



... British Groups Abroad constitutional guidelines

1. Background

1.1 Whilst the Scout Movement exists in almost every country, the relatively short stay of most UK expatriate young people (and the need for them to re-enter Scouting on return to the United Kingdom) often makes it helpful for there to be a form of British Scouting available abroad.

1.2 British Groups Abroad (BGA) is the largest geographical County in UK Scouting, with Groups in all parts of the world excluding the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, parts of Western Europe and the Overseas Branches of The Scout Association.

1.3 BGAs are only created with the consent of the Scout Association in the host country, for the benefit of British young people who are living temporarily abroad. Scouting on the United Kingdom model is provided for a limited period for the young person who is expected before too long to move back to the UK and re-enter Scouting there. Leaders are normally British nationals. Some BGA Groups have existed for many years.

1.4 Custom and practice over the years have resulted in the recruitment of expatriate young people and adult leaders of other nationalities as well as British nationals. The Scouting provided remains on the UK model and is supported by The Scout Association.

1.5 Young people and adults of the host country's nationality may not be recruited into BGAs.

1.6 Where it will meet needs more effectively, The Scout Association may decide to support Scouting in British Overseas Territories and Dependencies as a BGA rather than as a Branch of the Association. In such cases the BGA recruitment policy does not apply and any young people and adults resident in the Territory may join or be associated with the Movement in the same way as in the United Kingdom.

2. BGA Support

2.1 BGAs are supported by the BGA County Team (see below) with the support of the International Office in the Programme and Development Department of UK Headquarters.

2.2 The nature of Scouting in BGAs often calls for special procedures. These guidelines provide the basis on which these special procedures operate and in particular indicate how various parts of POR are implemented in BGAs. In all other respects, POR is in full effect for BGAs as it is for Groups based in the UK.

3. Special Procedures

3.1 District Structures

3.1.1 The District is the country in which the BGA is located (or a part of the country if agreed by the BGA County Commissioner).



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3.1.2 The functions of the District Commissioner are carried out by the BGA County Commissioner and the functions of the Scout District are carried out by the BGA County Team as a direct service to Groups from UK Headquarters. Guidance is given in the publication entitled *BGA Essentials*, which is issued free to all BGAs and is kept up to date by the BGA County Secretary in consultation with the BGA County Team.

3.2 County Structures

3.2.1 The BGA County Commissioner is an appointment held by the International Commissioner of The Scout Association.

3.2.2 The BGA Team consists of the following voting members:

- BGA County Commissioner (Chair)
- BGA Assistant County Commissioners
- BGA County Training Manager
- BGA County Secretary
- International Manager, Programme and Development Department, UK Headquarters

3.2.3 The BGA County Team carries out the normal functions of a District/County Team in the UK and also of certain other bodies referred to in POR:

- District/County Executive
- Appointments sub-Committee

3.2.4 Other persons may be invited by the BGA County Commissioner to attend meetings of the BGA County Team on an ad hoc or permanent basis, whether they hold an appointment with the BGA County or not, but they shall not be voting members.

3.2.5 The BGA County Team meets at least three times a year. Its members maintain close contact through email and/or telephone to ensure collaboration, and to enhance team-working and a consistent approach to support and management of BGAs and conformity with Scout Association policies. By prior arrangement, BGA Group Scout Leaders and Group Contacts may attend meetings of the BGA County Team.

3.2.6 One meeting between 1 June and 31 August in each year shall be designated as the BGA County Annual General Meeting, and will receive reports on the progress over the preceding 12 months and on plans for the future. All BGA Leaders, Section Assistants and Group officers may attend the Annual General Meeting.

3.3 Finance

3.3.1 Income and expenditure for the BGA County are dealt with as part of the UK Headquarters accounting system and in accordance with financial regulations established by Headquarters.

3.3.2 The BGA County Team prepares budget proposals each year for expenditure for the BGA County which are then considered and incorporated as agreed during the UK Headquarters budget process.

Approved by the BGA County Team July 2004.

BRITISH GROUPS ABROAD – County and Group Functions

<i>Function</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Support for the youth programme, including camping and adventurous activities	Group
Authorisations for adventurous activities and nights away	County
Growth and development of the Movement in the County	Both
Provision of co-ordination of the Scout Network	County
Provision of co-ordination of Explorer Scout Units	County
Ensuring that all adults are vetted before they are authorised to undertake any role in the Movement	County, on application from Group
The appointment of adults	County, on application from Group
Training, motivation, review and development of adults in Scouting, including the delivery of the Association's adult training provision	County, supported by Group
Ensuring the implementation of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Association,	Both
Relationships with other organisations and bodies	Both
Facilitating the participation of young people in decision making	Both
Support for the Scout Fellowship	County
Ensuring that the County is represented in the wider decision making structures of the Association	County
Recommendations for decorations and awards	County
Advice on financial and administrative matters	County
Implementation of sanctions for failure to comply with the Association's rules	County
Settlement of disputes in accordance with POR	County
Liaison and co-operation with other Districts/BGAs	County