



**Constitution of the
Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland
(Known as 'ALCI')**

Version 4. January 2022,
original February 23, 1996

1. Name

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

1.1 Purpose & Mission

The Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland values the unique role of the IBCLC concerning all aspects of Breastfeeding and Human Lactation, and promotes the professional development, advancement, and recognition of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) for the benefit of breastfeeding infants and children, mothers, parents, families, and the wider community.

2 The aims of the Association are to:

- 2.1 Provide for education, research, communication, networking and mutual support among International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and other health care workers concerned with breastfeeding and human lactation. The term health care worker is used to describe any person working in any capacity within the health system, whether in private or public services, education including students, research, employed, self-employed or volunteer.
- 2.2 Foster Universal Awareness of IBCLC as the necessary qualification for International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC), Clinical Midwife/Nurse Specialists, (C.M/N.S.), practicing in the Irish Health Care Services, either in Hospital settings, Community settings, or in Private Practice in Ireland.
- 2.3 Act as the advisory authority on issues relating to breastfeeding and human lactation.
- 2.4 Raise awareness of breastfeeding and human milk feeding as essential components for health, well-being, and disease prevention.
- 2.5 Support the WHO Code and the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk substitutes and all subsequent resolutions of the World Health Assembly and heighten the recognition of the consequences of Commercial breastmilk substitutes and Advertisements of same.
- 2.6 Support other initiatives and organisations whose aims are consistent with the purpose and mission of the Association.
- 2.7 Ensure that the necessary structure and supports are in place to facilitate the development and activities of the Association.

3. Policies

- 3.1 The Association is organised for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as an unincorporated association.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The Association shall be welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and committed to upholding the Equality Act of 1990.
- 3.4 The structure of the Association shall provide for equitable representation of the geographic island of Ireland where possible.
- 3.5 As an association, ALCI shall not endorse any literature or any product of a commercial nature.
- 3.6 As an association, ALCI shall not accept direct or indirect funding from commercial ventures who are not in full compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions of the World Health Assembly.
- 3.7 The Association shall conduct its affairs in such a manner as to remain an affiliate group of the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), European Lactation Consultants Alliance (Elacta) and other groups as proposed at AGMs.
- 3.8 The Association shall ensure activities of the Association are compliant with statutory regulations and best practice in regard to health, safety and welfare of members and the general public, and with particular regard to following the principles of child protection. As an Association, members are expected to be aware of their obligations with infants, young children, and families, in this respect. Members are advised to be aware of their mandated reporting status under the Children First Act 2015.
- 3.9 The Association shall follow a documented and transparent tendering procedure for all paid tasks or work contracted by the Association.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership shall be open to IBCLCs, intended IBCLCs and all those investing in the aims of the association.
Membership shall consist of two 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. Full members shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Association subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
 - Associate members: being persons who support the Purposes of the Association and wish to be associated with the Association. Associate members do not have voting rights.
- 4.2 An application to be a member of the Association shall be made electronically accompanied by the appropriate annual membership fee with proof of qualification and registration as appropriate and submitted to ALCI.
- 4.3 The Council will determine membership fees and the manner in which it should be paid.
- 4.4 Annual memberships are due each February 1st and the membership year shall run from the 1st of February to the 31st of January in every year. Members whose annual membership remains unpaid on the 1st of March shall not be entitled to the benefits of the Association and, in particular, shall not be entitled to attend at or vote at meetings of the Association.

- 4.5 A member who pays his or her membership after the 1st of December in any year shall be entitled to membership until January 31st of the subsequent membership year.
- 4.6 A Register of Members will be maintained recording the full name, contact details and IBCLC status.

