

SLOW FOOD UK NATIONAL STATUTE

Slow Food UK ("SFUK") exists to promote the values, principles and aims of Slow Food in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

SFUK comprises the Slow Food UK Trust, a not for profit company limited by guarantee, and Slow Food UK Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary company with any profits arising paid to the Slow Food UK Trust. Both companies are incorporated in England and Wales and are bound by their respective Memorandum and Articles of Association. If any inconsistency arises between this document and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the latter take precedence.

The purpose of this document is to explain how SFUK operates on a practical level.

In the event of any ambiguity as to the meaning of any particular word or phrase in this document they shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Slow Food International Statute if applicable.

There is also a glossary of terms at the conclusion of this document.

Article 1

- SFUK is a democratic and cultural organisation of social utility and with educational aims, based on the voluntary membership of people who intend to cultivate common cultural interests in the field of food. Thus it resolves to create a network of local communities.

Article 2

- The aims of SFUK are those set out in Article 3 of the International Statute as they apply in the United Kingdom.
- The Board of SFUK will from time to time create a strategic plan for the implementation of SFUK's objectives.

Article 3

- The members of SFUK are those members of Slow Food who reside in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and who have agreed to be members of SFUK.
- SFUK members are bound by the rules of SFUK and of Slow Food.
- Applications for membership may be refused by reason of behaviour clearly in conflict with the aims of Slow Food.

Article 4

- Members have the right:
 - a) to stand for election to representative bodies;
 - b) to approve the balance sheet at the Annual General Meeting;
 - c) to take part in meetings and all activities of SFUK.
- Membership of SFUK is of unlimited duration subject to payment of dues, save in the event of a member being specifically excluded as referred to above.
- The Board of SFUK may, in agreement with the International Board of Directors, provide for special forms of membership (family, youth or other).
- Membership is not transferable and is non-refundable.
- Other associations or entities can join SFUK as affiliates, by the means established in the Slow Food Membership Regulations. They will have the right to participate in the activities of SFUK, expressly excluding the right to vote.

Article 5

- Membership and affiliate status is lost by:
 - a) non-payment of the annual membership fee;

- b) non-renewal of the payment of the affiliation fee or by express notice on behalf of the affiliate;
- c) expulsion on serious grounds, for example behaviour or activities in clear conflict with the principles or the aims of the Association, to be decided by the Board of SFUK. An appeal against such exclusion may be lodged with the Appeals Committee.
- The closure of a Convivium does not affect its members' membership status in SFUK.
- Dissolution of SFUK does not affect membership of Slow Food.

Article 6

- The organisational and management levels of SFUK are:
 - a) the Convivia;
 - b) the Board;
 - c) the National Congress.
- Should the development of SFUK require it, another organisational level may be introduced:
 - d) the Regional Executive Committee or Regional representative.

Article 7

- A founding committee of UK members wishing to establish a Convivium shall make a formal request to the SFUK Board.
- The Board may refuse any application to form a convivium, or request modifications to the application, if it considers this to be appropriate for the development of Slow Food in the UK.
- The same body may, for just cause, dissolve a Convivium with immediate cessation of the use of the trademark and all other instruments of identification of Slow Food. Once established, the Convivium is advised to formally adopt the Model Constitution.
- A Convivium can be established and considered active when it has at least 20 registered and paid members and organises at least three events per year, including the general meeting of Convivium members. In the absence of these conditions a Convivium will still be considered active if it is recognised as such by the SFUK Board.
- The Convivium is entitled to receive a portion of the annual membership fee for every member registered with it, such proportion to be decided by the Board subject to the Slow Food Membership Regulations. Members of SFUK are assigned to a convivium depending upon geography and location or upon request.
- If a Convivium wants to close or becomes inactive, or for other duly justifiable reasons, it will be the task of the SFUK Board to decide on an alternative destination for the aforementioned percentage of the membership fee.

