

# NORTHERN IRELAND MODEL SOARING ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES

### 1. Name

The Association shall be known as the Northern Ireland Model Soaring Association, hereinafter referred to as N.I.M.S.A. or the Association.

### 2. Objects

The objects of N.I.M.S.A. shall be to encourage all aspects of radio controlled soaring flight in Northern Ireland by holding technical meetings, social activity, by promoting competitions and fun-fly sessions, and by all other means for the time being considered appropriate by the committee. At flying meetings when soaring activities have ceased, members are at liberty to fly slow 'park flyer' type electric aircraft such as cabin monoplanes but it must be emphasised that by far the main purpose of N.I.M.S.A. is the flying of gliders.

### 3. Membership

Membership of N.I.M.S.A. shall be open to any person of any age with an interest in any aspect of radio controlled soaring flight.

A child (person under 18) or vulnerable adult will be supervised under the "Parental Control" option. This means that a person so described may only fly when accompanied by a parent, guardian or carer, or by someone who has written authority to bring that person to the flying site or other activity.

The committee shall have the right to accept, reject or expel members.

All members shall have the right to attend, take part in and vote at all general meetings of N.I.M.S.A., to make nominations or be nominated for election to the committee, and to draw up motions for consideration at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings.

Temporary membership on a monthly basis shall be required for visitors and non-members wishing to take part in N.I.M.S.A. flying activities and who cannot produce satisfactory evidence that they are in possession of third party liability insurance cover when doing so. All visitors and non-members may be required to produce proof that they have third party liability insurance cover when flying or operating radio controlled model aircraft. The contest director on the day or any two members of the committee at any time shall have the right to accept, reject or expel temporary members.

### 4. Committee

The committee shall consist of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, General Contest Director, Safety Officer, Website Officer and two other elected N.I.M.S.A. members. The committee shall also include a B.M.F.A. representative if this post cannot be filled by a committee member described above. A junior member, without voting rights, may be co-opted at the discretion of the committee.

Five members of the committee shall form a quorum. The Chairman shall hold a casting vote in case of equality of votes. In the absence of the Chairman at any meeting a Vice-Chairman shall be elected by those present for the duration of that meeting.

The committee shall be responsible for the organisation and administration of N.I.M.S.A.

All members of the committee shall hold office for one year and then be eligible for re-election.

The Honorary Secretary shall maintain a record of all proceedings of N.I.M.S.A.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of N.I.M.S.A. and shall present an audited statement of the funds to each Annual General Meeting. This officer will also function as Membership Secretary and be responsible for issuing B.M.F.A. membership (proof of insurance) cards to N.I.M.S.A. members.

An account or accounts shall be opened in the name of N.I.M.S.A. at an established bank or building society. All cheques shall be signed by any two of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer.

## **5. Election of the Committee**

The officers and members of the committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of N.I.M.S.A. Any two members of N.I.M.S.A. may nominate an eligible member for election.

The committee shall have the power to co-opt any eligible member to fill a casual vacancy, but only for the unexpired term of the member in whose place he or she is elected.

## **6. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of N.I.M.S.A. shall be held during December of each year at such time and place as may be decided by the committee.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the meeting.

The business transacted shall be:

- (a) Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- (b) Matters arising
- (c) Committee members' annual reports
- (d) Review of Honorary Treasurer's financial statement
- (e) Setting of annual subscription for the ensuing year
- (f) Appointment of Auditor for ensuing year
- (g) Election of committee members
- (h) Voting on motions listed on the agenda

A motion will not be proposed at an Annual General Meeting unless it has been circulated amongst members with the notice of the meeting. Motions must be in writing and must be received by the Honorary Secretary not later than the thirty-first day of October prior to the meeting.

Presentation of N.I.M.S.A. awards and trophies will take place only at the Annual General Meeting.

## **7. Extraordinary General Meeting**

By resolution of the committee or upon request in writing signed by no fewer than eight members of N.I.M.S.A. the Honorary Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. Such meeting shall be held within one calendar month of such resolution or receipt of such request. The notice shall state the business for which the meeting has been called and only that business shall be discussed.

## **8. Quorum at General Meetings**

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting of N.I.M.S.A. unless there be present no fewer than eight members who are entitled to vote, or such lower number as may comprise the entire membership. In the absence of a quorum:

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall stand adjourned for not more than thirty days to a place and time appointed by the Chairman when business shall proceed without further notice or without a quorum, and
- (b) An Extraordinary Meeting shall be dissolved.

## **9. Voting**

Only such members of N.I.M.S.A. as are present at a meeting shall be entitled to vote. At an Extraordinary General Meeting a motion shall only be declared carried if no less than two thirds of those present and entitled to vote, vote in favour, at all other meetings a simple majority of those voting shall be sufficient.

## **10. Subscriptions**

All members of N.I.M.S.A. must be members of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) in order that they be covered by BMFA insurance. The total subscription is thus divided between a N.I.M.S.A. portion and a BMFA portion unless the BMFA membership is paid through another club. The amount of the annual N.I.M.S.A. subscription shall be fixed from time to time by resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. Subscription remaining unpaid by the first day of April each year shall indicate that defaulting members have ceased membership of N.I.M.S.A. The full membership subscription must be paid by the first day of January to obtain BMFA insurance through N.I.M.S.A. Members who are under sixteen years of age at the beginning of January are required to pay approximately one half of the N.I.M.S.A. contribution (a sum to be fixed at the previous Annual General Meeting) and the required BMFA contribution. In addition to the annual subscription, members shall pay, on joining or rejoining, an entrance fee of such amount as shall be fixed from time to time by the members at a general meeting. Persons accepted for temporary membership shall pay a monthly subscription of five pounds to the BMFA and three pounds to N.I.M.S.A. or such other amounts as shall be fixed from time to time by BMFA and N.I.M.S.A. members in general meeting.

## **11. Dissemination of Information**

This will be done via the N.I.M.S.A. website which will be maintained by the website officer and secretary.

## **12. Liability**

N.I.M.S.A. assumes no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to members or third parties as a result of the activities of the Association or its members whether arising from the Association's negligence or otherwise.

Insurance for public liability or for injury or damage to members of the Association shall be the responsibility of each member.

N.I.M.S.A. may take out such insurance for public liability or for injury or damage to members of the Association as it sees fit and without being under any obligation so to do provided that no member of the committee shall be liable for loss or damage howsoever arising as the result of any deficiency in any such insurance.

The policy document for any such insurance shall be available for inspection by any member upon request to the Honorary Secretary.

## **13. Dissolution of N.I.M.S.A.**

In the event of N.I.M.S.A. ceasing to exist, any monies remaining shall be donated to any such organisation involved in model aircraft activities as shall be nominated by the committee.

In the event of N.I.M.S.A. being dissolved with liabilities exceeding its net assets all then existing members shall be liable to the extent of not more than one year's subscription (at the then applicable rate) beyond the year in which N.I.M.S.A. is dissolved.

December 2009