

Introduction:

The Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&As) is Swim Ireland's constitution and is the structural framework within which Swim Ireland operates. The more daily operational matters are covered by the Rule Book.

The SI Board set up an M&A Review Group to consider changes to the current SI M&A. This was agreed when the M&As were adopted in 2005, and is a normal process for companies as they change and grow.

The Group comprises the Company Secretary, CEO, Board member and a representative from each Region, appointed by the Region.

Any changes to the M&As will be presented to the AGM and voted upon by the membership. To avoid long discussions at the AGM, we are hoping to have much of the discussion take place before the wordings are changed, to reach a consensus that will be acceptable at the AGM. All inputs will be considered by the group.

Some articles need updating because of the changes in the structure of the company, or because they were of a temporary nature (eg Article 61). Other changes are being proposed to update the procedures of the company in line with the expansion in activities and personnel involved, or with difficulties that are arising with the present structures. (Articles concerned are noted for reference) The M&As are available on the Swim Ireland website. Changes are only at consideration stage, and we are now looking for your input on the main areas under consideration. These are:

- Board Structure
- Standing Committees
- Relationships – Regions/Clubs/Affiliates

Board structure:

- To assist with continuity and maintaining expertise, it is proposed to introduce a 2 year term of office for the officers – Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. (Article 64)
- To change the election of the 8 ordinary board members – At present 2 are elected by each region. It is proposed that 1 member would be elected from each region at Regional AGMs and the other 4 to be elected nationally at Company AGM (Article 64)
- Office of the President redefined in terms of the honourable, honorary and ceremonial nature of the role (remove article 74)

Standing Committees. (Articles 111 – 126)

The standing committees' Terms of Reference, and the qualifications for membership of them are defined in the Rules. The M&As articles 111 - 126 explain the number and role of the committees.

It is proposed to amend article 111, and to have the following list of committees

List of committees (Article 111)	Notes
Selection Committee	Article 114, no change
Complaints and Disciplinary Committee	Articles 115 and 116 (Article 131 c to change to allow for Regional C&D committee with disciplinary powers over regional matters)
Child Welfare Committee	Article 117 no change
Education and Training Committee	Article 118 new mechanism for election will be in Rule book, members possibly board appointed
Diving Committee Masters Committee Open Water, Water Polo and Synchronised swimming committees	New standing Committees for all aquatic disciplines, will be similar to diving committee (article 122).
High Performance Technical Committee	Changes to Article 121. New Committee of technical experts, appointed by the board.
National Swimming Committee	Replaces Competitions and High Performance Committees
Officials Committee	New standing committee, structure to be decided.
Finance Committee Audit Committee	Articles 119 and 120. These are to be appointed by the board.

No other changes are proposed regarding committees.

Regional Structures.

Roles, rights and responsibilities of regions are under discussion. All input is welcome and will be considered (Articles 127 -131)

Other issues under consideration:

Affiliate members.

Articles 15, 16. To be clarified and reviewed in light of changes in relationship with ISSA, IWPA and with other bodies looking for affiliate status.

Antidoping: article 24 to include sub article accepting no liability on behalf of Swim Ireland for what athletes put in their own bodies

One day licences for inclusion of athletes from other disciplines (eg triathlon) to enable participation in Swim Ireland competitions. Open for discussion

Timetable:

- M&A Review Group will consider input from all four regional meetings
- Group will agree recommended changes
- Proposed changes will be sent to the lawyers
- Final version will be put to the Board by the end of March
- Recommended changes will be issued to the membership for consideration at the April 2010 AGM