

New Ross and District Pipe Band Constitution



General

1. The aim of New Ross and District Pipe Band is to promote the playing of pipes and drums and to encourage the artistic and musical development of its members.
2. The New Ross and District Pipe Band will always endeavour to maintain the highest possible musical standards.
3. With a view to Health and Safety, Child Protection and Insurance, New Ross and District Pipe Band shall each year affiliate to the Irish Pipe Band Association (IPBA).
4. New Ross and District Pipe Band adheres to the Child protection Policy of the IPBA.
5. New Ross and District Pipe Band adheres to national legislation and best practice on Equality.
6. New Ross and District Pipe Band shall formulate and regularly review a Health and Safety Statement pertaining to all its activities.
7. The New Ross and District Pipe Band is non-sectarian and non political.
8. The New Ross and District Pipe Band will always endeavour to assist local and national charities through performance at their events free of charge.

Membership

1. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in piping and drumming.
2. Adult members shall pay a monthly Direct Debit of €25.
3. Youth members, unemployed members and students shall pay a weekly subscription of €3.
4. Inability to pay a subscription to the band will not debar a person from membership.
5. All members of the band are expected to maintain a high standard of discipline and behaviour. Any member who breaches this code may be expelled from the band.
6. The New Ross and District Pipe Band will continually endeavour to attract young people to its ranks through providing an on-going education programme in piping and drumming and through a policy of engagement with local schools.
7. The New Ross and District Pipe Band shall operate a system of affiliate membership which will enable non-musicians who are supportive of the band to be affiliated to the band. An affiliate member must be proposed and seconded by band members and shall pay the monthly direct debit as set for adult members.

Committee & Officers

1. The New Ross and District Pipe Band will hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will elect the following officers: Musical Director; Pipe Sergeant; Drum Sergeant; Youth Development Officer; Band President; Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Treasurer; Secretary; Public Relations Officer; Equipment/Resources Officer.
2. The Office of Band President is an honorary title and may be held by ex-members of the band or by non musicians who have been supportive of the band.
3. At each AGM, the band may also nominate Honorary Life Vice-Presidencies to people who have made extraordinary contributions to the band. Honorary Life Presidents shall be invited to all AGMs and band concerts.
4. Further committee members may be nominated from the AGM or co-opted during the year.
5. One member of the committee will be appointed as the Designated Liaison Person for dealing with Child Protection issues.
6. The committee shall meet on at least six occasions during the year, including the AGM.
7. A minimum of one weeks notice shall be given for each ordinary committee meeting.
8. A minimum of two weeks notice shall be given for each AGM.
9. Special Extraordinary General Meetings may be called on the proposal of five band members or on the decision of the committee.
10. Decision making on policy matters shall be by agreement / consensus as far as possible.

Finance

1. New Ross and District Pipe Band is a voluntary group. Officers or committee members shall not receive payment.
2. New Ross and District Pipe Band shall endeavour to keep its membership fees and charges for organised activities at the lowest possible level.
3. New Ross and District Pipe Band will keep a Bank Account. Two signatories are required for each cheque issued.
4. After running expenses have been paid, New Ross and District Pipe Band monies will be used for the following:
 - Goods and equipment relevant to the band's aims of promoting pipes and drums
 - The organisation of Pipes and Drums training events.
 - Any other activity deemed by the committee to be relevant to the band's aim of promoting pipes and drums.
5. An Income & Expenditure Account will be furnished at each meeting.

6. New Ross and District Pipe Band may apply for annual funding from relevant bodies.

Equipment

1. New Ross and District Pipe Band will build up a supply of suitable pipes and drums equipment as resources permit.
2. New Ross and District Pipe Band will seek to maintain its equipment and uniform at the highest possible standard.
3. A register of equipment and uniform shall be kept by the Equipment/Resources Officer. Such Register which will be available at the AGM and as requested by the committee.
4. All equipment in use in the band will be purchased by the band and remain the property of the band. This does not preclude any member who wishes to, from purchasing his/her own musical instrument.
5. All members of the band are expected to maintain their musical instruments and uniform to the highest possible standard.