

Glossary of key governance terms & abbreviations

Campfire	WAGGGS's multi-lingual digital learning and community platform
Charity	A charity is a non-profit organisation that exists to provide support for a specific cause or group of people. These organizations must meet specific criteria, such as having a charitable purpose to be considered a charity.
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)	This is a type of charity (non-profit) organisational structure in the UK. WAGGGS officially became a CIO on 18 November 2014.
Charity Commission	The Charity Commission regulates charities in England and Wales, making sure they are accountable, well-run, and follow the law. Since WAGGGS is a registered charity in England and Wales, it is also regulated by the Commission.
Compass 2032	The Movement's 12-year Vision from 2021 to 2032
Constitution and Bye-Laws	The governing document of WAGGGS.
Elected Trustee	Elected Trustees are members of the World Board who are elected at a World Conference by Full Member Organisations. There are twelve Elected Trustees who, together with the five Regional Chairs, make up the seventeen members of the World Board.
Global Team	The WAGGGS Global Team includes all staff and volunteers at Regional and global levels.
Governance	Governance is the way rules, decisions, and actions are made and managed in an organisation. It ensures things run smoothly, fairly, and responsibly. Good governance means clear rules, accountability, and making decisions that benefit everyone involved. It involves a group of people (trustees) who make important decisions, oversee finances, and ensure the charity stays ethical and effective. Good charity governance includes transparency, accountability, and making sure the charity benefits the people or cause it was created for.
Governance Review Team (2025-2026)	The 2025-2026 governance review project is being led, on behalf of the World Board, by a Governance Review Team comprising World Board members, members of the Governance Committee and WAGGGS Staff.
Governance Design Team (2019-2020)	In 2019, WAGGGS formed a Governance Design Team, consisting of members from the Governance Committee, experienced volunteers, and staff. This team was tasked with evaluating the governance structures necessary for a modern, efficient and sustainable WAGGGS. Their work, along with input from the Young Women (Motion 32) Research Team (2019-2021), led to several proposals for the 37th World Conference.

Governance Task Force (2011-2014)	The Governance Task Force was established between the 34th (2011) and 35th (2014) World Conferences to review WAGGGS' governance and bring forward recommendations for improvement. The current Governance review builds upon the foundation laid by it.
Meaningful Youth Participation	Youth participation is about young people being able to make decisions on issues that affect their lives and communities. Meaningful youth participation builds on this and means that young people are considered the experts in their own lives, are informed, empowered, safe and valued when they participate.
Member	When written with a capital "M" this refers to a Member Organisation that is either an Associate or Full Member of WAGGGS
member	When written with a small "m" this refers to an individual (usually a girl or a woman aged 18+) who is a member of a national organisation.
MO	Member Organisation of WAGGGS. These can take different forms including WAGGGS-only, Scout and Guide National Organisations (SAGNOs) and Federations.
Motion	A proposal that has been adopted at a WAGGGS World Conference/ General Meeting or Regional Conference.
Motion 32	<p>In the context of this document, Motion 32 refers to a Motion that was approved by Member Organisations at the 36th World Conference in 2017. The text of the Motion is as follows:</p> <p><i>"The World Conference tasks the World Board to conduct an investigation</i></p> <p><i>a) looking into the reasons why more young women are not standing for governance positions in consultation with Member Organisations and their young women, and;</i></p> <p><i>b) to develop a concrete set of actions that will significantly increase the number of young women standing for governance positions,</i></p> <p><i>The outputs of the investigation will be presented at the Regional Conferences in order to give the opportunity to the MOs to participate actively in the discussion and take forward the key recommendations to the 37th World Conference".</i></p> <p>Out of this Motion came the Motion 32 project, also know as the Young Women in Governance Research Project that resulted in a number of recommendations.</p>

Motion 7	<p>In the context of this document, Motion 7 refers to a Motion that was approved by Member Organisations at the 38th World Conference in 2023. The text of the Motion is as follows:</p> <p><i>“The World Conference tasks the World Board to conduct a survey and publish a report:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>re-evaluating the governance structure of the World Board including, but not limited to: term lengths, election processes, recruitment, and nomination processes;</i> • <i>examining the potential impact that governance changes could have on increasing the participation of young women in said governance structures.</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>publish the results of such a study at least nine months in advance of the 39th WAGGGS World Conference, to enable Member Organisations to draft potential motions”.</i>
Motion 24	<p>In the context of this document, Motion 24 refers to a Motion that was approved by Member Organisations at the 37th World Conference in 2021. The text of the Motion is as follows:</p> <p><i>“The World Conference requests the World Board to set up a working group with the task of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conducting a study on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>The obstacles restraining face-to-face participation of WAGGGS member organizations in global conferences. The working group may wish to draw up a list of criteria it considers relevant to select for study. This list should include at least financial obstacles, along with other known or unknown obstacles at this stage: politics, limited volunteer resources, etc.;</i> ◦ <i>The difficulties for OMs to participate in meeting formats (digital, hybrid) other than face-to-face participation of all members of their delegation in a face-to-face world conference;</i> ◦ <i>The obstacles to the organization of world conferences in formats other than face-to-face meetings of all members of delegations;</i> ◦ <i>The benefits of the various conference formats for Member Organizations, WAGGGS and the global Girl Guide and Girl Scout movement;</i> • <i>Building our knowledge and experiences of MOs, WAGGGS Regional Committees, World Board, and anyone outside WAGGGS who they think it useful to question.</i> • <i>Developing concrete proposals to overcome barriers to MO participation in global conferences.</i> • <i>Reporting on study findings and proposals for ensuring MO’s effective participation in World Conferences in a study report submitted to WAGGGS member organizations at least four months before the next World Conference”.</i>
Regional Chair	Chairs the Regional Committee and sits on the World Board as a Trustee (ex-officio).



Regional Committee	Each of the five WAGGGS Regions has a Regional Committee consisting of six individuals, elected by Member Organisations within the Region during the Regional Conference. The Regional Committees act as a bridge between the global Movement and the national Member Organisations, bringing WAGGGS and its opportunities closer to them. They develop and implement Regional Action Plans that support the delivery of WAGGGS's Global Strategy at a regional level, implement decisions made at Regional Conferences, and provide regional insights to the World Board to support decision-making.
ReCo	Regional Conference, triennial conference of the Member Organisations within a Region of WAGGGS. The Regional Conference usually take place in the year preceding a World Conference.
Trustee	A trustee is a person responsible for overseeing and managing a charity, organization, or trust. Trustees ensure that the organisation follows its mission, complies with legal requirements, and uses funds properly.
WAGGGS	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
WB	World Board, the trustees of WAGGGS.
WoCo	World Conference, the triennial meeting of the Member Organisations of WAGGGS.
YW	Young Women. Within WAGGGS this typically refers to young women within the Movement under the age of 30.