



Proposed changes to the club rules

June 2020

Purpose of the paper	To support club members understanding of the proposed changes to the club rules
Business plan reference	5. Governance
Resource implications	None
Risk assessment	Medium
Decision or action required	Members are asked to consider and approve the proposed changes to the club rules
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Background

A constitution sets out the purpose and rules of any sports club. It is the basic document which helps to ensure smooth and proper running of club affairs. Typically, the constitution will set out:

- The objectives for the club (the purpose of the club).
- The different forms of membership (e.g. adult, junior, social)
- The rules by which the club will operate.
- How the affairs of the club are to be managed (e.g. by officers and a committee).
- How the members control the club, usually through an annual general meeting.

The current Fullerians club rules have been continually updated and iterated over many years. A recent review of these rules has found that there are opportunities to align them more closely with the guidance for sports club constitutions as set out by the RFU and Sport England.

The proposed draft constitution contains a modernization of language and terminology, as well as streamlining of the content (reduction from 24 rule to 17) to improve flow and ease of use. The individual elements of the document are now numbered, to aid with referencing and future amendments. In addition, previous additions and amendments have been incorporated into the body of the document.

Summary of proposed changes

The Rules of Fullerians Rugby Football Club will be renamed the Constitution of Fullerians Rugby Football Club.

1. Title

- a. Simplified to set out the legal status of the club and our membership of the national governing body – the RFU
- b. To include our colours (old rule 3) and modernise the language



2. Object

- a. To simplify our purpose and remove reference to the code of conduct (which will also need updating)
- b. Sport equity now covered separately in new rule 5.

3. Colours

- a. Moved into 1.
- b. Language modernised

4. Structure

- a. For clarity the new Constitution sets out a clear separation between the Governance and Oversight of the club (new rule 6) and the day to day management (new rule 7), through the creation of an Executive Board.
- b. All members of the board (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Steward) are elected officer positions and will be elected at every AGM, but will now have a fixed maximum term of 4 years, with officers unable to stand for re-election after two full terms.
- c. Removal of five officer roles – President (retained as appointed role) Honorary Fixture Secretary, Honorary Team Secretary, Honorary Registrar and the Club Captain (retained as appointed role). These changes bring the Rules in line with the way in which the club has operated for over a decade.
- d. New rule 6.4 to ensure officers comply with HMRC fit and proper persons test.
- e. New rule 6.5 to allow for removal of officers

5. Committee Quorum

- a. Moved to 7.9

6. Club Teams

- a. Removed entirely – not relevant

7. Membership

- a. Moved to 3 to improve flow. 1. Sets out what we are, 2. Sets out what we do, 3. Now sets out who we are.
- b. Removed requirement to have a list of members on the premises to be produced on demand by a constable in uniform.
- c. 3.5 sets out ability to expel members
- d. 3.7 sets out Executive committee responsibility to cover the liabilities of all members

8. Subscriptions

- a. Combined in membership under new rule 3.

9. Guests

- a. Moved to new rule 4.
- b. Removes the requirement for a visitors book (not used in recent memory at the club)



- c. Retains the rule for members to be responsible for their guests and for guests to be excluded.

10. Suspend /Expel

- a. Now covered in rules 3.5 and 15

11. Annual General Meeting

- a. Moved to new rule 10.
- b. 10.4 sets out quorum for a general meeting of 20 members
- c. 10.5 allows for virtual general meetings under extreme circumstances.

12. Extraordinary General Meetings

- a. Moved to 11

13. Voting

- a. Now covered under 7.7, 10.4 and 11.3

14. Quorum

- a. Now covered under 10.4

15. Authorised Expenditure

- a. Removed.
- b. Club Financial Procedures Manual to be adopted in accordance with RFU guidance.

16. Facilities (Bar)

- a. Moved to 12
- b. Inaccurate internal document reference corrected
- c. This rule has been generally updated to reflect changes to guest rules (4)

17. Facilities (Access)

- a. Moved to 13.
- b. Times changed to reflect current alcohol license
- c. Inaccurate internal document reference corrected

18. Finance

- a. Moved to new rule 9

19. Auditor

- a. Now covered in 9.3

20. Alterations

- a. Moved to 14
- b. Inaccurate internal document reference corrected

21. Dissolution

- a. Moved to new rule 16



22. Management

- a. Moved to new rule 7.3

23. Adoption

- a. Removed – team captain selection is not a matter for the club rules

24. Conflicts of Interest

- a. Moved to new rule 8
- b. Language modernised