

# Córu agus Rialacha

Constitution and Revised Rules 2022

2022 Edition

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# Córu agus Rialacha

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Constitution and Rules

Published by



## FÓGRA

A Complimentary copy of this revised edition of the Córú agus Rialacha is being provided for the Honorary Secretary of each unit of the Organisation who shall safeguard it on behalf of the unit.

On the termination of the term of office this copy shall be handed over to the incoming Honorary Secretary together with Minute Book and other documentation and files belonging to the Cumann, C.C or C.D.C.



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## CÓRÚ FHIANNA FÁIL

1. Páirtí forásach agus poblachtánach is ea Fianna Fáil, a d'eascair as gluaiseacht náisiúnta chun poblacht neamhspleách a bhaint amach agus Éire a aontú. Tá an páirtí bunaithe ar an bpobal, ar son na fiontraíochta tiomanta don cheartas sóisialta, ailínithe le daonlathas liobrálach Eorpach mar aon le luachanna clasaiceacha poblachtánacha na saoirse, an chomhionannais agus an bhráithreachais.

### Seo iad aidhmeanna an pháirtí

#### AONTAS

Aontú na hÉireann agus a daoine go léir a bhaint amach faoi shíocháin agus faoi shuaimhneas, lena n-áirítear na daoine ar fad a bhfuil Éire roghnaithe mar bhaile acu, ag baint leasa as ionchas iomlán Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus ag cothú comhthola ar fud an oileáin a beidh á roinnt againn lena chéile.

#### TEANGA, DÚCHAS & NA hEALAÍONA

Ardchaighdeán a chur chun cinn sna hEalaíona agus slite beatha inmharthanacha a chur ar fáil do na daoine a bheidh ag obair iontu, chun ardmheas a thaispeáint dár n-oidhreacht uathúil agus í a roinnt leis an saol mór, ag cur béim ar leith ar fhorbairt na Gaeilge mar theanga bheo. Cuirfidh Fianna Fáil an Ghaeilge chun cinn i gcónaí.

#### POBAL & MEITHEAL

Glacadh le spiorad an Mheithil trí shaoránacht ionchuimsitheach, poblachtánach a chothú, tógtha ar chothrom na féinne agus comhdheiseanna, bunaithe ar phobail láidre chumhachtaithe agus rannpháirtíocht shibhialta a spreagadh ar fud an oileáin.

#### SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ LÁIDRE

Soláthar cúram sláinte d'ardchaighdeán a chinntiú mar aon leis na seirbhísí caighdeánacha poiblí go léir, trí infheistiú, nuálaíocht agus athchóiriú; agus a chinntiú go mbeidh rochtain uilíoch orthu bunaithe ar riachtanas, beag beann ar acmhainn.

#### ÁIT CHÓNAITHE DO CHÁCH

Troid ar son cearta tithíochta trí thithe ardchaighdeán inacmhainne, poiblí agus príobháideacha, a chur ar fáil, ag cosaint na ndaoine atá i dtithe ar cíos agus ag tacú leis na daoine ar mian leo a dteach féin a bheith acu.

#### OIDEACHAS

Oideachas a chur ar fáil a bheidh inrochtana do chách, a bheidh muirneach do na leanaí go léir agus a chuirfidh uileghabhálacht, comhionannas deiseanna agus foghlaim fad saoil chun cinn, ag cothú taighde agus nuálaíochta.

## LUACH SAOTHAIR DON FHIONTRAÍOCHT

An fhiontraíocht agus an nuálaíocht a chur chun cinn, fostaíocht a ghiniúint agus cúiteamh a thabhairt d'obair chrua, chomh maith le meas a léiriú don uaimhian agus don tionscnamh chun caighdeán maireachtála ár ndaoine go léir a fheabhsú.

## TÓGÁIL NA TODHCHAÍ

Infreastruchtúr fisiciúil agus digiteach na hÉireann a nuachóiriú agus a leathadh amach chun freastal ar ár riachtanais timpeallachta, déimeagrafacha agus eacnamaíoch sa todhchaí.

## GNÍOMHÚ AR SON NA hAERÁIDE & BITHÉAGSÚLACHT

Tabhairt faoi dhúshlán an athraithe aeráide trinár mbithéagsúlacht agus ár n-oidhreacht nádúrtha a athshlánú agus a chaomhnú, glacadh le fuinneamh in-athnuaite agus deireadh a chur le húsáid breoslaí iontaise trí aistriú go cóir chuig sochaí inmharthanach agus gilleagar ciorclach.

## OILEÁN INBHUANAITHE

Eacnamaíocht Uile-Éireann a chothú mar inneall glan glas na hEorpa, ag baint leasa as ár dtalamh agus as ár bhfarraigí chun neamhspleáchas fuinnimh agus slándáil bia a bhaint amach, agus ar an mbealach sin deiseanna nua inmharthanacha a fhorbairt do na gilleagair thuaithe, fheirmeoireachta agus mhuirí.

## ÁR nDAONLATHAS A CHOSAINT

Cosaint a thabhairt d'Éirinn, dá pobail, agus dá sócmhainní fisiciúla agus digiteacha, ó bhagairtí sa bhaile nó i gcéin. Cosaint a thabhairt dár ndaonlathas, ag thabhairt aitheantais do shaoirse an phreasa, meas a bheith ar fhorlámhas an dlí, ar thoghcháin shaora agus chóra, agus ar dhíospóireacht eolach phoiblí mar bunphrionsabail de phoblacht nua-aimseartha.

## ÉIRE SAN EORAIP AGUS SA DOMHAN

Seasamh agus tionchar na hÉireann a chur chun cinn mar bhall rannpháirteach den Aontas Eorpach, ag cur comhoibriú agus méadú breise chun cinn, agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'obair na Náisiúin Aontaithe le fócas láidir ar chosaint na gceart daonna agus na forbartha idirnáisiúnta.

