

Constitution of the Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland
(Last Amendment, 2004)

I. Name

The name of the association is the Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland (ALCI), hereinafter called "the Association".

II. Purpose

The Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland promotes the professional development, advancement and recognition of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) for the benefit of breastfeeding infants and children, mothers, families and the wider community.

II. The goals of the Association are to:

- i. Provide for education, research, communication, networking and mutual support among International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and other health worker concerned with breastfeeding and human lactation.
- ii. Foster universal awareness of IBCLC as the necessary qualification for lactation consultants (for those specialising in lactation).
- iii. Act as the advisory authority on issues relating to breastfeeding and human lactation.
- iv. Raise awareness of breastfeeding and human milk feeding as essential components for wealth, well-being and disease prevention.
- v. Support the implementations of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions of the World Health Assembly, and heighten the recognition of the consequences of artificial feeding
- vi. Support other initiatives and organisations whose goals and objectives are consistent with the mission of the association.
- vii. Ensure that the necessary structure and supports are in place to facilitate the development and activities of the association.

III. Policies

- i. The Association is organised exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as defined by the tax status regulations.
- ii. The Association shall not be operated for commercial purposes, but such prohibition shall not be construed to prevent the Association from raising funds and engaging in activities to provide funding for the operation of the Association to accomplish the purposes set forth herein.
- iii. The Association shall be non-sectarian and shall not discriminate in its membership or policies on the basis of sex, national origin, creed, religion, or colour.
- iv. The structure of the Association shall provide for equitable representation of the geographic island of Ireland.
- v. As an organisation, ALCI shall not endorse any literature or any product.
- vi. As an organisation, ALCI shall not accept direct funding from industries that are not in full compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions of the World Health Assembly.

- vii. The Association shall conduct its affairs in such a manner as to remain an affiliate group of the International Lactation Consultant Association.

IV. Membership

- i. Membership shall be open to all health workers involved in the care of women, infants and children. Membership shall consist of three categories:
 - Full members: being persons who are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC); who support the Purposes of the Association, who are accorded all the privileges of full membership in the Association.
 - Associate members: being persons who support the Purposes of the Association and wish to be associated with the Association.
 - Institutional members: being groups, hospitals, educational institutions or other entities who wish to be associated with the Association. Institutional members do not have voting rights.
- ii. An application to be a member of the association shall be made in writing on the required form accompanied by the appropriate annual subscription with proof of qualification as appropriate and submitted to the Secretary or other designated person responsible for membership.
- iii. The Council may prescribe, with respect to members, the amount and manner of imposing and collecting any subscriptions or other fees; the manner of suspension or termination of membership, and for the reinstatement of membership; and except as herein otherwise provided, the rights, liabilities and other incidents of membership.
- iv. Annual subscriptions are due each December 31st. Members whose annual subscriptions remain unpaid on the 1st of February shall not be entitled to the benefits of the organisation.
- v. A Register of Members will be maintained recording the full name, address, date and details of relevant qualifications and the date of entry to and date of any resignation from the Association. The register shall be available to inspection on request by any member. A fee may be charged for this inspection.

V. Meetings of Members

- i. The Annual General Meeting of members shall be held each calendar year at such a time and place as the Council shall determine to transact such business as may come before the meeting.
- ii. Other general meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Council. Meetings of the general membership shall be open to currently paid-up full and associate members.
- iii. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of general meetings. The notice shall state the time, date, place of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting. Items to be voted on at a general meeting will be communicated to members in advance of the meeting.
- iv. A special meeting may be called at the request of 20% of the full and associate members as listed on the membership register held by the Secretary one month prior to the request to the President for a meeting. In requesting a special meeting of the membership, those requesting the meeting must inform the President of the reasons for requesting the meeting and provide information as needed to ensure the effectiveness of the meeting.

