



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
South Africa

# International Scouting Policy

Revision Date: 1 September 2021

Version: 2021/1

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## **Preamble**

Scouting is a global Movement with more than forty million Scouts in over 170 countries and territories. Being part of a global community creates many opportunities for SCOUTS South Africa and its individual members to participate in International events and activities.

This policy gives a broad outline of the world, regional and local organisation and deals with protocol of communication, visiting other countries, wearing of uniform and participation in the World Scout events as well as events organised by other National Scout Organisations.

## **Revision Approval**

This revision of the International Scouting Policy was approved for publication at the SSA Management Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2021 by the committee comprising:

Dr Brendon Hausberger (Chair); Mr Cameron Belling; Mr Gerard Evans; Ms Joy Hutchinson; Ms Nkulu Majola; Mr Khonzaphi Mdaka; Mr Gary Pienaar; Mr Craig Rens; Ms M Siebrits; Mr David Stanton; Mr Lawrence Stanton; Mr Peter Statham; Mr John Sturgeon; Mr Kevin Trollip

## Policy Details

### 1. World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

The Boy Scouts Association, founded in the year 1907 by Lieut-General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell (later Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell), was incorporated by Royal Charter by His Britannic Majesty King George V in 1912 for the purpose of instructing boys of all classes in the principles of discipline, loyalty and good citizenship.

From the early years Scouting soon spread around the world, including South Africa. The Council of the Boy Scouts of the Union of South Africa became an independent autonomous founder member of the Boy Scouts International Conference on 1st December 1937.

The organs of the World Organization are:

- **The World Scout Conference**

The Conference meets triennially and is composed of six delegates from each country in which there is one or more than one recognised and registered Scout Association. WOSM recognises only one Association or Federation of Associations, in each country.

- **The World Scout Committee**

A World Committee of twelve members is elected by the Conference with power to act between Conference meetings.

- **The World Scout Bureau**

The World Scout Bureau is the secretariat of the Conference and of the World Committee. The Secretary-General is appointed by the World Committee. He is an ex-officio member of the Committee and is its secretary.

The Conference, Committee, and Bureau constitute the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an independent, worldwide, non-profit and non-partisan organisation which serves the Scout Movement. Its purpose is to promote unity and the understanding of Scouting's purpose and principles; while facilitating its expansion and development. WOSM was established in 1920, and has its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland (soon to relocate). The mission of WOSM is "to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Scout Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society". WOSM is organized into regions to better facilitate communication and service to member countries, but any member country of WOSM is not bound to be a member of a Region or to pay any levies to the Region unless it voluntarily accepts membership of the Region.

It has had consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1947. It is recognised by the majority of UN agencies and governments and works in collaboration with other agents in areas or spheres of education and civil society.

WOSM also has power to:

- Decide on the admission of organisations applying for recognition and registration.
- Arrange for publicity, liaison, correspondence, and the interchange of visitors.
- Arrange the holding of World Scout Jamborees and other world gatherings and international events.
- Arrange through representative committees for the maintenance of common standards in adult leader training, public relations and the like.

The finances of the Conference, Committee, and Bureau are met by contributions from registered Associations.

SCOUTS South Africa (formerly the "Boy Scouts of South Africa and South African Scout Association") is a founder Member and registered with the World Scout Bureau as a member of the WOSM; and as such retains its right to attend and vote at World Conferences.

## **2. Africa Scout Region (World Organization of the Scout Movement)**

For ease of administration the world is divided into Regions. The Africa Scout Region is the divisional office of the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Africa Region services Scouting in Sub-Saharan Africa and neighbouring islands that are recognized members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The region is led by the Regional Director.

South Africa forms part of the Africa Region.

The Africa Region is divided into zones. South Africa motivated and funded the Southern Zone made up of surrounding Countries and Territories in sub-Saharan Africa and by 1976 was already in existence. The primary purpose of this Zone was to share resources and facilities particularly Adult Leader Training. WOSM recognised the Southern Zone in 1987. Co-ordination is in the hands of a Zonal Conference that seeks to meet regularly.