2. Is mar Fhianna Fáil, An Páirtí Poblachtach, a eagrófar an Ghluaiseacht agus sin a thabharfar uirthi de réir na rialacha atá ceangailte leis seo.
3. Tá comhaltas Fhianna Fáil ar fáil do gach Saoránach Éireannach agus do dhaoine a bheirtear in Éireann, atá de thuistíocht nó garthuistíocht Éireannach nó daoine a bhfuil gnáthchónaí agus cónaí dleathach orthu in Éirinn agus a ghlacann le Córú agus Rialacha Fhianna Fáil.

## CONSTITUTION OF FIANNA FáIL

1. Fianna Fáil is a progressive republican party, born out of a national movement to achieve an independent republic and unite Ireland. The party is grounded in the community, pro-enterprise and committed to social justice, aligned with European liberal democracy and the classic republican values of liberty, equality and fraternity.

### **The aims of the party are:**

#### UNITY

To secure in peace and harmony the unity of Ireland and all its people, including those who have chosen to make Ireland their home, harnessing the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement and building consensus around a shared island.

#### TEANGA, DÚCHAS & NA hEALAÍONA

To promote excellence in the Arts and sustainable livelihoods for those working within it, to cherish our unique heritage and to share this with the world with a special emphasis on the development of Irish as a living language. Fianna Fáil will always promote the Irish language.

#### COMMUNITY & MEITHEAL

To foster a spirit of Meitheal by nurturing an inclusive republican citizenship, built on equal rights and opportunities, grounded in strong, empowered communities and encouraging civic engagement across the island.

#### STRONG PUBLIC SERVICES

To ensure the delivery of universal healthcare and all fundamental public services to the highest standard through investment, innovation, and reform; and to guarantee universal access based on need, regardless of means.

#### A HOME FOR ALL

To champion the right to housing by providing quality affordable, public and private homes, protecting those renting and supporting those with an aspiration of home ownership.

#### EDUCATION

To provide an education accessible to all, which cherishes all children and promotes inclusivity, equality of opportunity and lifelong learning, advancing research and innovation.

#### REWARDING ENTERPRISE

To promote enterprise and innovation, to generate employment, to reward hard work, to value aspiration and initiative, so as to improve the standard of living of all our people.

## BUILDING THE FUTURE

To modernise and expand Ireland's physical and digital infrastructure to meet our future environmental, demographic and economic needs.

## CLIMATE ACTION & BIODIVERSITY

To rise to the challenge of climate change by restoring and conserving our biodiversity and natural heritage, embracing renewable energy and ending the use of fossil fuels via a just transition to a sustainable society and circular economy.

## A SUSTAINABLE ISLAND

To grow an all-Ireland economy as the clean, green engine of Europe, harnessing our land and seas to achieve energy independence and food security, and, in so doing, to develop new sustainable opportunities for the rural, farming and maritime economies.

## DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY

To protect Ireland, its people, its physical and digital assets, from threats at home or abroad. To defend our democracy, recognising freedom of the press, respect for the rule of law, free and fair elections, and informed public debate as fundamental tenets of a modern republic.

## IRELAND IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD

To advance Ireland's position and influence as an engaged member of the European Union, promoting increased cooperation and enlargement, and to support the work of the United Nations with a strong focus on the defence of human rights and international development.

2. The Movement shall be organised and known as Fianna Fáil, The Republican Party, in accordance with the Rules annexed hereto.
3. Membership of Fianna Fáil is open to all Irish Citizens and to persons of Irish birth, parentage, grand-parentage or persons ordinarily and legally resident in Ireland who accept the Constitution and Rules of Fianna Fáil.

## RIALACHA / RULES – Passed at 74ú Ard Fheis

1. The Organisation of Fianna Fáil shall comprise the following Units:-
  - a. An Comhalta / The Member
  - b. An Cumann / The Branch
  - c. An Coiste Áitiúil nó Grúpa Sainleasa / The Local Committee or Special Interest Group
  - d. An Chomhairle Ceantair / The District Council
  - e. An Chomhairle Dáilcheantair / The Constituency Council
  - f. Ógra Fhianna Fáil / Ógra Fianna Fáil
  - g. An Fóram Chomhairleoirí Fhianna Fáil / The Fianna Fáil Councilors' Forum
  - h. An Fóram Contae Fhianna Fáil/ The Fianna Fáil County Forum
  - i. Ceannteathrú Fhianna Fáil / Fianna Fáil Headquarters
  - j. An Páirtí Parlaiminte / The Parliamentary Party
  - k. An Ard-Chomhairle / The National Executive
  - l. An Ard Fheis / The National Conference

## A. MEMBERSHIP

2. Membership of Fianna Fáil is open to all Irish Citizens and to persons of Irish birth, parentage, grand-parentage or persons ordinarily and legally resident in Ireland, who accept the Constitution and Rules of Fianna Fáil.
3. To become a member of Fianna Fáil a person must either;
  - a. Apply to the Fianna Fáil Joint Honorary Secretaries and be accepted for membership.  
  
or
  - b. Be accepted as a Member of a Fianna Fáil Cumann, followed by an application to the Fianna Fáil Joint Honorary Secretaries.  
  
or
  - c. Be selected as a Fianna Fáil Candidate for Parliamentary or Local Authority Elections and have signed the appropriate candidate pledge, followed by an application to the Fianna Fáil Joint Honorary Secretaries.  
  
or
  - d. Apply for, and accept, membership at Parliamentary Party or Local Authority Group level and sign the appropriate candidate pledge, followed by an application for membership to the Fianna Fáil Joint Honorary Secretaries.
4. All members and units of Fianna Fáil shall be bound by this Córú agus Rialacha and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Organisation in all matters arising in connection with the Organisation's activities.
5. Each new member shall serve an initial twelve month probationary period during which time the Joint Honorary Secretaries may revoke his/her membership.
6. Any person may apply to his/her local Cumann for membership.
  - a. Such person shall be deemed a member of the said cumann provided such membership is not rejected by the cumann.
  - b. A person whose application for membership has been rejected by a Cumann shall have the right to appeal to the Comhairle Ceantair

(CC) with a further right of appeal to the Comhairle Dáilcheantair (CDC), with a further and final right of appeal to the Ard-Chomhairle Committee acting on behalf of the Ard-Chomhairle.

