

## **AIMS, RULES & GUIDELINES OF THE GLDA**

### **AIMS**

- To set standards for Garden and Landscape Design.
- To raise public awareness of Garden and Landscape Designers and the services they offer.
- To raise the profile of members with regard to working with other professional groups.
- To liaise with relevant bodies in organising educational programmes for Garden & Landscape Designers.
- To facilitate information exchange among members, suppliers and the public.

### **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

This code expresses in general terms the level of professional conduct expected by the GLDA of all categories of its membership.

- a) Members shall exert every effort towards the preservation and protection of our natural resources and toward understanding the interaction of the social and economic systems with those resources.
- b) Members have a social and environmental responsibility to reconcile the public's needs and the natural environment with minimal disruption to the natural system.
- c) Members shall further the welfare of and advance the profession by constantly striving to provide the highest level of professional services, avoiding even the appearance of improper professional conduct.
- d) Members shall serve their clients or employers with integrity, understanding, knowledge and creative ability, and shall respond morally to social, political, economic and technical influences.
- e) Members shall encourage educational research and the development and dissemination of useful technical information relating to planning, design, construction and conservation of the physical environment.

### **GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

- 1) Members shall make full disclosure to the client or employer of any financial interest which even remotely bears upon the services or project.
- 2) Members shall truthfully and clearly inform the client or employer of personal qualifications and capabilities to perform services.
- 3) Members shall not make exaggerated, misleading, deceptive or false statements, or claims to the public about personal and professional qualifications, experience or performance.
- 4) Members shall not give, lend or promise anything of value to any public official or otherwise seek to influence Officials judgment or actions in the tendering of contracts.

5) Members shall be free to decide whether or not to become involved in a process of competitive tendering where a client chooses to use this method of selecting a Garden or Landscape Designer but may encourage the client to adopt this method of selection should he or she choose this method in order to gauge the ability and competence of the designer to perform the required services.

6) Members shall recognise the contribution of others engaged in the planning, design and construction of the physical environment and shall not knowingly make false statements about their professional work nor maliciously injure or attempt to injure the prospects, practice or employment position of those so engaged.

7) Members shall act in the best interests of the client or employer at all times and keep them fully informed of all proceedings regarding the services being provided.

8) Members will ensure at all times that the Association will exist as a means of improving the quality of life for all members and that the association will further exist on a basis of mutual respect between members, professionally and otherwise.

**MEMBERSHIP** shall consist of the following categories.

1) **Full Members** of the Association admitted according to the membership criteria and guidelines in force at the time, for the purposes of assessing and admitting such Members.

Members shall be entitled to use the letters designate and logo of the Association in their correspondence and advertising.

Members of equivalent foreign professional organisations will be eligible to apply for membership but must undergo the assessment process.

Only Full Members can work under the title "MGLDA". Overseas Full Members can work under the title "MGLDA (Overseas)". Membership is confined to individual designers and does not extend to any company for which they work.

Only Full Members living and working in Ireland have voting rights at official meetings of the GLDA. Full Members & Full Members (Overseas) with an address in Ireland may hold office in the Association. All elections shall be by secret ballot. All Full Members are encouraged to serve a non-mandatory minimum term of 2 years on Council.

Full Members who have allowed their membership to lapse for longer than three years may be required (at the discretion of the Committee) to re-submit a portfolio and/or be interviewed by the Assessment Panel. One year's leave of absence (i.e. no fees) due to illness or going abroad is allowed, subject to notification to and ratification by the Council.

2) **Pre-Registered Members** will be admitted to the Association according to the membership criteria and guidelines in force at the time for the purpose of assessing and admitting such members. The Pre-Registered membership category confers no professional status. Pre-Registered members shall aspire to full membership of the Association and shall not be entitled to use the letters designate and/or logo of the Association but can use the abbreviated title 'Pre-Reg Member of the GLDA' after their name. Pre-Registered Members can attend the AGM but are not allowed to vote.

3) **Student Members** will be admitted to the Association according to the membership criteria and guidelines in force at the time for the purpose of admitting such members and will include students of garden and / or landscape design participating in courses recognised by the Association.

**4) Friends / Overseas Friends of the GLDA** are those who shall be involved with or interested in the activities associated with the practice of garden and landscape design and who will be admitted to Friend status according to the membership criteria and guidelines in force at the time. Friends / Overseas Friends of the GLDA shall not be entitled to use the letters designate or logo of the association.

**5) Honorary Members** will be persons elected to the position of Honorary Membership by a general meeting of the Association. It shall be awarded to persons nominated by the Council who contributed in a significant way to the welfare of the Association and/or the garden and landscape design industry. Honorary members shall be entitled to use the title 'Honorary Member Garden and Landscape Designers Association' or 'HMGLDA'.

**6) Fellows** - The title of Fellow is awarded to:

- Founder members of the GLDA who have retired (no annual subscription required). They are entitled to use 'FGLDA (Founder)' after their name.
- Full Members after serving 7 years on Council (annual subscription is required until official retirement). They may use 'FGLDA' after their name.
- Full Member after 20 years without serving on Council (annual subscription is required until official retirement). They may use 'FGLDA' after their name.

Fellows are eligible to attend the AGM and to vote. They are eligible to Full Members rates to all GLDA events.

**7) Corporate Associate Members of the GLDA** - This category is for Companies and Persons whose goods or services are used within the Horticultural and Landscape Industry. They are eligible to be listed under Suppliers on the GLDA website. It is at the discretion of the Council as to whether a Company or Person wishing to take up or retain Corporate Associate Membership is suitable for this category.

Candidates for all categories of Membership of the GLDA shall complete and return to the GLDA Administrator, either by post or email, an official application form as required. The application form shall be accompanied by any additional information requested and by such fees as apply at the time of application.

These Rules may be altered or amended by the GLDA Council at any time. In the event of a change to these rules, said changes will be made known in writing to all categories of Members as soon as possible.

The Association is a Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

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