Article 8

- The Convivium's tasks are:
 - a) to promote the philosophy of Slow Food;
 - b) to develop around itself a local network of individuals who share the principles of Slow Food and work for their diffusion; this network is the local community of Slow Food;
 - c) to extend Slow Food's organisational presence by recruiting more members;
 - d) to establish relationships and collaborations with public bodies, gastronomic associations, protective consortia, producer associations and communication media, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable food systems and awareness about food production;
 - e) to collaborate with other associations or entities for the protection of the environment and respect for nature, a necessary condition for the safeguarding of gastronomic heritage, as well as the defence and the promotion of traditional knowledge and diverse forms of popular culture;
 - f) to establish and maintain collaborative and convivial relationships with other Convivia; and
 - g) to implement activities of promotion and support for Slow Food's international and national projects and programmes.

- The Convivium organises activities and initiatives that may include the organisation of convivial meetings for members, talks, themed events, tasting sessions, cooking and tasting courses, trips and visits of food and wine interest, exhibitions, fairs and other events; social, educational or cultural events and visits according to the philosophy of Slow Food.

Article 9

- The Convivium General Meeting comprises all paid-up members of the Convivium. It is convened at least once a year by the Convivium Leader who shall send written notice and an agenda for the meeting to each member at least seven days in advance. Electronic mail can be used.
- An extraordinary meeting may be convened if a justified reason is supported by at least a third of the members or by higher level bodies.
- The meeting has the duty to approve the financial report and the Convivium's programme of activities.
- The meeting resolves on the basis of a simple majority of those present.

Article 10

- The Convivium is governed by a Convivium Leader and a Convivium Committee.
- Within one month of being nominated the Convivium Leader must sign a document which, in accordance with this Statute, regulates the details the relationship of the Convivium to the International Board of Directors and the SFUK Board. The agreement is drawn up by the International Board of Directors and takes into account the specific rules and regulations of any National Statutes, where Applicable, and the Convivium's geographic location.
- The Leader of a new Convivium will be nominated by the founding committee and subsequently confirmed or replaced by the Convivium General Meeting or Congress.
- The Congress of the Convivium must be convened according to the means fixed for the general meeting and must be held at least every four years.
- The Convivium Leader's mandate lasts from one Convivium election to the next.
- The Convivium Leader can remain in office for up to three successive mandates, after which the Convivium Congress must elect a new Convivium Leader.
- The SFUK Board may decide specific exceptions to these conditions.

Article 11

- The Convivium Leader represents SFUK in the area under his/her authority and is thus responsible for the use of the SFUK trademark according to the principles and procedures established in the Slow Food Code of Use of the Trademark and Logo.
- The Convivium Leader is responsible for:
 - a) organising association activities in the area (at least 3 initiatives per year) and promoting SFUK membership;
 - b) representing SFUK in its relations with public bodies, institutions, organs of information and production settings within the area for which he/she is responsible;
 - c) convening the general meeting and congress of members;
 - d) preparing the annual report to be presented to members at the general meeting;
 - e) promoting and implementing all the strategic initiatives representing Slow Food which are adopted by international and national executive bodies, which may, in some cases, be binding and mandatory;
 - f) controlling the use of the Slow Food logo in the Convivium's area including prompt notification to the SFUK Board, in the case of use deemed to be incorrect.

Article 12

- The Board is the representative and coordinating body for all the members and all the organisational structures of the Movement in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

- The National Protocol, signed by the International President and the Chairman of the Board, gives the Board exclusive concession to use the Slow Food logo, in the forms envisaged by the Code of Use of Trade Mark or Logos.
- The Board is made up of representatives of the members plus one external member as provided for below.
- The Board shall consist of a minimum of three members and maximum of eleven. One member shall be appointed by the International President of Slow Food. Eight members of the Board (who must be members of Slow Food UK) shall be elected at Annual General Meetings in accordance with the Articles 23–25 of the Company's Articles of Association. A further two members may be appointed by the Board at its discretion according to criteria defined by it in response to the needs of SFUK.

