

# Becoming an Iyengar Yoga London trustee

Iyengar Yoga London trustees serve for three years. We ask annual members to put themselves forward when vacancies on the board come up and ask that board members have been members of the centre for a minimum of one year. Once a name is put forward, the proposed trustee must be nominated by the board.

Trustees are annual members who voluntarily undertake responsibility for the strategic direction of the organisation, and for ensuring that it fulfils its legal and charitable obligations. They are elected at the AGM to serve for a period of 3 years. Trustees are also appointed as directors of the company during their period of office.

## 1. Why should I become a trustee?

Trustees represent the whole membership from entirely new students to the most experienced teachers. They consider strategy and take decisions on how the organisation is run, subject to the powers invested in them by the articles of association.

In taking responsibility for running a charity and a company, trustees accept obligations to fulfil the objects of the charity on behalf of its members in providing a public benefit. We depend upon this voluntary activity to maintain and improve a healthy and vibrant organisation so, if you have benefited from your experience of Iyengar yoga at the centre, we hope that you will consider contributing to its future.

Your contribution may take many forms and may be based on your:

- business or academic experience,
- financial acumen,
- experience in Iyengar yoga,
- interest in the building or design,
- desire to expand the range of classes, courses or workshops we offer,
- wish to promote research,
- wish to develop Iyengar Yoga London's charitable work
- and any other skills or experience that may help to improve the work of the organisation and promote it to a wider public.

By becoming a trustee, you can support the work of the charity and make changes for the better. You should be independent minded but also prepared to act together with your fellow trustees for the benefit of all members.

## **2. Am I eligible?**

Potential trustees must be over 18 and have been annual members of the centre for a period of at least one year before becoming eligible to serve as a trustee. They must not be persons who are disqualified from holding office.

## **3. What do trustees do?**

Trustees meet quarterly to discuss the business of the organisation, to review its activities and to make decisions on how it should operate to fulfil its stated purposes (the objects) on behalf of the members. They act collectively and have a wide range of powers which are set out in the articles of association. All potential trustees receive a copy of the articles along with other training, support and guidance. Trustees are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the organisation fulfils its legal and charitable obligations and are protected from personal liability so long as they act within their powers and in good faith.

## **4. What don't they do?**

The role of trustees is strategic, so they are not required to perform the day-to-day administrative and managerial functions of the organisation. These are delegated to one or more paid employees with specific contracts of employment. However, trustees are legally responsible for the work of the charity. The chair has the additional responsibility of acting as line-manager to the manager.

## **5. What experience is necessary?**

There is no formal qualification for becoming a trustee save for being an annual member of at least one year's standing. However, you should have the time and energy to devote to the responsibilities involved. We seek to achieve a balance of experience within the board. This may be in business (for example: finance, marketing or advertising, human resources, IT, governance) or other charitable work. Your involvement and interest in our classes is taken as given.

## **6. How often do they meet?**

The trustees have board meeting every three months over the year, including the AGM. They may arrange additional meetings to discuss specific matters as the need arises and may establish sub-committees to discuss specialised areas of activity and to report to the main board.

Board meetings usually last 1.5 - 2 hours and are held at times arranged to suit as many trustees as possible. Sub-committees set their own agendas consistent with the tasks allocated to them by the board. Currently there are three sub-committees, each chaired by a member of the main board.

## **7. How many trustees are there?**

A maximum of 12 members may be elected. Usually there are 7 trustees including a chair and honorary treasurer, elected by the trustees from among their number. By convention two teacher members serve on the board.

## **8. What guidance is available to me?**

Trustees are required to take part in an induction process with the chair and manager and, on election, to sign a copy of the trustees' code of conduct which sets out the principles of service.

The Charity Commission produces a wide range of additional information for the guidance of charitable trustees. Copies of essential documents are provided to all potential trustees. The principal guide for individual trustees is The Essential Trustee (CC3).

## **9. How do I apply to become a trustee?**

You may apply by sending an email or letter to the office, or by calling into the office for further information. The manager will be able to provide you with all the information and documentation you may require in deciding to put yourself forward.

## **10. How does the election process work?**

Potential trustees are nominated by the board of trustees at the AGM, usually held in June, and must be elected by a majority of the annual members present and eligible to vote at the meeting.

- Trustees serve for three years from the meeting at which they are elected.
- Automatic retirement occurs at the third AGM after election.
- Previous trustees may be re-elected after a break of one year.

**For further information or an informal chat, please call Lucy Morris on +44 20 7624 3080 or send an email to [office@iyengaryogalondon.co.uk](mailto:office@iyengaryogalondon.co.uk) with 'Trusteeship' in the subject line, and we will get back to you.**