- c. Following any such appeal(s), the CC, CDC or Ard-Chomhairle, as appropriate, may direct the Cumann to accept such person as a member. The Cumann shall comply with such direction. Any such appeal must be made within 12 months of the refusal being communicated to the person by the Cumann, and any further appeal must be made within 14 days of the communication of that decision.
  - d. No person may be a member of more than one Cumann, save as provided for by a protocol.
7. Upon becoming a member of the Organisation, each member wishing to attain voting membership, must be deemed to be a member of his/her local cumann or, where outlined by a protocol, the next higher unit.
  8. Each voting member, save those excused by protocol, shall be required to attend at least two meetings of the Organisation per annum.
  9. Any member wishing to exercise voting rights under these rules shall pay the annual subscription to the Joint Honorary Treasurers as it falls due. The rate to be applied shall be set by the Ard-Chomhairle and may be reviewed by it from time to time. A Register of Voting Members shall be maintained by Headquarters.
  10. Each and every member of the Organisation, being over the age of 16, of at least 12 months standing, and having paid his/her annual subscription for the same period, shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at meetings of the Ard Fheis, his/her Cumann, and such other units of the Organisation as provided for by protocol. Such members, who are also members of a cumann or, as outlined by a protocol, the next higher unit, shall be designated as Voting Members. They shall be issued with a membership card and shall be entitled to vote at candidate selection conventions and have other rights, as provided for by a protocol.
  11. Each voting member is a voting member of his/her Comhairle Ceantair (where such unit is in existence). Each voting member is also a voting member of his/her CDC, except where CDC membership is restricted by a protocol.
  12. Persons may remain members of the Organisation without paying the subscription fee. However, they will not have voting rights. Such members

shall be classified as Associate Members. A Register of Associate Members shall be maintained by Headquarters.

13. A person shall cease to be a member of the Organisation when his/her resignation is accepted and notified to the Honorary Secretaries or when he/she is expelled in accordance with these Rules. A Cumann may request that an associate member be deemed to have resigned if he/she is no longer active in the Cumann's activities.

## **B. DISCIPLINE**

14. It shall be the duty of all members to uphold the highest ethical standards at all times and they shall seek to avoid any actions which would damage the standing of the Organisation.
15. Every holder of an Office within the Organisation, every Fianna Fáil Public Representative and every Election Candidate shall have the duty to inform themselves of, and comply with, statutory requirements governing the regulation of political activity. Members should be particularly aware of their responsibilities in relation to the raising and management of Fianna Fáil or Candidate Election Funds.
16. The Rules and Procedures Committee of the Ard-Chomhairle shall be responsible for developing and overseeing compliance with the Corú, Rialacha, Protocols and Statutory Requirements governing the regulation of political activity.
17. The Ard-Chomhairle shall have the power to sanction; including the power to suspend or expel, from membership, any person deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Organisation. A Comhairle Dáilcheantair shall also have the power to sanction, suspend or expel from membership any member, within its area, subject to a right of appeal to the Ard-Chomhairle. A Comhairle Ceantair shall also have the power to sanction or suspend from membership any member, within its area, subject to a right of appeal to the CDC and ultimately to the Ard-Chomhairle.
  - a. No expulsion for conduct unbecoming a member of the Organisation shall be valid unless it has been decided upon by two thirds, or greater, of those present and voting at a meeting of the Ard-Chomhairle or Comhairle Dáilcheantair, specially convened for that purpose. Notice of the proposed expulsion must be published at least 7 days in advance to all those entitled to vote.
18. On information being received by the General Secretary, which establishes

a possible prima facie case of conduct unbecoming a member of the Organisation,

- a. the General Secretary together with the Cathaoirleach of the Rules and Procedures Committee or his/her nominee may in the first instance invite a member to step aside from all Fianna Fáil activity on a “without prejudice” basis, pending further enquiry or investigation of the matter;
  - b. the General Secretary, the Cathaoirleach of the Rules and Procedures Committee and any two of, the Joint Honorary Vice Presidents, Joint Honorary Secretary and Joint Honorary Treasurer, who are not members of the Parliamentary Party shall have power to suspend from membership, a member on a “without prejudice” basis subject to all internal and external enquiries.
  - c. an enquiry or investigation shall be conducted as soon as practicable after the receipt of the information referred to.
  - d. In the event of a suspension under paragraph b of this Rule a sub-committee consisting of five member of the Ard-Chomhairle with an independent Cathaoirleach shall conduct such an enquiry or investigation and hear evidence giving the person complained of an opportunity of being heard and represented.
19. On information being received by the General Secretary, which establishes to the satisfaction of the Rules and Procedures Committee that a member is guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Organisation, it may bring a motion to the Ard-Chomhairle calling for the expulsion of the member.
20. Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil may bring a motion to the Ard-Chomhairle calling for the expulsion of any member he/she believes to be guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Organisation.
21. In the event of a complaint being received or of a matter requiring investigation, an Investigating Committee consisting of at least three members, including at least one representative of the Ard-Chomhairle and an independent Cathaoirleach (not a member of the Ard-Chomhairle), may be appointed by the Cathaoirleach of the Rules and Procedures Committee.
- a. This Investigating Committee shall conduct such an investigation, hear evidence and give the person complained of an opportunity of being heard and represented.

