

Chapter 5 The Scout District

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Rule 5.1 Composition of the Scout District

Scouting in Malta is organised into Scout Groups, Scout Districts, and Island Headquarters. These 'units' of Scouting provide:

- support;
- channels for communication;
- opportunities for youth members and adults to make decisions and take responsibility;
- functional units through which the design and delivery of the programme can be best achieved.
- A Scout District comprises several Scout Groups and where applicable one District Scout Rover Crew.

Rule 5.2 The Appointment of Commissioners in the District

- a. The District Commissioner.
 - i. The Chief Commissioner will issue a call for applications to all eligible members of the Association as per the provisions provided in the Constitution of The Scout Association of Malta to fill the post of Commissioner in the District;
 - ii. Upon receiving all nominations the Chief Commissioner will exercise the right to vet all applicants
 - iii. In case of more than one candidate being eligible for the post of District Commissioner, the District Scouters' Meeting will choose the preferred contender by means of a secret vote.

- iv. The Chief Commissioner will issue an appointment on acceptance of the appropriate recommendations and this will be presented by the Chief Commissioner.
- b. The Assistant District Commissioner.
 - i. The procedure for the appointment of an Assistant District Commissioner and for the issue of the Appointment is the same as that of a District Commissioner.

Rule 5.3 Management of the Scout District

- a. A Scout District is led by the District Commissioner and managed by a District Scouters' Meeting (DSM) They are accountable to the National Scout Executive.
- b. The District Commissioner is assisted and supported by:
 - Assistant District Commissioner/s
 - The District Scouters' Meeting (DSM);
 - District Group Scout Leaders;
 - District Rover Scout Leaders;
 - The District Service Team.

Rule 5.4 The Constitution of the Scout District

- a. The District Scouters' Meeting (DSM)
 - i. The District Scouter's Meeting exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the District and to provide support to Scout Groups and any District Rover Scout Crews within the District.
 - ii. The District Scouters' Meeting consists of:
 - The District Commissioner;
 - The District Secretary;
 - The District Treasurer;
 - The District Rover Scout Leader (where it is applicable);
 - The Group Scout Leader of each Group within the District
- b. Right of Attendance
 - i. The Chief Commissioner has the right of attendance at meetings of the DSM.
- c. The DSM may establish any sub-Committees that it deems necessary. Sub-Committees consist of members nominated by the DSM.
- d. The District Commissioner and the Secretary of the District will be ex-officio members of any sub-Committee of the DSM.
- e. Any fundraising committee must include at least one member of the DSM, in addition to the ex-officio members.
- f. The District Scouters' Meeting (DSM) is responsible for:
 - Promoting the development of Scouting in the District and ensuring harmonious co-operation with other organisation;
 - The raising of funds and the administration of the District's finance and property, including the District Service Team;
 - Appointing other sub-Committees and their chairpersons as the DSM Committee may require;
 - The presentation of an Annual Report and annual statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting of the Scout District.
 - Review the progress, standards and effectiveness of programmes of Groups, and any District Rover Crew in the District;
 - Give support and encouragement to Leaders;
 - Plan the support of adults undertaking Adult Training;
 - Plan any programme of District events deemed to be necessary to supplement Scouting in the Groups, and the District;
 - Secure the support of District Service Team in the work of the District;
- g. Conduct of Meetings in the Scout District:
 - i. In meetings of the DSM, only the specified members may vote.

- ii. Decisions are made by a majority of votes of those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side in any issue the Chairperson does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.
- iii. The DSM must make a resolution defining a quorum for its meetings and of its sub-Committees.

Rule 5.5 Administrators and Advisers

- a. The District Secretary is elected by the DSM at the Annual General Meeting every year. The appointment may be held by a Leader, Supporter or Honorary Life Member.
- b. The District Treasurer is elected by the DSM. The appointment may be held by a Leader, Supporter or Honorary Life Member.
- c. No individual may hold more than one of the appointments of Secretary or Treasurer. Neither may the appointments be combined in any way.
- d. Other Advisers may be appointed by the DSM with the approval of the District Commissioner as per POR: The Appointment Process.
- e. Advisers' appointments may be terminated by:
 - the resignation of the holder;
 - the unanimous resolution of all other members of the DSM;
 - the expiry of the period of the appointment;

