

Laws
of the
Dublin University
Mathematical Society

Adopted November 1923.
As amended up to and including the Annual General Meeting of the 85th
Session, April 2008.

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1 Fundamental Regulations

1.1

The Society shall be called the Dublin University Mathematical Society and may be referred to as the Trinity Maths Society or, inside the University, as Mathsoc.

1.2

The Society shall consist of Ordinary Members and Honorary Members.

1.3

The object of the Society shall be the encouragement of the study of Mathematics.

1.4

The annual subscription to the Society shall be €2.00 for Ordinary Members.

1.5

The management of the Society shall be entrusted to a Council consisting of Officers together with four members elected as follows: Two Sophisters, one Senior Freshman, and one Junior Freshman. Furthermore, the Auditor shall be for the next year an ex-officio member of Council.

1.6

The Session of the Society shall extend from one Inaugural Meeting to the next. The Inaugural Meeting shall be held not more than two weeks after the Private Business Meeting at which the Officers are elected.

1.7

The Laws of the Society shall neither be added to nor altered except by a motion passed at two consecutive Private Business Meetings of the Society. Amendments to the motion may be accepted at the first reading, but no amendments can be accepted at the second reading. Each law must be amended separately.

1.8

The duties of the Members include safeguarding the security of the Society.

1.9

The use of the Society's rooms shall be restricted to the Members of the Society and their Guests. Members shall be responsible for the behaviour of their Guests. Visitors attending Public Business Meetings shall be deemed Guests of Council for the duration of the Meeting.

2 Members

2.1 Ordinary Members

All Students and Staff of the University shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership of the Society.

A Candidate's name shall not be added to the roll of the Society unless his subscription be paid.

The Society alone shall have the power of expelling any member.

2.2 Honorary Members

Honorary Members are the President, Vice-Presidents, and all others whom the Society may from time to time elect. These Members, unless they are also Ordinary Members, are ineligible for a seat on Council and are not entitled to vote at election. They shall have the privileges of Ordinary Members in relation to the Library.

3 Election of Officers and Council

3.1

The Permanent Officers of the Society shall be the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

The Annual Officers shall be:

- The President
- The Auditor
- The Hon. Treasurer
- The Hon. Secretary
- The Hon. Librarian
- The Hon. Publicity Officer
- The Hon. Quizmaster

The last six of whom must be Ordinary Members of the Society and they shall hold office only as long as they remain members.

3.2

The Annual Officers, with the exception of the President, and the Ordinary Members of Council, with the exception of the Junior Freshman Member, shall be elected on or before the last Friday of the Arts lectures of Hilary Term, or at such time as Council shall otherwise direct. They shall enter office at the Inaugural Meeting of the Session to which they have been elected and hold office until they Inaugural Meeting of the following Session.

3.3

The Society may appoint Honorary Vice-Presidents at its pleasure. All outgoing Presidents shall become Vice-Presidents of the Society.

3.4

The Junior Freshman Member of Council shall be elected at a Private Business Meeting before the last Friday of Arts lectures of Michaelmas Term. The nominations for this position shall take place at this Private Business Meeting before the election. There shall be a meeting of the outgoing and incoming Councils between the election Private Business Meeting and the Inaugural Meeting. The President for the coming session shall be elected at this meeting.

3.5

Honorary Members of the Council may be appointed at the discretion of the Council from the Ordinary Society Members, should the Council feel the need arises. It will be the decision of the Council whether the Honorary Members shall be voting members of the Council or not. Being an Honorary Committee Member shall not preclude an Ordinary Society Member from becoming an Annual Officer, or vice versa.

3.6

With the exception of the Secretary, any Officer, Member of Council, or member of any committee or sub-committee can resign in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary can resign in writing to the Auditor.

3.7

A motion of impeachment may be put down against any Officer, Member of Council, or member of any committee or sub-committee. It must be passed by two-thirds majority at a Private Business Meeting.

4 Auditor

4.1

The Auditor shall take the Chair at Private Business Meetings. In the event of his absence from such a meeting, he should appoint a member of the Council as Chairperson. Failing this, an Officer elected by those present shall take the Chair. The President may, at the request in writing of at least one fifth of the members of the Society, call and chair a Private Business Meeting of the Society.

4.2

The Auditor shall take the chair at Council Meetings. Failing this, an Officer elected by those present shall take the Chair.

4.3

The Chairman shall, at the conclusion of each meeting, sign the list of members present in the Librarian's book.