Article 13

- The tasks of the Board are:
 - a) to apply the resolutions of International Congresses and the decisions of International Executive bodies to ensure the harmonious development of the Movement in the country;
 - b) the proposal or appointment of SFUK representatives into the International Direction of Slow Food;
 - c) to coordinate and organise national activities in agreement with the National Statute, and to define the membership procedure in agreement with the International Executive Committee and in accordance with the Slow Food Membership Regulations;
 - d) to support the development of the international Association through its own financial resources;
 - e) to establish relationships and collaborations with public bodies, gastronomic and/or environmental associations, nongovernmental organisations, protective consortia, producer associations and communication media, in order to contribute to the development and awareness of quality food production;
 - f) to keep the Convivia informed of Slow Food's strategic aims, main initiatives and national campaigns;
 - g) to authorise the institution of new Convivia and determine the closure of non-active Convivia or the dissolution of Convivia with just cause;
 - h) to set up a UK Ark Committee and, if necessary, other advisory committees, made up of experts whose duty will be to propose policies, programmes and initiatives for projects consistent with the international Movement;
 - i) to define the internal standards and regulations for the running and administration of SFUK in compliance with the laws in force in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man;
 - j) to send the financial statement presented each financial year and the budget for the current financial year and the one following to the International Executive Committee;
 - k) to send each month to the International Executive Committee the membership data of all new members and data on each new Convivium;
 - l) to provide financial resources for the participation of national representatives at the activities of Slow Food outside the United Kingdom and for the attendance of international executives at activities or meetings in the the United Kingdom;
 - m) to monitor the use of the Slow Food logo in the United Kingdom and to promptly inform the International Board of Directors of inappropriate utilisation;
 - n) to convene the General Meetings and establish the rules and regulations thereof;
 - o) to appoint representatives of the Association to public and private bodies and institutions;
 - p) to remove from office of any Convivium Leader in the event that they do not perform their duties, organise or manage activities considered damaging, incompatible or in opposition to Slow Food or if they, or the body they represent, are not in a proper position with regard to payment of their membership fees.
- The Board shall meet periodically in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.
- The Board has the right to a part of the membership fee to finance its activities, to be defined in agreement with the International Executive Committee, and based on the Regulations for Slow Food Membership.

Article 14

- The National Statute must be approved and amended by a majority vote of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Article 15

- The National Chairperson shall be appointed by the Board in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles. The National Chairperson and Directors represent the Association legally and in its relations with third parties.

Article 16

- The National Chairperson shall:
 - a) be a member of the Board and chair it;
 - b) propose to the Board possible replacements for members of the Board who for whatever reason leave their posts;
 - c) convene and ensure the proper functioning of national executive bodies;
 - d) perform tasks of representation and external relations inherent to his/her functions.
- The National Chairperson or his/her representative is entitled to take part in all Convivium General Meetings.
- The National Chairperson shall appoint an Executive Vice Chairperson or delegate, who shall assume his/her power in the event of the National Chairperson being unable to officiate for whatever reason.
- The National Chairperson may incur obligations in the name and on behalf of the body he/she represents within the limit of assumed ordinary and extraordinary requirements and also in the form of bank and post office current accounts and credit lines, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and subject to the agreement of the Board.

Article 17

- The National Congress is the highest deliberative body of the Association and is normally held every four years, according to the procedures established by the Board. The National Congress, in the years that it is held, shall include the Annual General Meeting.
- The National Congress shall discuss, define and approve SFUK's policies and programmes, and may consider and comment upon the international policies and programmes of Slow Food.

Article 18

- The Board shall establish, not less than three months before the National Congress, Regulations prescribing the numbers and method of selection of delegates attending the National Congress, and may also establish Regulations concerning the conduct, programme and proceedings of the National Congress. These Regulations may subsequently be amended by the National Congress.