- b. At the conclusion of the investigation, the report of the Investigating Committee shall be referred to the Rules and Procedures Committee. That Committee may:
    - i. Impose a formal sanction on the member where breaches of standards are proven;
    - ii. Impose a suspension;
    - iii. Bring a motion to the Ard-Chomhairle calling for the expulsion of the member.
  - c. The Rules and Procedures Committee shall have the power to impose sanctions, as outlined by a protocol, including some or all of the following:
    - i. A recorded resolution of censure of any member, specifying the conduct complained of
    - ii. A direction that a member shall not contest or hold any, or any particular, office within the Organisation for a specified period
    - iii. A direction that a member shall not attend any, or any particular, meetings of units of the Organisation for a specified period
    - iv. A direction that a member shall not seek nomination for, or be ratified as, a candidate for election to any publicly elected office for a specified period.
  - d. Any suspension imposed by the Rules and Procedures Committee, under this rule, must be ratified by the Ard-Chomhairle at the next meeting thereof.
22. Any member of Fianna Fáil, who publically declares their intention to stand in any election other than as a duly ratified Fianna Fáil candidate, shall automatically be deemed to have been expelled from the Organisation, subject to a right of appeal to the Ard-Chomhairle.
23. Any member of Fianna Fáil, who supports a candidate other than a duly ratified Fianna Fáil candidate, shall automatically be deemed to have been expelled from the Organisation, provided any such allegation of support is substantiated by investigation to be undertaken by an *Investigating Com-*

*mittee* as set out by rule 21.

24. In the event of a suspension being authorised, a period of not more than 5 years shall be determined from the date of the decision.
25. A person shall be informed in writing of any sanction, suspension or expulsion imposed on them and shall be entitled to lodge an appeal of any sanction, suspension or expulsion, within 14 days, to the Ard-Chomhairle.
26. Notice of any sanction, suspension or expulsion shall be issued to the Secretary of the person's Cumann, CC and CDC. A Register of Sanctions, Suspensions and Expulsions shall be maintained in Fianna Fáil Headquarters.
27. A person who has been suspended shall not, for the period of the said suspension, be entitled to exercise any of his/her rights of membership, whatsoever. Furthermore, any member subject to a suspension shall be deemed resigned from any Officership he/she holds in the Organisation and shall resign from membership of any body that the member has been nominated to as a member of Fianna Fáil. If the person is an elected representative then he/she shall forfeit membership of the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party or membership of the relevant Local Authority Fianna Fáil Group. The status of such a person shall be a "suspended member" until the suspension period is over. In the meantime he/she continues to be subject to the Córú agus Rialacha. Detailed consequences of a suspension shall be set out in a protocol.
28. A person may apply to the Ard-Chomhairle to have his/her suspension lifted prior to its expiration. Such an application shall be made in writing setting out the reason(s) as to why the Ard-Chomhairle, or authorised sub-committee acting on behalf of the Ard-Chomhairle, should consider lifting such a suspension.
29. In the event of any person being expelled from the Organisation, such person shall not be re-admitted to the Organisation without the approval of the Ard-Chomhairle. The Ard-Chomhairle shall not consider any proposal to re-admit any person expelled unless a written proposal, from such a person, is received containing the reason(s) as to why the Ard-Chomhairle should consider authorising re-admission to membership of Fianna Fáil.
30. In the event of a person resigning from the Organisation when either (a) being subject to an investigation regarding a claim of conduct unbecoming, (b) being subject to a motion calling for his/her expulsion or suspension, (c) being under suspension from the Organisation, or (d) in order to stand as a non Fianna Fáil Election Candidate, such person shall not be re-admitted

to the Organisation without the prior approval of the Ard-Chomhairle or an authorised Sub-Committee, acting on behalf of the Ard-Chomhairle.

### C. ELECTION OF PARTY LEADER

31. In the event of the death, resignation or incapacity of a Party Leader, an election to fill the vacancy shall be held.

#### 32. General

- (i) A Committee (the Election Committee), consisting of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Party, the Party Whip, the Chairman of the Rules and Procedures Committee and the General Secretary shall be responsible for the organising of the Election of the Leader. If the Chairman of the Parliamentary Party or the Party Whip are contesting the election they shall be deemed to have resigned from the Election Committee and shall be replaced by the Joint Honorary Secretary who is a member of the Parliamentary Party if one vacancy arises and if a second vacancy arises the Joint Honorary Treasurer who is a member of the Parliamentary Party shall also take up a place on the Election Committee. If the Joint Honorary Secretary or Joint Honorary Treasurer are contesting the Election for the Party Leadership, the positions shall be filled by one of the Parliamentary Party Vice-Presidents of the Party, the person to fill that position determined by the drawing of lots.
  - a) The Election Committee shall be convened within seven days of a vacancy arising for the position of Party Leader.
  - b) The Election Committee shall open nominations for three days.
  - c) The special Ard Fheis, held for the purpose of electing a new Party Leader, shall take place no sooner than two weeks from the date nominations close and no later than four weeks from the date of nominations closing.
- (ii) Voting shall be broken down into three electoral colleges. These colleges are:
  - a) Voting Members of the Fianna Fáil Party (45%)
  - b) Teachtaí Dála holding the Fianna Fáil whip (40%)

- c) Fianna Fáil Senators, Members of the European Parliament, City and County Councillors and members of the Party's Árd Chomhairle (15%)
- (iii) No person may vote more than once on any electoral college or as a constituent on more than one Electoral College.