- v. Full and associate members of the association are entitled to one vote, in person or by written proxy at general meetings. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- vi. All general meetings will include time for any questions to be raised by the membership. Members, who wish to ask a question or make a brief comment, must identify themselves by name and membership status.
- vii. A member who wishes an item discussed in detail at a general meeting, must inform the Council of this item at least 28 days before the scheduled meeting so that the Council can prepare for this item and members can be informed it will be discussed.
- viii. Where an issue arises in the days before a scheduled general meeting that a member feels needs to be discussed, the item must be communicated to the Council at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- ix. If an item arises at the meeting, the chairperson decides to allocate time at the meeting to discuss it or to defer to a later meeting.
- x. No vote of membership will take place without notice of the motion to all voting members.

VI. National Council

- i. The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the National Council. This includes, but is not limited to, all programmes, publications, and formation of committees and task forces. The Council may adopt such Policies and Procedures for the conduct of their meetings and management of the Association as they may deem proper, which are not inconsistent with this Constitution and the laws of national or local governments.
- ii. The National Council shall be elected and comprise of the of the four officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary; PRO and Immediate Past-President; and three other general Council members. These eight people are the voting members of Council. All Council members must be full members of the Association and the geographic representation must be taken into account.
- iii. The National Council shall meet a minimum of once each quarter either in person or by teleconference. A quorum shall be five members of the National Council. Duties and responsibilities of the Council members are outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Association.
- iv. The term of office shall be two years, with a portion, not less than 3 members, of the Council retiring/going forward for re-election each year, except for the Immediate Past President, who will remain a Council member for one year after his/her term as President is finished. A Council member is eligible for re-election provided that no member of Council shall hold any one office, or combination of offices, on the National Council for longer than three consecutive terms (six years). In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the national council, the Council may appoint a full member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the time of the next elections.
- v. The National Council may assign tasks to other members of the association (full or associate), as Council deems necessary, though these other members are not voting members of Council.
- vi. No compensation shall be paid to Council members; however they may be reimbursed for authorised expenses. A Council member may be contracted to do a paid job for the Association that has been advertised to the membership.

VII. Election to National Council

- i. National Council officers and members shall be elected by the membership at its regular annual general meeting or by written postal ballot.
- ii. Nominees for election to National Council shall be members of the Association for one year previous to nomination. National Council nominees must be IBCLCs in good standing. All Council Members must subscribe to the aims and objectives of ALCI without reservation. Members of National Council must agree not to accept direct funding from companies not in compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes for the duration of their time in office. In their official capacity, Council Members of the Association, whether current or former, shall not endorse any literature or product, but are free to do so as private persons.
- iii. Council Members elected by the membership may only be removed from office by vote of the membership but their authority to act as a Council Member may be suspended by a majority vote of the National Council until the said Council Member's authority to act is either ratified or terminated at the next meeting of the membership. Reason for the removal must be given to the Council Member. The Council Member has the right to discuss the termination at a General Membership meeting prior to the vote of the membership.
- iv. A Council Member may resign by giving written notice to the President or National Council, such resignation taking effect upon acceptance by the National Council of the resignation. Within 14 days of receipt of the written resignation, Council will decide if the resignation is accepted or not accepted and communicate with/to the person.

VIII. Fiscal Operations

- i. The fiscal year of the Association shall be selected by the National Council. It is currently the calendar year.
- ii. A bank account shall be held in the name of the Association. The Treasurer and two other members of the National Council shall be signatories on this account with the Treasurer and one of the other authorised Council Member needing to sign cheques.

IX. Parliamentary Authority

Roberts Rules of Order, revised, shall govern in all cases where they do not conflict with this constitution.

X. Amendments and Alterations

This constitution may be amended or repealed by a vote of 66% of the members present and voting at a meeting of the membership called for the purpose of acting upon such amendments, or by written ballot, in which case, it will be 66% of those members returning ballots with a vote marked.

XI. Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by vote of at least 66% of its voting members. Any assets of the Association remaining after the discharge of debts shall be given or transferred to such other association having objectives totally or partly like those of the Association as shall be determined by a general meeting of those members entitled to vote at the time of winding up of the Association.