Article 19

- National advisory bodies are created by decision of the Board.
- They have the task of studying in depth, developing and proposing policies and strategies involving specific issues of interest to the Movement, in order to ensure they are managed in full conformity with the individual circumstances of the country.
- The composition, operating procedures and tasks are defined in regulations approved by the Board.
- The UK Ark and Presidia Commission is a functioning national advisory body, which should conform to the proposals and instructions of their respective International bodies according to the regulations approved by the International Council.

Article 20

- The Appeals Committee is the body having oversight of the operation of executive decision-making at a national level.
- The Appeals Committee is elected by the National Congress from amongst the members of the Association, or the members at an Annual General Meeting or otherwise in the case of any vacancy however arising between National Congresses. A member who is also a member of a national executive body may not be elected to or participate in any election of a member to the Appeals Committee.
- A member of the Appeals Committee shall hold office until the next following National Congress.
- The Appeals Committee will consider a complaint referred by an executive body of the Association, group of members or a single member that there has been a failure of due process in executive decision-making.
- The Appeals Committee may undertake such investigations into a matter that it determines appropriate and issue any conclusions it reaches or recommendations it considers appropriate within 60 days of a matter being referred.
- The Appeals Committee shall comprise no more than 5 members and shall elect a chairperson from within its number.

Article 21

- The assets of SFUK are made up of:
 - a) movable and immovable goods which shall become the property of SFUK;
 - b) any reserve funds resulting from balance sheet surpluses.
- Association income may be derived from:
 - a) revenue from membership fees;
 - b) contributions from private individuals;
 - c) contributions from State, public bodies and associations to support specific and documented activities and projects;
 - d) contributions from international bodies;
 - e) donations and bequests;
 - f) repayments from conventions;
 - g) revenue from commercial and incidental production activities.
- Any profits and operating surpluses shall be assigned in full to the institutional aims of SFUK as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- It is forbidden to distribute or allocate, directly or indirectly, profits, operating surpluses, funds, reserves and capital in any other way than those envisaged by law.

Article 22

- The name and logo of Slow Food may be used exclusively according to the procedures laid down in the Code of Use for Slow Food Logos. The Code of Use for Slow Food Logos is an integral part of the present statute; Slow Food members, Convivia, and the Board must observe it in full.

Article 23

- The accounting period lasts one year, beginning on January 1 and closing on December 31.
- An accounting system for all the activities of SFUK must be set up and managed by the Board or by persons delegated to do so.
- The Board draws up at the end of each year the annual balance sheet, showing SFUK's assets and liabilities and financial performance, and the budget. It should include supplementary notes and a report on the management of SFUK. The balance sheet and accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

Article 24

- The Board is not responsible for liabilities incurred by members, regional or local structures, which are solely responsible for their own funds and the activities of their executive bodies.

- No obligation or liability incurred or assumed by SFUK can be transferred to the International Association, with the exception only of specific and documented exceptions originating from the International Board of Directors.
- Minutes duly signed by the elected Chairperson and Secretary must be written up for every meeting of the Board or any National Advisory Committee.

Article 25

- The reference language for this statute is English.

DEFINITIONS

In these Articles:

- “**Convivium**” means the Slow Food movement’s basic organisational structure within which members carry out their activity in their country of activity and is the primary means for implementing the mission of SFUK.
- “**International Association**” means “Slow Food” the international body of the Slow Food movement.
- The “**International Board of Directors**” is the highest governing body of the International Association, as defined in the Slow Food International Statute.
- The “**Board**” is the board of directors of SFUK and includes all those persons for the time being appointed to perform the duties of directors of the Association. The Board is the movement’s highest oversight body within the United Kingdom with full fiduciary responsibilities. The International Association recognizes the Slow Food UK Board as “UK Executive Committee” via the signing of a National Protocol as prescribed by article 17 of the International Statute.
- “**The National Congress**” means a general meeting of members held every four years, and which includes the AGM for that year.
- “**The Regional Executive Committee**” means the Board of the Convivium leaders, that is regionally representative of convivia, that can be set up, if necessary, when the membership in a certain area becomes too large. It is an intermediate level of ruling the Movement.

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