

British Hydrological Society Statutes (revised 2018)

Aims

- 1 The aims of the Society are, in accordance with guidance on Public Benefit, to promote interest, scholarship and good practice in both the scientific and the applied aspects of hydrology and to foster the involvement of its members in national and international activities directed to the promotion of hydrology.
- 2 In furtherance of these aims the Society may:
 - 2.1 Hold regular meetings including joint meetings with other organisations, groups and societies to discuss subjects lying within these fields.
 - 2.2 Circulate a newsletter to members in order to disseminate information relating to both national and international activities and developments in the field of hydrology.
 - 2.3 Promote the publication of hydrological literature.
 - 2.4 Foster and co-operate in inter-disciplinary activities with other national and international organisations with related interests.
 - 2.5 Promote the formation of regional, local and other sections.
 - 2.6 Undertake all such other lawful activities as shall further the above objectives.

Membership

- 3 The Society shall consist of Honorary Members and Members.
 - 3.1 Membership shall be open to all those actively interested in subjects lying within the scope of the Society, upon payment of the appropriate membership subscription rates. The rights and privileges of every member of any class shall be personal to himself or herself and shall not be transferable or transmissible by his or her own act nor by operation of Law.
 - 3.2 An Honorary Member shall be:
 - (a) A person who is distinguished by his or her work in hydrology.
 - (b) A distinguished person whom the Society desires to honour for services rendered to the Society or whose association therewith is of benefit to the Society. Honorary Members shall be elected by the Main Committee and every such election shall be announced through publication in the Society's newsletter. The number of Honorary Members elected shall normally be no more than one per year.
 - 3.3 The Main Committee at any time may terminate the membership of any member if it reasonably considers that such membership is not, or may not be, in the interests of the Society. No such resolution as aforesaid shall be passed until the individual concerned shall have been given an opportunity to state his or her case to the Main Committee orally or in writing. Any such resolution shall have immediate effect but it may be rescinded by the Society in general meeting.
 - 3.4 Concessionary subscription rates shall be available to members who (a) are bona-fide full-time students at a recognised institute of learning or (b) early career hydrologists during their first 3 years of full-time employment.

Associations

4. The Society shall be associated formally with the following two bodies, in view of their special interests in hydrology and with a view to ensuring the appeal and effectiveness of the Society:
The Institution of Civil Engineers
The NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Main Committee

- 5 The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Main Committee.

5.1 The Main Committee shall comprise:

- a) Members elected by the members of the Society (“The Trustees”)
 - i) The Honorary Officers; being the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Society, elected by members of the Society;
 - ii) Seven ordinary members, elected by members of the Society, one of whom should be tasked specifically to represent the interests of younger members;
 - iii) The President Elect in the year between election and taking up the office of President, and the Past President in the year after their term of office;
- b) Nominated Members
 - i) A member nominated by the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers;
 - ii) A member nominated by the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology;
 - iii) A member nominated by the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management;
 - iv) A BHS member nominated by the President with the majority support of the Main Committee to Chair UK IAHS;
 - v) A nominated representative of each of the Society's Regional Sections, and of the Scottish Hydrological Group which operates under the auspices of Local Associations of the Institution of Civil Engineers;
- c) Up to two co-opted members.

- 5.2 Elected members of the Main Committee (“The Trustees”) shall be elected by a postal or electronic ballot of members. Requests for nominations for the vacant positions of the Main Committee shall be circulated to all members. Nominations, in writing, shall be seconded by another member of the Society and shall be submitted together with the nominee's written consent. Elections will take place during the month preceding the Annual General Meeting. The results of the elections shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

5.3 Periods of office of the members of the Main Committee shall be subject to the following rules:

- (a) Ordinary Members shall be elected to serve for three years. They shall retire in rotation, such that at least two new vacancies are created each year. They may stand for immediate re-election as an Honorary Officer but not as an Ordinary Member. They may stand again as an Ordinary Member after a period of one year after standing down.

- (b) Honorary Officers shall be elected to serve for a period of two years. Officers may be re-elected to serve for a second term but must then stand down from their current position. They may also stand for re-election in a different position. They may stand again for election to their previous position after a period of one year from standing down.
- (c) The President shall be elected to stand for a period of two years. The President shall be elected one year in advance of taking office and during this period shall serve on the committee as President Elect. The Past President shall continue to participate in Committee activities for one year following their two-year term of office as President to facilitate continuity of business.
- (d) The maximum continuous period of elected membership of the committee, including the one-year as President Elect, shall be eight years.
- (e) Appointment as a co-opted member shall be for one year.

5.4 Any casual vacancy amongst the seven elected ordinary members of the Main Committee may be filled by the Main Committee. A person so appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold the office until the following Annual General Meeting and shall then retire. If there is still an unexpired portion of the original three-year term a member shall be elected to fill the vacancy in the annual postal ballot.

5.5 The Main Committee shall meet at least twice each year to deal with the business of the Society. It may establish such sub-committees as may be necessary to meet ad hoc requirements such as the organisation of meetings and conferences. Sub-committees may co-opt members with the approval of the Main Committee. Such sub-committees shall report back all acts and proceedings to the Main Committee as soon as possible. The quorum for the transactions of business by the Main Committee shall be at least five members, including at least three trustees.

Membership Dues

6 The Main Committee shall be responsible for recommending the structure and levels of membership fees. These shall be reported to the Annual General Meeting of the Society and voted upon. If such recommendations are not approved by simple majority of those present, the fees shall remain unchanged.

Secretariat

7 The day-to-day administration of the Society shall be undertaken by an organisation selected by the Main Committee. A proposal to change the organisation undertaking the administrative work shall be treated as though it were a change of statute.

Accounts

8 The Society shall make provision for its proper financial administration. It may delegate the operation of its finances, under the direction of the Main Committee. Annual accounts shall be submitted to the

Main Committee and to the Annual General Meeting of the Society. The annual accounts and report shall be independently reviewed before submission to the Charity Commissioners.

Meetings

9 The Society's meetings shall include:

9.1 An annual General Meeting, attended only by members of the Society, for the announcement of the names of the new Main Committee members, the approval of the accounts and other necessary business. One month's notice of the meeting shall be given.

9.2 A special General Meeting, attended only by members of the Society, whenever it is necessary to transact the formal business of the Society between two Annual General Meetings. It shall be called by the Main Committee or within six weeks of being requested to do so by at least twenty members of the Society who shall state the business to be transacted. Notice of the meeting, with the business to be transacted, must be given at least one month before the date of the meeting.

9.3 Open meetings in keeping with the aims of the Society.

Regional Sections

10 The formation of Regional Sections of the Society will be encouraged for the purpose of holding meetings or co-operating with other organisations when it is to the benefit of the membership residing in that region. The Main Committee shall seek to foster regional activities and may allocate funds to Regional Sections.

Changes in the Statutes

11 Changes in the Statutes shall be made only with the approval of three-fifths of those voting in a postal or electronic ballot. A proposal to change the statutes may be put forward by the Society Main Committee or by at least twenty members of the Society and shall be circulated to all members. A minimum of one month's notice of a proposed change must be given and the two associated organisations shall be notified of the proposals in writing. The results of the voting on proposed changes in the Statutes shall be circulated with the succeeding Newsletter.

12 No amendment shall be made to Statute 2, Statute 11, this Statute or Statute 13 without the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners and no amendment shall be made to the other Statutes which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.

Dissolution

13 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred at the discretion of the Main Committee to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to or the same as those of the Society, or for some other charitable object subject to the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners.