



## ANNEX

### to Conference Circular 9 22<sup>nd</sup> European Scout Conference

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## Representation of Individual Members of SAGNOs in WOSM Statutory Organs

### Subject

This paper outlines the current policies regarding the representation at WOSM statutory organs of individual members of SAGNOs. It looks at this issue both from a Constitutional perspective as well as from World Scout Conference resolutions dealing with the topic.

### Affected NSOs

The issue of representation of individual members pertains in particular to SAGNOs (or its individual associations - SAGAs), which opt to **not** register their female members with WOSM (option 1 of the position approved by the WSC, as outlined in (World) Circular 16/2010).

*A national organisation, which is a member of WOSM and is also a member of WAGGGS, is known as a "Scout and Guide National Organization" (SAGNO). The following options with regard to membership of WOSM are open to existing SAGNOs:*

1. **Register their male members only with WOSM**
2. Register their female and male members with WOSM.

*It is the policy of the WSC to encourage existing SAGNOs to register both their male and female youth members with WOSM.*

### Constitutional perspective

Individual participation to WOSM statutory organs is on the level of the WOSM Constitution handled through article IX.2 (World Scout Conference delegations) and XIII.2a (WSC Voting Members):

- IX.2 - Member Organisations are represented at any meeting of the World Scout Conference by delegates not exceeding six. (...)
- XIII.2a - Twelve elected members who shall be members of Member Organisations.

For the case of delegates to the World Scout Conference (IX.2), the WOSM Constitution is silent whether the individual delegates should be members of their respective Member Organizations.

However, when it comes to candidates for election to the WSC, the Constitution is clear that those shall be "members of Member Organizations". As a consequence, SAGNOs or SAGAs who choose not to register their female members with WOSM cannot put forward a female as a candidate for election to the WSC.

### World Scout Conference perspective - resolutions

Historical record shows the matter was debated at World Scout Conferences in the broader perspective of WOSM/WAGGGS relations. Particularly the Oslo (1996) and Durban Conferences (1999) took some crucial decisions in this respect – details can be found in the Chairman's Report of the 1996 World Scout Conference and Document 10 of the 1999 World Scout Conference. The text below is extracted from these documents.

- *Prior to the World Scout Conference in Oslo in 1996, some SAGNOs included females (members of WAGGGS) within their delegations as delegates to the World Scout Conference. While this was never encouraged by WOSM, it was nevertheless tolerated, mainly in order to reduce the complexities facing SAGNOs as a result of their memberships of two world organizations and to help them function at national level as one organization (this applied particularly to those SAGNOs which appointed only one person in key functions, such as President, who was in some cases a woman). This flexible attitude concerning females in SAGNOs was further justified by the World Scout Committee's vision of the future, first formulated in 1991, of a new world organization incorporating both the Scout and Guide Movements. WAGGGS meanwhile adopted a more consistent approach in not permitting male members of a SAGNO to attend their World Conference as delegates, but only as observers.*
- *The submission of the candidature of a female member of a SAGNO for election to the World Scout Committee at the World Scout Conference in Oslo in 1996 created a new situation. It raised, for the first time, a number of fundamental issues concerning the membership of females in SAGNOs which had to be addressed with absolute clarity. Consideration of this matter also took place against the background of WAGGGS rejection of WOSM's long-term vision for the future and the resolution of their World Conference in 1993 whereby "WAGGGS retains and reaffirms its mission to be a separate World Organization dedicated to the advancement of girls and young women".*

As a consequence of the above debate, Resolution 6/1996 was carried which urged the World Scout Committee to reconsider its relationships with WAGGGS to remove obstacles which SAGNOs faced in their operations, and to present proposals at the 1999 World Scout Conference.

Between 1996 and 1999 discussions were had between the WSC and SAGNOs (including a dedicated meeting on the topic in 1997 in Copenhagen) to develop a policy which allowed to the maximum extent possible to remove institutional barriers at the national level for SAGNOs, but at the same time reflected the reality on an international level of two different World Organizations. As a result, the 1999 World Scout Conference approved Resolution 7/1999 as follows:

*The Conference,  
reaffirms that:*

- i) **individual participation in the policy and decision-making processes at world or regional levels with WOSM through statutory organs, either as a member of or as a delegate to such a body, is restricted to members of WOSM. This restriction extends to any body established by the statutory organs and reporting either directly or indirectly to them at world or regional levels such as sub-committees or the Scout Youth Forums; this does not preclude the capacity of any of these bodies to invite non-Scouts for their expertise in the area of work concerned***
- ii) in all other cases, and subject to the agreement of its National Scout Organization and the participation of male members from the SAGNO concerned, female members of a SAGNO may:*
  - a. participate on an equal footing with members of WOSM:*
    - i. in all non-statutory events organised by WOSM, such as training courses and seminars*
    - ii. in statutory events organised by WOSM which are purely activity related, such as World Scout Jamborees and World Scout Moots, and are therefore of a different nature from those referred to in paragraph i) above*
  - b. participate in all other WOSM events as observers, in accordance with the rules governing observer status for each event.*

## **Conclusions**

Taking into account the combined effects of Circular 16/2010, Resolution 7/99 and the WOSM Constitutional provisions, only individual members registered with WOSM can be a delegate to WOSM statutory organs including Regional or World Scout Conferences. Existing SAGNOs which opt not to register their female membership with WOSM can therefore not include any females as a delegate in their delegation or nominate them for election to the Regional or World Scout Committee. Similar provisions apply for the World Scout Youth Forum and Regional Youth Forums as outlined in Resolution 7/99.