## **3. SCOUTS South Africa**

SCOUTS South Africa, by virtue of its membership of WOSM, is the only Scout Association, in South Africa, recognised by WOSM. Scouting began in South Africa in 1908 when the first Scout troops were formed. South Africa, particularly because of its close relationship with the Founder and the Siege of the then Mafeking, has contributed many traditions and symbols to World Scouting.

## **4. Communication**

All communication with the World Scout Bureau, its Regional Offices and World Scout Committee is the responsibility of the Chief Scout, Chief Commissioner, and/or Chief Executive Officer.

All communication with National Scout Organisations is to be channelled through the National Office and be endorsed by the International Committee that will be responsible to the Chief Commissioner.

Communication with event organisers of International Scouting Events must be endorsed by the aforesaid.

Direct communication of a personal nature with Scout Groups and individual Scout members in other countries is permitted and in fact, encouraged within the world Scout Brotherhood.

## **5. Eligibility and Applications**

Only registered members of SCOUTS SA are allowed to participate in international Scout events inside or outside the borders of SA.

All applications to attend these events must be endorsed by the International Committee.

All applications must be forwarded to the International Committee ([international@scouts.org.za](mailto:international@scouts.org.za)) for endorsement before forwarding them to the appropriate National Scout Organisation or event organisers. All direct communication with the organisers must be passed through the national office.

No persons under the age of 14 years will be allowed to travel abroad to participate in International events unless prior permission is obtained from the Chief Commissioner. This will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and each case is considered on merit. Each international event has an age limit. This will be strictly applied and adhered to.

## **6. International Letters of Introduction**

International Letters of Introduction are issued on request to registered members who travel abroad whether for private, business or scouting purposes and who wish to make contact with scouts in another country. Such letters serves to endorse the membership of individuals and is valid only for the duration of travel.

## **7. Uniform**

Scouts and leaders representing SSA at international events are expected to wear the appropriate uniform as described in the SSA Uniform Policy. Any deviations on this to be approved by SSA Manco.

## 8. Approved International Events

All recognised international event are listed on the International page of the SSA webpage ([www.scouts.org.za](http://www.scouts.org.za)).

## 9. National Colours

The National Scarf (as described in the SSA Uniform Policy) as well as the National Pocket badge are worn by all members (individual or contingent members) who represent SSA at approved International events.

Individuals, Groups, Districts or Regions who are invited to participate in events in another country by Individuals, Groups, Districts or Regions of that country, will not be entitled to wear national colours.

Registered members who are accepted as staff at the Boy Scouts of America Summer Camps, and any one of the International Scout Centres, will be permitted to wear National Colours. The applications for these opportunities must be approved by the International Committee.

## 10. International Scouting Organisations

The following organisations enjoy consultative status with World Scout Committee.:

- **International Union of Muslims Scouts (IUMS)**  
The International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) is an autonomous organisation with Scout bodies and associations representing Muslim Scouts all over the world. Established in 1989, IUMS is an organisation of dignified aims, based on the affection, brotherhood and peace among the Muslim people. Implicitly, IUMS carries the call of Islam for the spread of moral virtue and peace within the framework of the World Scout Movement.
- **International Conference of Catholic Scouts (ICCS)**  
The International Catholics Conference of Scouting [ICCS] seeks to bridge the “worlds” of Catholicism and Scouting both spiritually and practically so that all its members can contribute to the improvement and the transformation of the society in which we live. The purpose of ICCS is to assist young people and adults in fulfilling that part of the Scout Promise that deals with Duty to God. It actively encourages its members to have positive engagement with the spiritual life of their community.
- **International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF)**  
The International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) is a worldwide organisation for adults in support of Scouting and Guiding and who want to strengthen the dialogue between communities through community-oriented projects worldwide. The Mission of ISGF is to promote the spirit of the Scout and Guide, Promise and Law in its individual members’ daily lives by continuing personal development, serving in the community and actively supporting the WAGGGS and the WOSM.

