

You may have heard there's big changes happening – here's a summary of why we're updating our Governance.

The Change

To match the transition to a teams-based approach and current charity regulatory good practice, we're changing:

- Executive Committees to Trustee Boards
- Executive Committee Members to Trustees

The purpose of this is to allow Trustees to focus on the role of Governance. Trustee Boards aren't meant to focus on operational tasks such as fundraising or hall management. Their focus is to be a team exercising their responsibilities as (charity) Trustees.

When should this happen?

It can happen immediately and does not require an AGM to implement. This is already included in Scottish Variations (SV) from POR July 2023.

Trustee Board's Purpose

There are clear purpose statements for Trustee Boards to fit with a 'focus on governance' theme. 'Operational' tasks will be managed through Support teams going forward.

Why?

To focus on ensuring effective governance – the absolute focus of any charity Trustee Board's responsibility and an important part of ensuring the charity focusses on meeting its objectives.

When?

It can happen immediately and does not require an AGM to implement. This is already included in Scottish Variations from POR July 2023. The latest edition of Scottish Variations from POR, chapter 5 contains the updated 'Trustee Board Purpose'.

Elements of the Trustee Board

Being confident that:

- young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
- there are sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group, District or Region
- the Scouts has a positive image in their local community

Managing Risk:

- developing and maintaining a risk register, including putting appropriate mitigations in place

Ensuring that:

- the charity's finances are properly managed and appropriately budgeted
- effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board

Trustee Membership

Good practice is a Board of 5 - 12 trustees. These are usually a combination of ex-officio, appointed and co-opted trustees. Ex-officio is a Lead Volunteer at Group, District or Regional level, and Youth Lead (if appointed) at District and Region. The Trustee Board will initiate a selection process to identify a Chair, Treasurer and appointed Trustees.

When will this be in POR?

March 2024 edition – chapter 5 reflects the revised membership criteria. The purpose of the Trustee Board remains the vital change, with the sizing of Trustee Board as a second stage.

When will it take effect?

From the first AGM following 1st April 2024, for each Group, District and Region. Mostly, this will be during 2024 (some may be in early 2025).

Other Considerations

- Current Secretary roles will no longer be Trustees. They will be replaced by Trustee Board administration roles.
- Length of term for appointed and co-opted members – up to 3 years with further appointments to the Trustee Board not exceeding 9 years in total.
- Wherever possible every Group, District and Region should have at least two members (Trustees) aged 18-25.
- The recommended quorum for Trustee Board 'one third of members plus one'.
- Trustee Declarations will be built in to the new membership system.
- You should re-adopt the model constitution from (SV) POR at each AGM and record this in the Minutes.

You can read more about POR and Governance over on our website.

