

1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Sea Scout Group Membership Policy

Scouting in Ireland is a voluntary, uniformed, non-formal educational movement for young people. It is independent, non-political, open to all without distinction of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Travelling Community, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

The main object for which Our Scout Group is established is for the purpose of benefit to our community and beyond, to encourage, the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that those young people may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, improve society.

POLICY STATEMENT

1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Scout Group is committed to maintaining a policy and process for allocation of places in each Section of the group that will promote continuity within in the sections and be fair, transparent and equitable. In an effort to maintain gender balance, Group Council can agree to prioritise specific gender ratios.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the policy and criteria which will be followed in the allocation of places.

SCOPE

This document is in relation to the allocation of youth member places in all sections of 1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Scout Group only.

DEFINITIONS

Youth member - A registered member of any section of the Scout Group who is under 18

Leader/Scouter - A registered Scouter of any section of the Scout Group.

Admissions Officer - A person appointed by the Group to maintain the Waiting list and Admissions.

Transition - Where a youth member moves from one section to the next section at the appropriate age

Registration - Completion of Section registration form and payment of Annual Subscription Fee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents or guardians must complete sign and return a waiting list application form to the Admissions Officer. The Admissions Officer will maintain and administrate the admissions and waiting list in line with the agreed and published policy and in conjunction with the Section Leaders. Section Leaders will liaise with Admissions Officer in regards to transitions and registration and their current numbers. The Group Leader will arbitrate in the event of any question arising from the Admissions Policy and that decision will be final.

FAMILY COMMITMENT

1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Scout Group is a completely voluntarily led and managed group. Everyone from the Group Leader, Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Parents and Friends Committee etc., is a volunteer; giving up their time and energies to make the Scout Group the success it is today. We expect that new families joining the group will support the group by giving their time to support events

throughout the year.

This might be in fundraising, supporting and staffing events, maintenance of equipment, administration etc. Each year, every family is expected to assist at an event or by giving of their expertise or time as appropriate. Not only does this help the Group, but you will find that your child also benefits and appreciates the support you give to their scout group

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION TO THE WAITING LIST

Waiting List application form is to be completed, signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the Admissions Officer. The child for whom a place is being requested must reach the appropriate age for that section within the calendar year of application. If a place has not been offered in a suitable timeframe, the child's name will either be moved to the waiting list for the next section or removed from the list as requested by their parent or guardian. If a place is offered and not taken up, the child's name will be removed from the waiting list.

Minimum ages (as of August 31st) are: Beavers – 6 years, Cubs – 9 years, Scouts – 12 years and Ventures – 15 years.

CRITERIA FOR OFFERING PLACES

Places are offered in each section in the following order:

1. Places are offered to youth members coming up from another section i.e. Beavers who are going up to Cubs, Cubs who are going up to Scouts and Scouts going up to Ventures.
2. Children of existing or new Leaders.
3. Siblings of existing youth members, in date order (i.e. first come, first served). Siblings must be on the waiting list already.
4. Next name on waiting list for that section, in date order (i.e. first come, first served).
5. Youth members will not start in the last year of programme in any Section unless it is considered to be in the youth member's interest to do so. Any such exception will be agreed with the Group Leader.

TRANSITION AND REGISTRATION

Generally, transitions from the younger section will be done in June. Registration will take place in September. If places are available following registration, they will be offered based on the criteria defined.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and at any other time if required.

Last reviewed – 12/01/2023