of the Federation.

(f) Fencing Members who have not attained their 18th birthday shall be Minor Fencing Members and shall not have voting rights, and shall not be entitled to hold the offices of the Federation.

(g) Minor Fencing Members who attain their 18th birthday, and Junior Fencing Members who attain their 21st birthday, shall become respectively Junior and Senior Fencing Members. The Council shall regulate by Bye-Law, details of such transitions.

(h) Renewal of Fencing Membership shall (on the date on which Annual Fees fall due) be automatically granted to Fencing Members who have tendered or who tender to the Honorary Treasurer the appropriate fee. Membership shall otherwise lapse. A person whose Membership is lapsed shall be subject to article (4).

Section (2)

An amateur fencer is one who has not accepted directly or indirectly any fee, gratuity, money or its equivalent as a consideration for the performance of any act or service arising from his knowledge or skill in fencing. The above shall not apply to writing, editing or publishing articles, magazines or books on fencing, commentaries or interviews on radio, television or film.

Members of the Armed Forces or Staff members of Educational

Article 111. Section (2). Continued... establishments detailed as instructors of fencing are exempt from the provisions of this article when in discharge of their official duty.

Article 1V. Section (1) The Management of the Federation shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall be formed by one representative current voting member from each club, salle d'armes, or fencing group affiliated to the Federation, which has ten or more current voting members of the Federation. For every additional fifteen or more such members each club, salle d'armes, and fencing group is entitled to one extra Council member per fifteen or more such members.

Section (2) Assumption of duties of the incoming Council shall be in accordance with the Bye-laws. The President shall be appointed to office by the Council at its first session. The President, on accepting office, shall select all other officers of the Council, subject to approval by the Council.

Section (3) Honorary President shall be appointed annually by the General Body at the Annual General Meeting.

Section (4) All sub-committees and commissions shall be appointed by the Council, and in addition a Member of the Council will be appointed by the President to act as Chairman on such committees and commissions.

Section (5) The Chairman of the selectors panel shall not be a selector, but shall have all the usual powers invested in the office of Chairman.

Section (6) The Council and all committees and commissions shall conduct their proceedings in accordance with the recognised practices of Company Law, and report the results of their meetings directly to the Council.

Section (7) The Council shall have such powers and duties as may be specified in this Constitution and the Bye-laws of the Federation, and in particular the Council shall have power to interpret and apply Section 2 of Article 111 of this Constitution and to grant reinstatement there under.

The Council by a two-thirds vote of the members voting

Article IV.
Section (7)
Continued...

shall have power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to, or expel any member whose conduct may be deemed detrimental to the welfare, interests or character of the Federation, always provided however that any action other than a reprimand shall be for a year or less and may be taken only after the following conditions have been satisfied: (a) notice must be served upon the Members of the Council and upon the member against whom the proposed action is to be taken, setting forth generally the character of the conduct forming the basis for the proposed action; and (b) if requested by the member to be disciplined or by three members of the Council, within ten days after the mailing of notice of the proposed action, a committee of not less than five members of the Federation must be appointed by the President to investigate the conduct charged against the member, said committee must give the member an opportunity to be heard in respect to the charge and, after completing its investigation, must file a report favouring the action proposed to be taken by the Council.

Where any member has been reprimanded or suspended for one year or less without such member having been afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Council, the member shall be entitled to demand, within 15 days after notice of the action by the Council, a hearing on such action: any suspension so under, appeal shall not be valid for more than 45 days from the date of receipt by the Secretary of the Federation of such demand.

Section (8) The officers of the Federation shall have such powers and duties as may be prescribed by this Constitution or in the Bye-laws.

Section (9) In addition to the officers provided for in the sections above of Article (4), the Council may in their discretion elect additional officers for such purposes and term of office not exceeding one year or the term of office of the appertaining Council and with such duties as the Council may determine. Such officers shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Council, but shall not be entitled to vote at the meetings.

Article V. Amendments

Section (1) Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed in writing at any Annual General Meeting, or any General Meeting called for the purpose; and may be ratified at the next succeeding Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting at such meeting, provided that such an Annual Meeting does not occur within 14 days.

Section (2) (a) Annual General Meetings will be called by the Council in November-December of each year.

(b) Extraordinary General Meetings will be called by the Secretary on demand by the Council, or upon written demand signed by 15 members of the Federation, within 1 Month from the date of receiving such demand.

14 days clear notice shall be given to all Members of all General Meetings.

BYE - LAWS

Chapter 1. Bye-laws shall be binding immediately and shall remain in force subject to ratification at the following A.G.M.

Chapter 2. The names of the proposed representatives to the Council shall be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary 7 days before the Annual General Meeting, by each election group, the ten or more members of which shall sign the proposal. No member may propose more than one representative. The Council shall assume office at the termination of the business of the A.G.M. The outgoing officers shall continue duties until the last day of December.

Chapter 3. Candidates for Senior, Junior, Minor and Associate Membership shall be admitted to the Federation by election of the Council; always provided however, that the Secretary of the Federation has received a signed application for membership.

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