4.4

In case any Officer is not present in person at a meeting of the Society or Council, the Chairman shall appoint a substitute till the arrival of the Officer. It shall be the duty of the Auditor to maintain an official copy of the Laws of the Society in accordance with the Minute Books and to enter in it all alterations and additions to the Laws.

4.5

In case any office becomes vacant or falls in abeyance, the Auditor may appoint a substitute to hold the office until the termination of such a vacancy or abeyance.

4.6

The Auditor has the right to stop any member from reading a paper to the Society. In this case, he shall give his reasons for doing so at the following Council meeting.

4.7

If the same number of votes be cast for and against a motion or in the case of a tie in an election, then the Auditor shall have a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote.

4.8

If the Auditor is not present, the Treasurer shall have the casting vote. Failing this, the Secretary, and failing that, the Librarian.

4.9

If the Auditor absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without permission of Council, he shall ipso facto cease to hold his office and on the third meeting the Secretary shall give notice and the Chairman declare the office vacant.

5 Secretary

5.1

The Secretary shall carry on all the general correspondence of the Society and shall act as secretary to Council.

5.2

The Secretary shall have at each meeting of the Society or Council the appropriate Minute Books in which he shall have recorded the proceedings at the last meeting of the Society or Council. He shall distinguish between the Minutes of Public Business and the Minutes of Private Business in such a way as to ensure that no account of the Society's private proceedings shall be read out in the presence of strangers (non-members).

5.3

In the Minutes of a Public Business Meeting the Secretary shall record the name of the Chairman, the name of the essayist and the title of his paper, but it shall only be necessary to record the names of the other speakers.

5.4

The Secretary shall, without prejudice to the provision of the first paragraph of Chapter 4, be responsible for the calling of all meetings of the Society and of Council.

5.5

He shall call a Council meeting at the request in writing of any three members of Council. He shall call a Private Business Meeting of the Society at the request in writing of any twenty members of the Society or at the request of Council.

5.6

The Secretary shall call a Private Business Meeting at least four days in advance, and inform the Publicity Officer, and ensure that notice of such a meeting is posted in suitable places in College.

5.7

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to arrange for papers to be present at the Society's Public Business Meetings and also to provide a Chairman and speakers.

5.8

The Secretary shall keep a list of the Ordinary, and Honorary Members of the Society.

5.9

If the Secretary absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without permission of Council, on the third, the Chairman shall declare the office vacant.

6 Treasurer

6.1

The Treasurer shall receive all subscriptions and fines. He shall keep an account of all sums received and expended, recording from whom received and how expended.

6.2

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer before each meeting to apply any member, fined at the preceding meeting, for the payment of the fine or fines imposed.

6.3

The Treasurer shall exhibit his account books for inspection by Council, when required by Council.

6.4

The Treasurer shall produce accounts and a report of the finances of the Society for the Session at the election meeting of the Session.

6.5

The Treasurer and the Auditor shall be jointly responsible for the financial affairs of the Society. If Council over-rules the advice of the Auditor and the Treasurer on a major financial matter or Council proceeds in the absence of the Auditor and the Treasurer on such a matter, then the Auditor and the Treasurer shall either accept responsibility for the decision, or communicate directly and immediately with the Treasurer of the CSC in which case Council shall hold responsibility for the consequences of the decision in question. If only one of the said Officers disassociate himself from the decision, then the other Officer shall assume complete responsibility; neither will the Officer disassociating himself be forced to accept responsibility by the vote of Council or of the Society, though they may be called upon to resign by the due process of the Society in which case such former Officer shall bring the case to the notice of the CSC.

6.6

If the Treasurer absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without the permission of Council, on the third the Secretary shall give notice and the Chairman shall declare the office vacant.

7 Librarian

7.1

The Librarian shall be the Officer through whom all communications respecting the Library shall be made, and all purchase of books or other objects effected, subject however to the direction of Council.

7.2

The Librarian shall have the general supervision of the Society's rooms as his responsibility.

7.3

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to make all necessary arrangements for the meetings of the Society and of Council, apart from those undertaken by the Secretary as laid down in the previous chapter.

7.4

The Librarian shall receive from the Treasurer such money as he may require from time to time for current expenses and shall give the Treasurer on request a detailed account of his expenses. The Librarian is not empowered to incur expenses other than the usual current expenses except when authorised by the Society or by Council. The Librarian shall, after the last Public Business Meeting prior to the election meeting, close his accounts for the Session and shall draw up an abstract thereof.

7.5

The Librarian shall ensure that the names of all those present at Private or Public Business Meetings, together with the title of the paper, and the name of the speaker, shall be inscribed in a book provided for the purpose, hereinafter called the Attendance Book.