### 33. Nomination

- (i) Any person willing to accept nomination for the position of Party Leader must be a Fianna Fáil T.D. who holds the Party Whip.
- (ii) That T.D. must be nominated by at least five (5) Fianna Fáil T.D.'s holding the Party whip by close of nominations.
- (iii) Nominees must confirm to the Party General Secretary, who shall be the Returning Officer, in writing, of their intention to stand as a candidate for the election of the Party Leader. Failure to confirm in writing by the deadline set by the Election Committee will deem that candidate as having withdrawn.
- (iv) All duly nominated candidates will then go forward to the next stage of the Election.

### 34. Hustings

- (i) In the course of an election of a Party Leader, hustings will be arranged by the Election Committee. Each candidate will be afforded equal speaking rights at every meeting called by the Election Committee.
- (ii) Hustings shall be arranged in venues throughout the country, ensuring that the maximum number of members are in a position to attend the hustings in advance of the election. The Election Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the locations and venues for each hustings are appropriate.

### 35. Voting

Voting shall take place by postal ballot, or in person, and shall close at an Ard Fheis, specially convened for the purpose of electing a new Party Leader.

- (i) Voting Members of the Party – College 1  
Full voting members of the Party (OMOV) will cast a single transferable vote (STV)
- (ii) Teachtaí Dála holding the Fianna Fáil whip – College 2  
Fianna Fáil Deputies, holding the Party Whip, shall cast a single transferable vote.
- (iii) Fianna Fáil Senators, Members of the European Parliament, City and County Councillors and members of the Party’s Ard Chomhairle – College 3  
Fianna Fáil Senators, MEPs, City and County Councillors, holding the Party whip, and members of the Party’s Ard Chomhairle shall cast a single transferable vote.
- (iv) The votes of each nominee in each college shall be calculated as a percentage of the total votes cast in that section. Each duly nominated T.D. standing for the office of Party Leader will receive an aggregate total of their proportionate support from each college.
- (v) A candidate shall be elected if they receive an absolute majority of the electoral college (more than 50%)
- (vi) If no candidate achieves an absolute majority, the candidate with lowest level of support shall be eliminated.

### 36. Review

A review of the process shall take place after the first time a Leader is elected under these rules.

### 37. Conclusion

The Election Committee shall, in advance of nominations, prepare and publish rules governing eligibility to vote, the counting of votes, appeals and all other matters not specified in these provisions. The Committee’s ruling on all matters shall be final.

- 38. On his/her election, the Party Leader shall assume the title and powers of Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil following his/her endorsement by the Organisation’s Ard-Chomhairle.

## D. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FIANNA FÁIL

1. The Organisation of Fianna Fáil shall comprise the following units
  - a) An Comhalta / The Member
  - b) An Cumann / The Branch
  - c) An Coiste Áitiúil nó Grúpa Sainleasa / The Local Committee or Special Interest Group
  - d) An Chomhairle Ceantair / The District Council
  - e) An Chomhairle Dáilcheantair / The Constituency Council
  - f) Ógra Fhianna Fáil / Ógra Fianna Fáil
  - g) An Fóram Chomhairleoirí Fhianna Fáil / The Fianna Fáil Councillors' Forum
  - h) Fóram Chontae / County Forum
  - i) Ceanncheathrú Fhianna Fáil / Fianna Fáil Headquarters
  - j) An Páirtí Parlaiminte / The Parliamentary Party
  - k) An Ard-Chomhairle / The National Executive
  - l) An Ard Fheis / The National Conference

## AN COMHALTA / THE MEMBER

39. All members shall support the Organisation, its Officers, Candidates and Public Representatives in working to fulfill the aims as set out in Córú Fhianna Fáil. All members of Fianna Fáil shall be designated either as *Voting Members* or *Associate Members*. The manner in which members are to be designated, organised and managed, together with their duties, rights and responsibilities of membership, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.
40. Each member, by virtue of his or her membership and/or by his or her participation in the activities of the Organisation, shall be deemed to have consented to being bound in full by this Córú agus Rialacha.

## **AN CUMANN / THE CUMANN**

41. Fianna Fáil shall be organised on the basis of a local branch known as a Cumann. The manner in which a Cumann is to be established, organised, and managed, together with the duties of the officers of the Cumann and the voting rights of members regarding the business of the Cumann, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.
42. In certain areas where, following consultation with the Organisation in that area, it is judged by the Ard-Chomhairle that the cumann structures are not appropriate, the next higher unit shall exercise the powers of the Cumann as provided for by a protocol.

## **AN COISTE ÁITIÚIL NÓ GRÚPA SAINLEASA / THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

43. A Coiste Áitiúil may be formed to deal with matters of special interest. Such units may work within a part of a Local Authority Electoral Area or a Dáil Constituency for the proper co-ordination of Cumann within that designated area. A Grúpa Sainleasa may be formed to oversee the activities of special interest groups and associations on a national or regional basis.
44. The manner in which a Coiste Áitiúil or a Grúpa Sainleasa may be established, organised and managed shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.

## **COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR / THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

45. There shall be a Comhairle Ceantair in each County Electoral Area, or in such other areas as the Ard-Chomhairle, or the Comhairle Dáilcheantair with the approval of the Ard-Chomhairle, may direct. The manner in which a Comhairle Ceantair is to be organised and managed, together with its powers and duties, the duties of the Officers, and the voting rights of members, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.
46. A Comhairle Ceantair shall have power, by a vote of the majority of the members present and voting at a meeting duly convened for the purpose, to order the dissolution of any Cumann under its control which is deemed to have violated the Córú or na Rialacha, subject to appeal to the CDC with a further right of appeal to the Ard-Chomhairle.

