



Thirsk Hockey Club

Constitution ~ adopted 2023 ~

1. Name of Club

The name club will be called Thirsk Hockey Club (hereinafter referred to as the Club) and will be a member club of the Thirsk Athletic Sports and Social Club and be affiliated to the national governing body - England Hockey or successor organisation.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club will be:

- To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in hockey
- To promote the Club within the local community and hockey
- To manage the facility of Thirsk Astro in conjunction with North Yorkshire Council
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the Club
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair
- To provide activities in a safe and controlled environment for all its members
- To manage the Club efficiently and effectively

3. Membership

- Membership of the Club is open to anyone interested in promoting, coaching, volunteering or participating in hockey, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.
- The membership shall consist of the following categories:
 - Full adult member (over 22 years, as at 31st August in each membership year)
 - Young adult member (17 to 22 years, as at 31st August in each membership year)
 - Junior member (under the age of 17yrs, as at 31st August in each membership year) (Parents/Guardians of juniors are members by virtue of being carers of the young person.)
 - Coach/umpire/volunteer member
- All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.
- Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the prior annual general meeting (AGM).
- Individuals shall not be eligible to take part in the business of the Club, vote at general meetings or be eligible for selection of any Club team unless the applicable subscription has been paid by the due date and/or membership has been agreed by the Club committee.

4. Membership fees

Membership fees will be recommended annually by the committee then determined and agreed at the annual general meeting.

Every member of the club shall pay an annual membership fee, which shall be due by the 31st day of October each year. Alternative payment terms can be agreed by the committee depending on a person's situation, and it being agreed by 31st October.



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If any member fails to pay their membership fee after it has become due the treasurer/membership secretary will send them a notice asking them to pay within seven days. If they fail to pay their membership fee the committee shall be entitled to terminate their membership without further notice.

5. Sports Equity

- (a) This Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it 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 will 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 club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- (e) The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

6. Committee

- (a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a committee which shall consist of the:
- President
 - Chairperson
 - Vice Chairperson
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Junior Coordinator
 - Welfare Officer
 - Captains from each Senior team
 - Any other relevant position deemed necessary by the committee

All of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting.

- (b) All committee members must be members of the Club.
- (c) The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall be eligible for re-election at the Club's AGM.
- (d) If the post of any officer or ordinary committee member should fall vacant after such an election, the committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding AGM.



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- (e) The committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- (f) The committee shall have the power to create and appoint members to sub-committees as necessary.
- (g) The committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- (h) The committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- (i) The committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held no less than 3 times per year.
- (j) Only the posts listed above will have the right to vote at committee meetings.
- (k) The quorum required for business to be agreed at management committee meetings will be 4.
- (l) Management committee can be defined as at least 4 members of the committee that include Chairperson and/or vice-chairperson, secretary, and one (or two) other(s) depending on the business to be achieved

7. Finances

- (a) There shall be at least one Club treasurer, with financial procedures in place to safeguard funds. The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.
- (b) The financial year of the club will end on 30th June.
- (c) All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club.
- (d) A reviewed statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurers at the annual general meeting.
- (e) Any outgoings of club funds should hold the signatures of the treasurer plus up to two other officers.
- (f) **All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.**
- (g) The Club will keep a current list of all fee paying members including junior players.
- (h) The Club will record training attendance and match selection of all members.
- (i) The Treasurers will keep a file of all financial records for the current year and the previous 5 years.

8. Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- (a) General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.
- (b) The Club shall hold the annual general meeting (AGM) in the month of July to:



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- Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM
 - Receive reports from the Chairperson and Secretary
 - Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts
 - Receive a report from those responsible for certifying the Club's accounts
 - Elect the officers on the committee
 - Agree the membership fees for the following year
 - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution
 - Deal with other relevant business.
- (c) Notice of the AGM will be given by the club secretary with at least 28 days' notice to be given to all members.
- (d) Nominations for officers of the committee will be sent to the secretary at least 10 days prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them at least 7 days before an AGM.
- (e) Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the secretary at least 10 days prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them at least 7 days before an AGM.
- (f) All members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- (g) The quorum for AGMs will be 25% of the membership or 20 members whichever is the smaller.
- (h) The Chairperson of the Club will hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.
- (i) An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) can be called. The committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the committee members.
- (j) All EGM procedures shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

9. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

10. Discipline and appeals

- (a) All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club's child protection policy and procedures. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child protection concerns.
- (b) All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Club Disciplinary Officer, Secretary, Vice-Chairperson or Chairperson.
- (c) The management committee will meet to hear complaints within 10 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.



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- (d) The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 - days of the hearing.
- (e) There will be the right of appeal to the management committee following disciplinary action being announced. An appeal must be made within 7 days of the outcome being notified. The committee should consider the appeal within 10 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.
- (f) The management committee will have the power to expel any member who shall offend against the rules of the club or whose conduct in the opinion of the management committee render them unfit for membership of the club after following the disciplinary process.

11. Dissolution

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.
- (b) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared with any of the Club's funds. Any assets of the Club that remain following this will become the property of Thirsk Athletics Sports and Social Club.

12. Declaration

Thirsk Hockey Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Name		Position	Chairperson
Sign		Date	

Name		Position	Secretary
Sign		Date	

Dated this _____ day of _____