7.6

The Librarian shall keep a catalogue of all books in the Library. He shall also write in the front page of each book procured, the catalogue number, the date of acquisition, and how acquired. He shall keep the indexes up to date.

7.7

The Librarian must keep in the Society's rooms a waiting list, which shall be on display, on which applicants for books may write their names, together with the particulars of the book or books required, and the date.

7.8

The Librarian shall at least once a term see that all books or periodicals out for more than two months are either renewed or returned.

7.9

If the Librarian absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without the permission of Council, on the third the Secretary shall give notice and the Chairman shall declare the office vacant.

8 Publicity Officer

8.1

The Publicity Officer shall be responsible for notifying members of meetings of the Society and events of the Society as directed by the Secretary. In addition, it will be the responsibility of the Publicity Officer to ensure that there is an up-to-date website in place.

8.2

His duties will include assisting the Secretary in carrying on all correspondence of the Society.

8.3

If the Publicity Officer absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without the permission of Council, on the third the Secretary shall give notice and the Chairman shall declare the office vacant.

9 Quizmaster

9.1

The Quizmaster shall be responsible for publishing problems of a mathematical nature for the Society. In addition, the Quizmaster will be responsible for all matters relating to the Intervarsity Mathematics Competition.

9.2

If the Quizmaster absent himself from three consecutive meetings, be they of the Society or of Council, without the permission of Council, on the third the Secretary shall give notice and the Chairman shall declare the office vacant.

10 The Council

10.1

The Council shall meet on the summons of the Secretary and shall have the general management of all affairs of the Society.

10.2

All decisions of the Council shall be made by a simple majority vote.

10.3

Four members of Council shall be a quorum, provided that two Officers are present. The Council shall have power to direct the Officers in the fulfilment of their duties, subject to any resolutions of the Society.

10.4

The Council forms the primary Court of Appeal, whose decisions can be overruled only by an express resolution of the Society.

10.5

Any Ordinary Member of Council absenting himself from three consecutive meetings of Council, without permission from Council, shall ipso facto vacate his seat. Such forfeiture shall not occur on account of meetings held in vacation. At the third meeting the seat shall be declared vacant.

10.6

The Council has power to appoint sub-committees to deal with questions that may arise.

10.7

When any seat on Council is declared vacant, at the next Private Business Meeting a ballot committee shall be elected, nominations received, and the election for the vacant seat shall take place. This election and the ballot committee shall be subject to the laws for general elections, suitably interpreted.

10.8

Any Officer shall inform Council of matters which he intends to raise at meetings of any committee in which he represents the Society, or can be seen to represent the Society.

11 Standing Orders

Without prejudice to the provisions of Section 4, meetings of the Society shall take place as and when summoned by the Secretary, but at least two Public Business Meetings and one Private Business Meeting shall be held in each Arts Term. Six members shall form a quorum.

11.1 Public Business Meetings

The Chair at Public Business Meetings shall be taken either by the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Member of the Society, the Auditor, or a member of the Society appointed by the Secretary.

The order of proceedings at a Public Business Meeting shall be as follows:

- After the Chair has been taken, the Speaker shall deliver the paper.
- Speaking on the subject. This shall be concluded by a vote of thanks to the person delivering the paper, and he shall have the right to reply.
- The Chairman shall sign the Attendance Book and close the meeting.

11.2 Private Business Meetings

The order of proceedings at Private Business Meetings shall be as follows:

- After the Chair has been taken, the minutes of the last Private Business Meeting of the Society shall be read by the Secretary and after any objection to their accuracy has been decided upon, they shall be signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising from the minutes.
- Reports from Officers.
- Reports from Council.
- Nominations and Elections.
- Fines read over the first time and fines made absolute.
- Motions.
- Question Time.
- Attendance Book to be signed by the Chairman, who shall then close the Meeting.

12 Laws Relating to the Library

12.1

There shall be two Trustees appointed for the purpose of receiving and investing the capital of any gift or bequest that the Society may receive, and of applying the income arising therefrom in accordance with the conditions of such gift or bequest.

12.2

The Erasmus Smith Professor of Mathematics and the University Professor of Natural Philosophy for the time being and their successors in office shall, by virtue and during the tenure of such office, constitute the said Trustees.

12.3

The Library will be open for the lending of books to members only. Up to and including three books may be borrowed by a member at any time. Books may only be let out at such times agreed by the Society at a Private Business Meeting, or at such times as the Librarian or his assistants allow.