47. In certain areas where, following consultation with the Organisation in that area, it is judged by the Ard-Chomhairle that the comhairle ceantair structures are not appropriate, the next higher unit shall exercise the powers of the Comhairle Ceantair as provided for by a protocol.

## COMHAIRLE DÁILCHEANTAIR / THE CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

48. There shall be a Comhairle Dáilcheantair for each Dáil Constituency area or other area as the Ard-Chomhairle may direct. It shall have the duty to manage and direct the Organisation in the Constituency. The manner in which a CDC is to be organised and managed, together with its powers and duties, the duties of the Officers, and the voting rights of members, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.

## ÓGRA FHIANNA FÁIL / ÓGRA FIANNA FÁIL

49. All members who are within the age limits specified by a protocol shall be deemed members of Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ógra). The manner in which Ógra is to be organised and managed, together with membership entitlements, the powers and duties of Ógra units, the duties of Officers, and the voting rights of members, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle following consultation with Ógra Officers and Units.

## AN FÓRAM CHOMHAIRLEOIRÍ FHIANNA FÁIL / THE FIANNA FÁIL COUNCILLORS' FORUM

50. The Fianna Fáil Councillors' Forum shall consist of all elected representatives who are members of a Local Authority, who are members of their Council's Fianna Fáil Group and who are at the same time members of the Fianna Fáil Organisation.
51. Following their election, Fianna Fáil Councillors in each Local Authority Area, shall form a Fianna Fáil Councillors' group.
52. The manner in which the Councillors' Forum and Councillors' Group are to be organised and managed, together with their powers and duties, the duties of Officers and members, and the voting rights of members, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle, following consultation with the National Committee of an Fóram Chomhairleoirí.
53. A Councillors' Forum member has the right to appeal any disciplinary ac-

tion taken by their Fianna Fáil Councillors' Group to the National Committee of an Fóram Chomhairleoirí Fhianna Fáil and ultimately to the Ard-Chomhairle.

54. All members of the Fianna Fáil Councillors' Forum are subject to the Rules, Procedures and Protocols of the Organization in relation to their membership of Fianna Fáil and are answerable to the Ard-Chomhairle for breaches in standards of conduct.

## FÓRAM CHONTAE FHIANNA FÁIL / THE FIANNA FÁIL COUNTY FORUM

55. There shall be a Fianna Fáil County Forum for each County in Northern Ireland. These shall have the duty to manage and direct the Organisation in the County subject to direction of the Ard-Chomhairle. The manner in which a County Forum is to be organised and managed, together with its powers and duties, the duties of the Officers, and the voting rights of members, shall be set out in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.

## CEANNCHEATHRÚ / HEADQUARTERS

56. The administration of the Organisation and implementation of Organisational strategies agreed by the Ard-Chomhairle shall be undertaken by staff in Fianna Fáil Headquarters who shall also be subject to the provisions of Córú agus Rialacha.
57. Headquarters shall act as Data Controller for all membership data and shall maintain a register of all units affiliated to the Organisation. Procedures, governing access to this information by Officers, Public Representatives and Fianna Fáil Election Candidates, shall be set out in a protocol.
58. The Fianna Fáil General Secretary, appointed by An tUachtarán, shall act as Legal Agent for the Organisation. He/she shall adhere to statutory requirements governing the regulation of political activity and shall be responsible for the management of Headquarters and Organisational matters.
59. Fianna Fáil Headquarters shall put in place a set of service commitments concerning its interface with the Organisation. Such service commitments shall be outlined in a protocol and this may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

60. The Parliamentary Party shall consist of all the Fianna Fáil members of Dáil

Éireann, Seanad Éireann and the European Parliament taking the Fianna Fáil Whip, who are at the same time members of the Organisation.

61. The manner in which the Parliamentary Party is organised and managed shall be set out in a protocol, known as the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party Rules and this may be amended from time to time by the Parliamentary Party.
62. The Parliamentary Party shall be the primary authority for policy development, however,
  - a. The Parliamentary Party shall consult with all members and Units in relation to policy development.
  - b. Each year there shall be a National Policy Conference facilitated by the Parliamentary Party at which members of the Organisation shall be entitled to attend.
63. The Parliamentary Party shall prepare regular reports on its activities and it shall report to each Ard-Chomhairle meeting and make written reports available to all members at least twice annually.
64. All members of the Parliamentary Party are subject to the Rules, Procedures and Protocols of the Organisation in relation to their membership of Fianna Fáil and are answerable to the Ard-Chomhairle for any breaches in standards of conduct.
65. No member of the Parliamentary Party shall be an Officer of a Cumann, Comhairle Ceantair or Comhairledáil Ceantair save in exceptional circumstances with the prior approval of the Ard Chomhairle.
66.
  - i. If Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil recommends that Fianna Fáil enters into a coalition government, a draft Programme for Government must be presented to voting members of the organisation for approval at a special Árd Fheis before any such government can be formed. The voting members will vote on a OMOV (*One Member One Vote*) basis to accept or reject the draft Programme.
  - ii. Only if a simple majority of those casting valid votes vote in favour of the draft Programme for Government shall it be approved. Only if such a majority is achieved shall Fianna Fáil enter the proposed government.

- iii. The Rules and Procedures Committee of the Ard Chomhairle shall set out the procedures to be followed in relation to the convening and conduct of the Special Ard Fheis.
67. The Party's nomination for the Presidency of Ireland shall be decided by the Parliamentary Party, in the manner provided for in the Rules of the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party.

