



Summary of the rule changes made 18th September 2021

Why have we made these changes?

The previous set of rules were written 20+ years ago and had become obsolete with respect to guidance and rules from the Charity Commission and GDPR. Additionally a request was made by a member in 2019 to thoroughly review them following several attempted 'sticking plaster' changes before that. The old rules were becoming unworkable in the modern era.

What do these changes mean for a Guild member?

Most changes are minor procedural improvements, for example how we approach voting at meetings or how we classify performances. However, there are two important new ones.

- **New membership elections** If you have someone in your tower who would like to become a member then you will need to contact the membership secretary (membership@tdgr.org.uk) and act as a proposer. At your next Guild or District event an election will take place with a 'all in favour' vote. Their membership starts on that date. Neither the proposer nor new member need be present at this election but new membership certificates can be presented together with a warm welcome.
- **New membership categories** This is to 'future proof' us on GDPR but also to allow certain groups additional privileges, for example potentially reduced fees for U18. If you have been a member of the TDGR for 50+ years you are now entitled to free Honorary Life Membership. Contact the TDGR secretary (secretary@tdgr.org.uk) or membership secretary if you are eligible and wish to take advantage of this.

What is different about District Reps?

Your District Rep sits on the Standing Committee to represent you and your district. To do this effectively they take part in votes and make decisions, they therefore need to be a Trustee of the Guild (together with the rest of the Standing Committee). However, as they have only been elected by a quarter of the membership the rest of the membership must also 'approve' them. This will be done by a simple ratification (all in favour) vote at the AGM.

Is that it for rule changes?

Sorry, not quite. By moving the AGM to late spring we need to align it (and the preceding notice periods) with Easter. There is a Procedure Timetable in the Meetings document that (following discussion at the end of the 2021 AGM) might need some tweaking.