12.4

All books must be returned on or before two weeks after the date of borrowing. An extended borrowing facility will be in operation over the Christmas and Easter vacations of the School of Mathematics whereby, books borrowed on or after fourteen days before the start of these vacations will not be due back until one week after the start of term. The Librarian may at his discretion allow books to be borrowed over the long vacation. He will fix a date for the return of the books.

12.5

Books borrowed on the last or second last day of the School of Mathematics Hilary Term need not be returned until one week after the School's examinations. Responsibility for returning the book by this time lies with the borrower, since no guarantee that the Library will be open at the usual times will be made.

12.6

Fines of €0.20 will be imposed for each weekday or part thereof that a book is overdue. This will be subject to a maximum of the replacement value of the book. Once a book is one week overdue, the Librarian or any of his assistants shall post a notice of fines due to the borrower. The borrower will be liable to pay the fine from the time of posting, irrespective of whether he/she returns the book before receiving the notice.

12.7

Anyone retaining books over the long vacation without the Librarian's permission will be liable to pay the same fines above, subject to a maximum of €10. Books may be continuously renewed, provided that no reservation has been made for the books in question.

12.8

Any member refusing to pay fines will be expelled from the Society. Any member losing a book shall replace it with an equally good copy or pay the cost of replacement thereof.

13 Fines

13.1

Any member of the Society who, in the opinion of the Chairman, shall have committed a breach of order at a meeting of the Society or of Council, shall be liable to a fine of €0.10.

13.2

Any member offending against the Library rules shall, on being reported to the Society, be liable to a fine of €0.20.

13.3

Any Officer who, in the opinion of the Chairman, shall have neglected his duties shall be fined €0.10 for each offence.

13.4

With the exception of fines inflicted under the laws relating to the Library, all fines shall be read over at the allotted period of the next Private Business Meeting after their infliction except if inflicted during Private Business and before the allotted period, in which case they shall be read over at that meeting. At the Private Business Meeting following the first reading over of a fine, the fine shall be made absolute, unless a motion for the remission of that fine be adopted at that meeting. Fines inflicted under the laws relating to the Library shall become overdue at the end of the calendar month in which they are inflicted or within ten days of infliction, whichever be the later. Any member neglecting to pay such a fine before it becomes overdue shall be prohibited from borrowing books from the Library until the fines have been paid.

13.5

Council shall have the power to inflict a fine not exceeding €10 on any member whom it shall deem guilty of conduct injurious to the Society. Such a fine shall be reported to the Society at the next Private Business Meeting.

13.6

Any person who is indebted to the Society, by failing to pay monies due under these Laws, shall not be eligible to stand for any office, nor be elected to any committee or sub-committee, nor may he vote in any election whatsoever while his debt is unpaid.

14 Laws for the Conduct of Elections

14.1

The election meeting means the Private Business Meeting at which the election of Officers for the coming session takes place. A ballot committee shall be elected at this Private Business Meeting and nominations for the Officers for the coming session will be opened. The ballot committee's purpose shall be to take charge of the arrangements for the election of the Officers.

14.2

The ballot committee shall consist of the Auditor and two elected members. The members other than the Auditor shall have no personal interest in the elections which the committee are elected to oversee. For the purpose of this section, the phrase personal interest means anything from being a candidate in the election to canvassing for any other person who is a candidate in the election. Personal interest does not include voting in any election. The committee shall elect a Chair from among its members.

14.3

The ballot committee shall ensure the following:

- No non-members shall attend the election meeting.
- That only members elected before the Private Business Meeting at which the nominations were opened, and who have attended at least one Public or Private Business Meeting of the Society during the current session up to but not including the Private Business Meeting at which nominations were opened, shall be entitled to vote.
- That a person shall only stand for office if he has attended three Public or Private Business Meetings during the Current Session, or all of the Public or Private Business Meetings to date if less than three have been held in the Session, other than the meeting at which the election takes place.
- That a member may propose at most one person for any position on Council. He may also second the nomination of at most one person.
- That nominees are informed of their nomination and that their names should be withdrawn from the nomination paper should they wish not to stand.
- That the candidates are made known to the electorate at the election meeting. The Chair of the ballot committee shall take the Chair at the Private Business Meeting for the duration of the election itself. All candidates shall be entitled to speak to the meeting in advance of the voting.

14.4

Without prejudice to the casting vote provisions of Section 4, the method of election to all positions in the Society shall be by means of the Single Transferable Vote. The rules for the counting of the votes shall be as in the Second Schedule to the Seanad Eireann (Panel Members) Electoral Act 1947, as amended by the Schedule to the Seanad Eireann (Panel Members) Electoral Act, 1954, suitably interpreted.