## AN ARD-CHOMHAIRLE / THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

68. That when the Ard Fheis is not in session, as the Ard Chomhairle is the supreme body of the organisation and, save in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. It shall not have the power to alter or amend or ignore any decision of the Ard Fheis.
69. The Ard-Chomhairle shall have power to determine all matters in relation to the running of the Organisation.
70. The Ard-Chomhairle shall have the power to order the suspension or dissolution of any single unit of the Organisation, save for the Ard Fheis. The power to do so may be exercised by two thirds, or greater, of those present and voting at any meeting of the Ard-Chomhairle, provided at least 7 days' notice is given of such meeting and of the motion proposed to both the Ard-Chomhairle members and the Secretary of the body, the subject of any such motion.
71. The Ard-Chomhairle shall monitor and oversee the implementation of the Fianna Fáil Gender Equality Action Plan. This plan shall be set out in a protocol and may be amended from time to time by the Ard-Chomhairle.
72. The Ard-Chomhairle shall consist of the following:
- a. The Officers:
    - (i) The President,
    - (ii) Five Vice-Presidents – At least two of whom shall be a member of the Parliamentary Party (one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man)

At least two of whom shall not be a member of the Parliamentary Party (one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man)

- (iii) Two Joint Honorary Secretaries – one shall be a member of the Parliamentary Party and the other shall not
- (iv) Two Joint Honorary Treasurers – one shall be a member of the Parliamentary Party and the other shall not
- (v) The Cathaoirleach of the Ard-Chomhairle's Rules and Procedures Committee appointed by Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil.
- (vi) The first male and the first female elected to a committee of 15 members to be elected at the Ard Fheis
- (vii) The Cathaoirleach of the Foram Chomhairleoiri Fhianna Fáil
- (viii) Two members representing the constituency delegates (one of whom shall be a woman and one a man) of the Ard Chomhairle elected by the group of constituency delegates before the first plenary meeting of the AC after the conclusion of the constituency delegate election process following an Ard-Fheis
- (ix) The Uachtarán of Ógra Fianna Fáil

b. The Composition of the Ard Chomhairle

- (i) The Officer Board (17)
- (ii) Two members of the Parliamentary Party to be elected by the Parliamentary Party, at least one of whom shall be a woman and one shall be a man.
- (iii) One representative from each European Parliament Constituency representing Foram Chomhairleoiri Fhianna Fáil (3-1=2)
- (iv) A Committee of 15 members (non-members of the Parliamentary Party) elected by the Ard Fheis. Seven shall be women and seven shall be men and at least one member shall be a member of the organisation from one of the 6 counties (15-2 = 13)
- (v) Five members of Ógra Fhianna Fáil elected by the National Youth Conference as provided by protocol. (5-1 =4)
- (vi) One delegate from each CDC, known as the Constituency Delegate (all to be non-members of the PP) and two shall be elected onto the officer board. (44-2 = 42)

- (vii) Not more than two Honorary Life Members.

**Total Membership: 82**

73. Constituency Delegates from Dublin CDCs shall reside in the Greater Dublin Electoral Area. Elsewhere, Constituency Delegates shall hold membership in the C.D.C for which they seek election. Members of the Parliamentary Party shall not be eligible for election as Constituency Delegates.
74. The term of office of the Ard-Chomhairle shall be the period from the close of the Full Voting Ard Fheis to the Close of the subsequent Full Voting Ard Fheis.
75. Members of the Ard-Chomhairle shall take office at the close of the Ard Fheis, or upon election if elected during the term of the Ard-Chomhairle, and shall leave office at the subsequent Ard Fheis, except as outlined by protocols.
76. The electoral system of proportional representation by way of single transferable vote shall operate in voting for positions on the Ard-Chomhairle.
77. The process regarding the nomination and election of members to the Ard-Chomhairle, together with the rights and duties of all members of the Ard-Chomhairle shall be set out in a protocol. This protocol may be amended by the Ard-Chomhairle from time to time.
78. Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil shall appoint Committees of the Ard-Chomhairle. The Committees of the Ard-Chomhairle shall include the Rules and Procedures Committee, the National Constituencies Committee, the National Organisation Committee and the National Finance Committee. Following reforms implemented at the 76ú Ard Fheis the following shall be standing sub-committees of the Ard Chomhairle: Northern Ireland Committee, Coiste na Gaeilge, European Affairs Committee, Health and Social Welfare Committee, Agriculture Committee, Enterprise & Education Committee. Other committees may be formed at the direction of the Ard-Chomhairle. The manner in which such Committees are to be organised and managed, together with the powers delegated to them by the Ard-Chomhairle shall be set out in a protocol. At the first plenary meeting of the full Ard Chomhairle following an Ard Fheis, it shall decide the list of policy and activity/event committees for its term.
79. Following consultation with each CDC, the Ard-Chomhairle shall adopt and publish an annual plan of activities for the following year and a review of the previous year's activities.