SSA is not a registered member of any of the above organisations but acknowledges their existence and status within WOSM.

## **11. Participation in International Conferences and Youth Forums**

The SSA representation at Zonal, Regional or World meetings will be decided by the Chief Scout in consultation with the Deputy Chief Scout, Chief Commissioner and CEO.

## **12. Participation in International Youth, Rover and adult events**

- Participation in International events must be approved by the Manco.
- The Chief Commissioner will recommend the Contingent Leader for the event. Manco will need to ratify the appointment.
- The Contingent Leader, in consultation with the Chief Commissioner, shall appoint the Contingent Management Team (CMT).
- The CMT is responsible for all the participants of the event. The CMT need to confirm that all participants are in good standing with SSA.
- All qualifying members must be given a fair opportunity to participate in the event.
- Applicants must be prepared to pay all associated costs.
- If an individual has not been elected to participate, the individual may appeal to the Chief Commissioner.
- Any rules put in place by the CMT that may limit participation need to be approved by the Chief Commissioner in advance.
- Unwarranted persons cannot be members of contingents unless approved by the Chief Commissioner. If approved, they can only attend as International Service Team members.
- All event contingents must be self-funded.

## **13. Foreign countries visit to SA**

Scouts from other National Scout Organisations who wish to visit South Africa must:

- Complete the "Application for Foreign Scouts visiting South Africa" at least three months before the date of arrival and approved by the SSA International Committee.
- Provide a letter of endorsement from their National Scout Office – signed by the Chief Commissioner, Chief Executive or International Commissioner
- Be self-sustainable.
- Provide an itinerary including overnight accommodation if a group is moving around South Africa.

## **14. South African Scouts visiting foreign countries**

Scout groups or members of groups wishing to visit a foreign country to engage with Scouts in that country must:

- Complete the Application form for South African Scouts visiting a foreign country.



- Provide a detailed itinerary including overnight accommodation if a group is travelling in another country. A budget is required also to show that the trip is self-sustaining financially.
- Have their application endorsed by the Regional Commissioner and finally the International Committee.

## **15. Representing SCOUTS South Africa**

Representing SCOUTS SA is a privilege and not a right. Each applicant will be interviewed by the Contingent Leader or International Committee representatives.

Each applicant will sign a Code of Conduct for representing SSA and commit to being a good ambassador for SSA. Each Adult member or Rover will sign or complete a Safe from Harm document/course to ensure the safety of youth whether in their care or not.

The following are expected to submit a report of their experience to the International Committee within two months of returning from participation in international events:

- Individuals representing SSA
- Contingent Leaders of contingents

## **16. Pen Pals**

Correspondence between Scouts in South Africa and Scouts from other NSO's is encouraged. Adult leaders acting as liaisons between Packs or Troops in South Africa with foreign NSO Scouters will require a Letter of Introduction from the International Committee.

Adult leaders from another NSO need to provide a Letter of Introduction from their NSO before any exchange of communication is permitted.

## **17. Social Media Interactions**

Social Media interactions (Zoom, Discord, etc.) between Scouts in South Africa and Scouts from other NSOs is encouraged.

Adult leaders acting as a liaison will require a Letter of Introduction from the International Committee.

Adult leaders from another NSO need to provide a Letter of Introduction from their NSO before any exchange of communication is permitted.

## **Amendment Submission Contact Details**

While every attempt is made to ensure that the contents of this policy are correct and consistent at the time of publication, the changing nature of SSA and the communities that we serve is acknowledged, and as living documents this Policy should and will require correction and amendment from time to time.

Any proposals for amendment of the contents of this policy should be submitted in line with the process described in the standing Organisation Rules in effect at the time of submission of the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendments for this document should be submitted to:

SCOUTS South Africa  
National Office  
PO Box 2434  
Clareinch  
7740  
info@scouts.org.za