Rule 5.6 District Rover Scout Crew

- a. District Rover Scout Crew can be part of a District's provision of Scouting.
- b. A District Rover Scout Crew consists of a number of Rover Scout Members as described in Chapter 4 Rule 4.5.
- c. All District Rover Scout Crews are required to be open to male and female membership except in special situations. Special situations include those where there are specific cultural or religious requirements for a single sex District Rover Scout Crew.
- d. The age range of the Section is from 18 to 26 years old. There is flexibility in the joining age. The age for moving on from the Venture Scout Section is at 18 years. The leaving age is upon reaching the 26th birthday.
- e. The District Commissioner together with the District Team is required where necessary, to assist a District Rover Scout Crew to reach the required standard.
- f. If a District Rover Scout Crew fails to reach the minimum standard for two consecutive years it may be closed by the District Commissioner with the approval of the National Scout Executive.
- g. If a District Rover Scout Crew fails to reach the minimum standard for three years it must be closed.

Rule 5.7 The District Service Team

- a. The District Commissioner, in consultation with the DSM may form the District Service Team;
- b. The purpose of the District Service Team is to provide active support to Scouting in the District.
- c. The District Commissioner must ensure that the:
 - District Service Team is supported and co-ordinated; and
 - District Service Team is provided with line management either directly by the District Commissioner or other nominee.
- d. Subject in all cases to a satisfactory Personal Enquiry, membership of the District Service Team is open to any person over the age of 18 years, including:
 - those holding appointments, who will be expected to give priority to the duties of their appointments;
 - Rover Scout members, who will be expected to give priority to their Rover Crews.

- e. The members of the District Service Team who are not registered as members of The Scout Association of Malta must be registered as Associate Members (with the exception of Honorary Life Members).
- f. The District Service Team coordinator is responsible for determining the composition, organisation, programme and administration of the Team.
- g. The main function of the team is to:
 - help the District in organizing District events,
 - assist Scout Groups in the District to maintain Scouting in the District,
 - take care of the District equipment and property
- h. The District Commissioner together with the DSM is required to assist the District Service Team.

Rule 5.8 The Formation and Closure of District Rover Scout Crews

The opening and closing of Rover Scout Crews within the District is the responsibility of the District Commissioner in consultation with the Chief Commissioner.

Rule 5.9 Changes in District Registration

- a. If a District requires a change in the registration or an amalgamation with another District, an application must be made to the Chief Commissioner at Island Headquarters.
- b. Such changes are made with the approval of National Scout Executive.

Rule 5.10 Suspension of District Registration

- a. Suspension is a purely temporary measure.
- b. A District may have its registration suspended by the Chief Commissioner, or the National Scout Executive.
- c. In the event of suspension, the District, all District Rover Scout Crews and all District Scout Groups must cease. All District and all Leaders of all Scout Groups within the District are automatically suspended as though each were individually suspended.
- d. During suspension no member of the District or Scout Group may wear uniform or badges.

Rule 5.11 Suspension of District Rover Scout Crews

- a. Suspension is a purely a temporary measure.
- b. A District Rover Scout Crew may be suspended by the District Commissioner in consultation with the District Rover Scout Leader and in consultation with the Chief Commissioner.
- c. Suspension may also be the consequence of the suspension of the District. In such a case the Chief Commissioner may direct that the District Rover Scout Crew will not be suspended but attached to a neighbouring District or to Island Headquarters.
- d. In the event of suspension, all District Rover Scout activities must cease and all members of the District Rover Scout Crew are automatically suspended as if each were individually suspended.
- e. During suspension no member of the District Rover Scout Crew may wear uniform or badges.
- f. A District Commissioner who suspends a District Rover Scout Crew must report the matter giving full details to the Chief Commissioner.

Rule 5.12 Cancellation of Registration of the Scout District

- a. The registration of a Scout District may be cancelled by Island Headquarters:
 - on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner and the National Scout Executive, following a meeting specially convened. At such a meeting, the District Commissioner and the delegation from the District are entitled to be heard;
- b. When the registration of a Scout District is cancelled, the Scout District ceases to exist and action must be taken as described in Chapter 7 to deal with its property and assets.

- c. The membership of each Member of the District will cease automatically, unless membership of another District is arranged as directed by the Chief Commissioner.
- d. A Scout District cannot exist unless it has a current registration with Island Headquarters.
- e. It is not permissible for a Scout District to transfer from The Scout Association of Malta to any other body whether calling itself a scout organisation or by any other name.
- f. Individual or several Members of a District may leave and join any other organisation they wish. The District itself and all its assets remain part of The Scout Association of Malta.
- g. In the event of all the Members leaving, the National Scout Executive will close the District and cancel its registration.
- h. In the event that not all the Members leave, it will be a decision for the Chief Commissioner and National Scout Executive as to whether to close the District or try to keep it running with a reduced membership.