## AN ARD FHEIS / THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

80. The Supreme Governing and Legislative Body of the Organisation shall be the Ard Fheis, which shall be convened annually, in as far as is practicable, by the Ard-Chomhairle.
81. The Ard Fheis shall be designated either as a “Full Voting Ard Fheis” or, in the case that the Ard-Chomhairle by the date of the Ard Fheis will have served less than 12 months in office, it may be designated as a “Non Electing Ard Fheis”.
82. An tUachtarán, on election, shall nominate, for the approval of the Ard Fheis, three persons to act as Honorary Trustees of the Organisation.
  - a. All property shall be vested in the Trustees, who shall hold same for, and on behalf of, the Organisation.
  - b. Where so authorised, by a resolution of the Ard Chomhairle, the Trustees shall have the power to sell, lease, mortgage, charge or otherwise deal with all or any of the said property provided always that the purchase price, rent or other consideration payable in respect of such sale, lease or other disposition shall be approved by a resolution of the Ard Chomhairle.
  - c. Where appropriate and expedient, the Trustees may, where directed by the Officer Board of the Ard Chomhairle, borrow money from any Bank or other appropriate institution; the identity of the lender, the amount of such borrowing and the terms and conditions of repayment to be known to and approved by the Joint Honorary Treasurers, in advance of any authorisation or borrowings being drawn down; the obligation for the repayment of such money being that of the Organisation and not of the Trustees
83. The Ard Fheis shall consist of those of the following who have registered for attendance with voting rights, in accordance with a protocol:
  - (i) All Voting Members of the Organisation of at least 12 months’ standing, who have paid their annual subscriptions for the same period.
  - (ii) The Members of the Fianna Fáil Parliamenrary Party.
  - (iii) The Members of An Forám Chomhairleoirí Fhianna Fáil.

(iv) The Members of An Ard-Chomhairle.

84. Associate members of the Organisation, may apply for Observer status only.
85. Save as otherwise provided by a protocol and by Rule 92, matters to be decided on by the Ard Fheis shall be done by the majority of those attendees with voting rights, present and voting.
86. Any motion passed at an Ard Fheis workshop, where less than 10% of registered attendees with Voting Rights are present, shall be referred to the Ard-Chomhairle for consideration.
87. An Extraordinary Ard Fheis shall be summoned for a special purpose, stated on a requisition, endorsed by either:
  - c. One-third of the registered Comhairlí Dáilceantair,
  - d. One-third of the registered Comhairlí Ceantair
  - e. One-third of the registered Cumainn.
  - f. A majority of the members of the Ard-Chomhairle, present and voting, at a meeting of the Ard-Chomhairle specially convened to consider whether such Extraordinary Ard Fheis should be summoned.
88. At least seven days' notice must be given to all unit Honorary Secretaries of the Extraordinary Ard Fheis. On receipt of the notice each Honorary Secretary shall request members to register for attendance at the Extraordinary Ard Fheis.
89. The Standing Orders for the Ard Fheis and manner in which it is organised shall be set out in a protocol. These shall be adopted at the Opening of the Ard Fheis upon the recommendation of the Ard Fheis Cathaoirleach.

## E. CANDIDATE SELECTION

90. Conventions shall be held for the selection of Candidates for the following elections:
  - a) Dáil and European elections;
  - b) City and County Council Elections;

- c) Borough/Town Council Elections;
- d) Co-options.

91. The Organisation and manner in which Conventions are to be held and conducted shall be set out in a protocol.
92. The manner in which candidates for Seanad Eireann are to be endorsed by the Party shall be set out in a protocol.
93. In any area where, in the opinion of the Ard-Chomhairle, the state of the Organisation is not such as would enable a representative Selection Convention to be held, the Ard-Chomhairle shall consider the names of nominees submitted by members in the area, and shall itself select a candidate or candidates.
94. No protocol, or any other provision adopted, shall prejudice the right of the Ard-Chomhairle to alter the panel of candidates to be officially nominated at a Local Election, Dáil Election, Seanad Election or European Parliament Election.
95. Where the Ard-Chomhairle or the National Constituencies Committee so decides, the name of an outgoing Deputy, Senator, M.E.P., Local Authority Member or any Member, shall not be considered for selection by a Convention.
96. Each candidate selected for election as a duly ratified Party candidate in any election shall sign a Candidate Pledge. The wording of any such pledge is to be set out in a protocol which may be amended by the Ard-Chomhairle.

## **F. GENERAL**

97. The Córú agus Rialacha may not be permanently altered or amended except by an Ard Fheis, and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Notice of the proposed amendment or alteration must be published at least 7 days in advance to all those entitled to vote.
98. A proposal for the amendment of the Rialacha may be submitted to a special meeting of the Ard-Chomhairle, of which at least seven days' notice shall have been given to all members thereof. The amendment, if adopted by two thirds, or greater, of all those present and voting at such special meeting, shall be valid and effective until the following Ard Fheis, when, if not approved by that Ard Fheis, it shall lapse.

99. A proposal for the amendment of the Rialacha shall, refer to the Number of the Rule(s) to be amended (or indicate where a new rule is to be inserted) and shall contain the complete wording of the proposed amended rule(s) or new rule(s).
100. All other regulations and procedures in force shall be prescribed by protocols. All protocols shall be indexed and described in appendices to the Córú agus Rialacha. A proposal for the amendment or addition of a protocol may be submitted to a meeting of the Ard-Chomhairle or Ard Fheis provided it has been first considered by the Rules and Procedures Committee. At least seven days' notice of the proposals shall be given to all members. A protocol, once adopted by a majority of all those present and voting, shall be valid and effective as determined by the Ard-Chomhairle.
101. No member or ex-member shall have any right as against any other member of the Organisation, in respect of any act of omission in pursuance of these Rules for the time being in force, other than such right of appeal to the Cumann, Comhairle Ceantair, Comhairle Dáilcheantair or Ard-Chomhairle as herein provided.
102. Any matters arising which are not governed by the Rialacha as set out herein, or by approved protocol will be determined by the Ard-Chomhairle on foot of recommendation by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
103. These Rialacha shall take effect upon adoption and shall take precedence over any Rialacha, Guidelines or Rulings previously in effect. A current version of the Rialacha and of all Protocols shall be maintained by Fianna Fáil Headquarters. These are available upon request to any Voting Member. Unit Secretaries shall be furnished with a copy of the Rialacha and shall be informed if a change or addition is made to the Rialacha.

## Notes

## Notes







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