

WESTON ATHLETIC CLUB - CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Accepted at AGM 25th May 2021

1. NAME

The name of The Club shall be Weston Athletic Club (hereafter referred to as the Club).

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of The Club shall be to provide and promote amateur athletics in Weston-Super-Mare and the surrounding area.

3. ETHOS

- a) The Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its operations, activities, and development. In doing so, the Club acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:
'Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.'
- b) The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and shall treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality, or social/economic status.
- c) The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment, and abuse.
- d) All Members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- e) The Club will deal with any incident of discriminatory behaviour seriously according to the English Athletics (EA) published disciplinary procedures.

4. AFFILIATION

Subject to these Rules and the general law, the Club shall (as the case may be) become a member of affiliate to England Athletics and any constituent body designated to it by England

Athletics and the Club shall comply with and uphold the rules and regulations of England Athletics and of any such constituent body for the time being in force.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

- a) All applications for membership must be made online via the Club's website at www.westonac.co.uk. Applicants will be informed of their acceptance by email.
- b) Membership of the Club is open to all without discrimination and may only be refused where admission to membership would be contrary to the best interests of sport or the good conduct and interests of the Club. No person shall be denied membership of the Club on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, colour, age, disability, sex, occupation, sexual orientation, religion, political or other beliefs. A person may appeal against any denial of membership in accordance with rule 15 below.
- c) All applications for membership will be considered to have agreed to comply with all the Club's current policies and procedures including the Codes of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.
- d) Membership fees will be payable on an annual basis for the period 1 April to 31 March thereafter.
- e) Membership fees for each year will be set at the previous year's Annual General Meeting having been decided by a majority vote of members, the Chair having the casting vote if required.
- f) Members will be advised each March, by email to their last known email address, of the next year's membership fee. The final date for receipt of the membership fee will be 31 May. Members whose fees have not been paid by 31 May will be deemed to no longer be a member of the Club.
- g) Membership of the Club shall terminate if the Member is removed from membership by a resolution of the Committee as a result of application of the Club's (or England Athletics) disciplinary policy.
- h) Membership of the Club shall terminate if the Member dies.
- i) Membership of the Club shall terminate if the Member, being an individual, is convicted of a criminal offence which involves dishonesty or any other offence, relating to safeguarding, drugs and any crime involving violence (including any convictions relating to children);
- j) Any person ceasing to be a Member forfeits all rights in relation to and claims upon the Club, its property and its funds and has no right to the return of any part of his/her

subscription fee. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Committee may refund an appropriate part of a resigning Member's subscription fee if it considers it appropriate in all the circumstances.

6. RESIGNATIONS

A notice of resignation must be in writing by post or email to an elected committee member and shall be considered by the committee at its next meeting. Membership shall be held to have ceased on the actual date of the notice being tendered unless the member is financially indebted to The Club, in which case the acceptance may be withheld until the indebtedness has been met. The Club will inform the relevant governing body of a member's resignation.

7. MANAGEMENT

- a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a committee numbering not less than four nor more than twelve.
- b) The Committee will meet as required, and be representative, in so far as possible, of the membership and format of the Club.
- c) The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall include a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Welfare Officer.
- d) The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies that occur until the next Annual General Meeting.
- e) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt extra members as required; such members to be without voting rights.
- f) Voting on all decisions will be a majority vote, the Chair having the casting vote.
- g) The Committee shall have the power to decide all questions and disputes arising in respect of any issue concerning the Rules.

8. CLUB COLOURS

- a) The Club-issued yellow vest or t-shirt must be worn by members at all competing races except at the committee's discretion.

- b) Points will only be awarded for club championship races where club colours are worn, except at the committee's discretion.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) A General Meeting shall be held within three months of the end of each financial year to receive the committee's report and financial statement, elect committee members, set subscriptions and deal with any other business relating to the Club's transactions.
- b) Members shall be given fourteen days' notice of the meeting by email to their last known email address.
- c) Notice of any other business which a member desires to be placed on the agenda must be given in writing or by email to the Secretary or Chair at least seven days prior to the meeting.
- d) No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum for an AGM or EGM shall be 25 Members.

10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) A Special General Meeting must be called by the Secretary on receipt by him/her of a request in writing signed by six members of the Club, stating the business to be brought before such a meeting.
- b) A notice convening the meeting shall be sent to all members not later than fourteen days after receipt of the request and the meeting shall be held within twenty-one days of the said receipt.
- c) No business other than that for which it was convened shall be discussed at the meeting.

11. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1 April to 31 March, both days inclusive.

12. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- a) Appropriate accounts with recognised banks or building societies as decided by the Committee will be maintained in the name of the Club.
- b) All payments made above the threshold amount agreed by The Club committee must be authorised by prior agreement made by email between The Chair and The Treasurer. In addition, all cheques payable on the account must be signed by the Treasurer and either the Chair or a nominated committee member.
- c) At the Annual General Meeting an appointment will be made for (an) appropriately qualified person(s) to conduct an Audit of The Club's accounts.

13. PERSONAL RISK

- a) Members and guests acknowledge and accept that participating in sport of any kind can be dangerous and may result in injury and damage to property. Members and guests shall take personal responsibility for their own actions and participate in the Club's sporting activities at their own risk.
- b) Subject to rule 13c below, the liability of the Club and its Committee members to any Member is limited to the net assets of the Club.
- c) Nothing in these Rules shall limit or exclude liability:
 - i. For death or personal injury caused by negligence;
 - ii. for any loss or damage caused by criminal or fraudulent conduct; or
 - iii. for any other liability which cannot lawfully be limited or excluded.

14. INDEMNITY

Without prejudice to any other indemnity to which an Officer may otherwise be entitled, every Officer of the Club shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Club against any liability incurred by him or her in the proper discharge of his or her duties to the fullest extent permitted by law.

15. COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

- a) All concerns, allegations or reports of malpractice or abuse relating to the welfare of children or vulnerable adults will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the EA's and UKA's safeguarding policy and procedures. The Welfare Officer shall be the lead committee member for all Members in the event of any safeguarding concerns.
- b) Any complaints of misconduct (improper or unprofessional conduct) regarding the behaviour of Members or Committee members shall be dealt with by the Club in accordance with its discipline and appeals process (see section 3e) and must be presented in writing to the Secretary (and where the matter relates to the Secretary, the complaint must be submitted to the Welfare Officer). Unless exceptional circumstances apply, the Secretary will hear complaints within fourteen days of receiving a complaint. If the complaint is sufficiently evidenced, the Secretary will appoint 3 (three) Club Members (who have no direct or indirect interest/involvement in the matter) to sit on a disciplinary panel. A decision of the disciplinary panel shall be final and conclusive.
- c) Any appeals must be received by the Secretary within 7 (seven) days of receiving the written decision and, if appropriate, the appeals process will be followed.
- d) Any complaints of serious misconduct (including, without limitation, theft, doping violations, fraud, physical violence, safeguarding policy breaches, serious breach of applicable health and safety, gambling and/or ticketing regulations or any act or omission of the Member or Committee Member which in the opinion of EA, acting reasonably, brings or is likely to bring the sport of athletics into disrepute) regarding the behaviour of Members or Committee Members shall be reported and dealt with by EA in accordance with its Disciplinary Procedures.
- e) If a dispute arises between any Members or Committee Members of the Club about the validity or propriety of anything done by any Member or Committee Member under these Rules and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

16. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

- a) No alternation or addition shall be made to the constitution except that agreed at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose and passed by a two-thirds majority of those members attending the meeting.
- b) Notice of any proposed amendment must reach the Secretary in writing or by email at least seven days before the meeting.