5. Members Meetings

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting of members shall be held once a year at such a time and place as the Council shall determine to transact such business as may come before the meeting. AGMs can be in person or virtually as decided by Council. AGMs are public meetings, but only paid-up members can vote or participate.
- 5.2 Other general meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Council. Meetings of the general membership shall be open to current members. All general membership meetings are private to current paid up members unless otherwise stated and agreed at discretion of National Council.
- 5.3 A special meeting may be called at the request of 20% of the current members who have been members for a minimum of 3 months. 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.
- 5.4 Fourteen calendar 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 with not less than fourteen days' notice. Any such notice shall be in circulated electronically.
- 5.5 Full members of the Association are entitled to one vote to be cast, in person, electronically or by written proxy at meetings. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. By electing to vote electronically, a member waives his or her right to anonymity. Electronic votes shall only be accepted if submitted as per arrangements made by Council.
- 5.6 No member shall be entitled to vote at any meeting unless all monies presently payable by him or her to the Association have been paid. A member who on the day of the Annual General Meeting pays his or her membership relating to the membership year in which the Annual General Meeting occurs shall be entitled to vote at that Annual General Meeting.
- 5.7 A member who wishes an item discussed in detail at a general meeting, must inform the Council of this item at least 28 calendar days before the scheduled meeting so that the Council can prepare for this item and members can be informed that it will be discussed.
- 5.8 Where an issue arises in the days before a scheduled general meeting that a member of any membership status feels needs to be discussed urgently by the membership, the item must be communicated to the Council at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 5.9 If an item arises at any meeting, the chairperson may, at his or her absolute discretion decide to allocate time at the meeting to discuss it or to defer to a later meeting.
- 5.10 Votes in respect of matters other than to amend or alter this constitution or to dissolve the Association shall only be passed by a simple majority of all votes cast in respect of the motion in question.
- 5.11 In relation to ALCI business, discord by members which are brought to the Council's attention, shall be dealt with through mediation where necessary.

6. National Council

- 6.1 The members of the National Council for ALCI are the active managers of the Association, consisting of minimum 9 - max 11 members. In the years where no past president on Council, another Ordinary member should be elected/co-opted.
- 6.2 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 consistent with this Constitution and the laws of national or local governments.
- 6.3 The National Council shall be elected and comprise of the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary; PRO, Immediate Past-President and three other general Council members. These nine 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 where possible.
- 6.4 The National Council shall meet a minimum of once each quarter either in person or virtually. A quorum shall be five members of the National Council (or 6 if there are 11 on Council). Duties and responsibilities of the Council members are outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Association.
- 6.5 The term of office shall be three years, except for the Immediate Past President, who may 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 two consecutive terms (six years, or up to seven years if one year is as Immediate Past President). In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the National Council in any position other than that of the Immediate Past President, the Council may appoint a full member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the time of the next elections.
- 6.6 The National Council may assign tasks to other members or subgroups of the association (full or associate), as Council deems necessary.
- 6.7 No compensation shall be paid to Council members for their activity as a Council member; however, they may be reimbursed for authorised expenses.
- 6.8 Every council member (who is considered a volunteer for insurance purposes), committee member, agent, auditor, secretary, and other officer for the time being of the Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Association against any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceedings whether civil or criminal in relation to his or her acts while acting in such office.

7. Election to National Council

- 7.1 National Council members shall be nominated and elected electronically and ratified at the AGM.
- 7.2 Nominees for election to National Council must:
- a. be members of the Association for 12 months previous to nomination.
 - b. be qualified and registered IBCLCs.
 - c. subscribe to the purpose, goals, and policies of ALCI without reservation.
 - d. agree not to accept direct or indirect funding from any commercial entity not in compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and its subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions for the duration of their time in office.
 - e. disclose any real, perceived, or potential conflict of interest when in a position to influence a decision of ALCI Council or membership that will result in personal or professional gain for them or a family member.
 - f. agree to not endorse any literature or product in their official capacity as a Council Member of the Association, whether current or former, but are free to do so as private persons.
- 7.3 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, or electronic ballot. Reason for the removal must be given to the Council Member. The Council Member has the right to discuss the termination at an Emergency General meeting prior to the vote of the membership. When suspended, the Council member will not be informed of Council business or items put to a vote.
- 7.4 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.

8. Fiscal Operations

- 8.1 In relation to financial matters, Public Revenue/ Annual Income etc, and for all activities except membership, the Fiscal year shall be the Calendar year and runs from 1st Jan to 31st Dec. in any given year.
- 8.2 A bank account shall be held in the name of the Association. The Treasurer, the Administrator 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 or electronic transfers or transactions as required.
- 8.3 Auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting in each year and accounts shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting for approval by the membership.

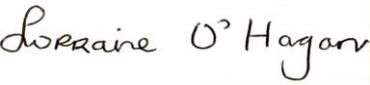
9. Amendments and Alterations

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

9.2 The constitution will be reviewed every 5 years unless urgent legal matters arise.

10. Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by vote of at least 66% of the members voting whether in person, by proxy or electronically. 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.

Signed 

Lorraine O'Hagan

President

Dated and Effective from 11 January 2022

Signed 

Nicola Clarke

Review Project Lead

Dated and Effective from 11 January 2022