Rule 5.13 Management of the District Rover Scout Crew

- a. District Rover Scout Crews are not autonomous organisations. They are part of a The Scout Association of Malta and forming part of a District.
- b. Scout Districts delegate some authority to the District Rover Scout Crews to allow them to hold equipment and admit people to membership of the District Rover Scout Crew subject to the Policy and Rules of The Scout Association of Malta.
- c. The District Rover Scout Crew is led by the District Rover Scout Crew Leader and managed by a committee of its Members and Leader acting together. The committee is accountable to the District Commissioner.

Rule 5.14 Minimum Age for Appointments

- a. To hold an adult appointment in a Scout District a person must have reached the age of 18. The maximum age limit is 65 years of age.

Rule 5.15 The Appointment of Adults in the Scout District

- b. The District Commissioner must forward the *Personal Enquiry* to Headquarters without delay, following its completion by the adult concerned.
- c. When completing a *Personal Enquiry* the fullest possible information about the individual must be given.
- d. The complete rules for the appointment of adults can be found in POR: The Appointment Process.

Rule 5.16 Limitation of holding more than one Appointment

- a. The District Commissioner may not hold any other appointment other than for a short term in an 'acting' capacity.

Rule 5.17 Responsibilities of Appointments in the Scout District

a. The District Commissioner

- i. The District Commissioner is responsible to the Chief Commissioner and to Island Headquarters for:
 - the development of Scouting in the District;
 - promoting and maintaining the policies of the Association;
 - ensuring that all adults working within the Scout District are 'fit and proper' persons to carry out the tasks given allocated to them;
 - encouraging and facilitating the training of Members of the Movement as appropriate throughout the District;
 - ensuring that all adults in the District are appropriately trained;

- all aspects of Scouting in the District, particularly ensuring that Group Scout Leaders, Leaders, Supporters and Administrators properly discharge their responsibilities and duties as specified in these Rules;
 - ensuring that Scout Groups and any District Rover Scout Unit are visited by members of the District Service Team;
 - advising Leaders on how to conduct themselves in accordance with the Association's Policies and Rules as defined from time to time in Policy, Organisation and Rules and in the Association's Handbooks and other official publications;
 - encouraging the formation and operation of the District Service Team, Scout Groups, Rover Scout Units, and assisting in their effective working;
 - securing the harmonious co-operation of all Members of the Movement in the District and settling any disputes between them;
 - performing all duties specified in these Rules for District Commissioners in respect of training and administration, particularly in respect of appointments, registration, Membership of the Movement and decorations and awards;
 - the achievement of minimum standards for Scout Groups, Sections in Groups, Rover Scout Units and any District Service Team;
 - the observance of all Rules relating to the conduct of Scouting activities, particularly to camping and activities requiring the observance of safety precautions;
 - co-operation and the maintenance of good relations with Members of the Malta Girl Guides and other youth organisations in the District and ensuring that the Association is adequately represented on local committees, particularly youth committees;
 - encouraging the formation, operation and effective working of the District Rover Scout Crew meeting;
 - encouraging the formation, operation and effective working of the District Patrol Leaders Forum;
 - matters relating to the admission of members of District Scout Fellowships;
 - for nominating the District Chairman and certain members of the District Executive Committee.
- ii. The District Commissioner is a member of the National Scout Executive.
- iii. The District Commissioner has the right of attendance at all Councils and Committees and their sub-Committees within the District.
- iv. If the office of District Commissioner is vacant, the Chief Commissioner will either nominate an Assistant District Commissioner or another Commissioner to act in this capacity or will perform these duties himself.

b. The Assistant District Commissioner

- i. Assistant District Commissioners may be appointed to assist and deputise for the District Commissioner.
- ii. The duties of the appointment will be defined by the District Commissioner at the time of appointment.
- iii. Assistant District Commissioners may be appointed to assist the District Commissioner with general or particular duties (e.g. general duties, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Adult Training).

c. District Rover Scout Leader

- i. A District Rover Scout Leader must be appointed for any District Rover Scout Crew.
- ii. The functions of the appointment are to:
- Assist the District Commissioner with the running of the Section;
 - Provide technical advice on the operations of the District Rover Crew;
 - Promote the involvement of Rovers in the running of the Section.