
Constitution and Rules of Saffron Striders Running Club

Club Name & Colours

The Name of the Club is Saffron Striders Running Club (The Club).

Objects of the Club

The Objects of the Club are:

- to facilitate participation in and promotion of recreational and competitive running in the area of Saffron Walden, amongst the community and to support related sporting & social activities;
- to provide other ordinary benefits of an amateur sports club as set out in Schedule 18 of the Finance Act 2002 [including without limitation provision of suitably qualified coaches, coaching courses, insurance, medical treatment, post training/meet refreshment]; and
- To do all such things as the Committee thinks fit to further the interests of the club or to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects above.

Membership of the Club

Membership Application

Membership of the Club shall be open, on application, to anyone interested in recreational or competitive running, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, race, nationality, sexual orientation, occupation, political, religion, other beliefs or further definitions listed in the current United Kingdom Equalities act.

Individuals who wish to become members of the Club must apply using the Membership Application Form approved by the Committee from time to time. Applications are not accepted until the subscription fee has reached the Club bank account.

The Committee has the authority to refuse membership if acceptance would be contrary to the best interests of the sport or the good conduct and interests of the Club.

By becoming a member of the Club, every member agrees to abide by the Club's Constitution and Rules; the Rules of Competition and other rules and regulations of UK Athletics Limited; and the rules and regulations of England Athletics Limited (or relevant successor bodies).

Membership Classes

The Club shall have the different classes of annual membership set out below. Members will enjoy the rights and obligations specifically outlined in this document. Members must also designate themselves as either "First Claim" or "Second Claim" Members.

Anyone satisfying the general admission criteria (as determined from time to time by the Committee) can become an Ordinary Member, provided that: they are an amateur as defined from time to time by UK Athletics and that they are aged over 16 at the date of their application.

Ordinary Members shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at general meetings of the Club.

Subscriptions

The Club may, as a condition of membership, require annual or other periodic subscription fees to be paid by Members of the Club, as determined from time to time by the Committee provided that the Committee shall ensure that the subscription fees are set on a non-discriminatory basis and do not preclude open membership of the club.

Subscription fees may be reduced for Members under 18 or in full time education or if the Member confidentially demonstrates to a Welfare Office that they need financial support.

Ordinary Members shall pay their subscription fees into the Club's Bank Account by electronic means or by another method set out on the membership application form by such date as the Committee shall prescribe each year.

Members having arrears of subscriptions of more than sixty days will at the discretion of the Membership Secretary have their membership terminated and will not be eligible to participate in the affairs or activities of the Club, including voting in any General Meeting. Payment of a full subscription at a later date will enable the former member to be readmitted by the Committee. (The Committee has the authority to refuse membership if acceptance would be contrary to the best interests of the sport or the good conduct and interests of the Club.)

Cessation of Membership

Members may resign from membership at any time by notice to that effect given to the Secretary. A member who resigns shall not be entitled to any refund of subscriptions in respect of the remaining period.

Membership shall not be transferable and shall cease immediately on death or on the failure of the member to comply with any condition of membership set out in this Constitution.

The Committee shall have the power to expel a Member when in its opinion it would not be in the interests of the sport or the Club for that person to remain a member. Such expulsion shall be carried out in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures set out below.

Any person shall, upon ceasing to be a Member of the Club, forfeit all rights to and claims upon the Club and its property and funds.

The Club Committee

The day-to-day management of the Club shall be deputed to a Committee consisting of three Executive Officers and three or more Committee Members.

Executive Officers

The Executive Officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary who shall be nominated in accordance with the procedure entitled "Election of Committee" set out below and elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Officers shall remain in office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. These Officers may delegate and assign tasks to other members of the Committee and Club.

The Executive Officers shall determine the roles and number of Committee Members.

Committee Members

The Committee Members shall be nominated in accordance with the procedure entitled "Election of Committee" set out below and elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee Members shall remain in office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

Ordinary Committee Members shall aid the Executive Officers by undertaking tasks and roles to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Club. The allocation of these duties shall be by mutual consent between the Executive Officers and the respective Ordinary Committee Member. Duties may be reallocated at any time as required and may be delegated to Members of the Club. The Ordinary Committee Members shall report to and advise the Committee on the status of such tasks.

Election of Committee

Any Member may be nominated by any other two Members, with the members approval, as a candidate for any of the posts of Executive Officer or Committee Member by notice in writing (including email) to the Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

A Member may accept nomination for any of the separately elected posts constituting the Committee, subject to being eligible to hold only one of these posts at any time. If a Member shall be elected to a post during the prescribed course of business, their name shall be deleted from all subsequent voting for the remaining elected posts at that meeting.

If the number of candidates for the post of any Executive Officer (as each falls for election) is only one, that candidate shall be declared elected unopposed. If the number of candidates is more than one, ballot papers shall be prepared containing in alphabetical order all the names thus proposed: every eligible Member present may vote for each office with the first candidate to reach a majority elected.

If the number of candidates for election as the Committee Members shall be equal to or less than the number of vacancies, they shall be declared elected unopposed. If the number of candidates is greater than the number of vacancies, ballot papers shall be prepared, containing in alphabetical order all the names thus proposed: every eligible Member may vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies and those candidates with the most votes will be elected until all vacancies were filled.

If there are no nominations for the post of an Executive Officer or Committee Member those Members present at the AGM may at the AGM propose a Member for that position and provided that person agrees they shall be voted in at the AGM.

Leaving Office

The office of an elected member of the Committee shall be vacated if that person:

- (a) Resigns at any time by notice in writing to that effect given to the Secretary and such resignation shall take effect immediately.
- (b) Ceases to be a member or shall be excluded or suspended from the Club under disciplinary proceedings.
- (c) is absent from the Committee Meetings for more than two consecutive or one third of Committee meetings without the explicit consent of the Committee, such consent to be recorded in the minutes of the Committee. A member of the Committee who is absent from one third (rounded to the nearest whole number) or more of properly organised Committee meetings without the explicit consent of the Committee between any two AGMs shall be deemed to have vacated their position and shall be ineligible to stand for re-election.
- (d) Is suspended from holding office or taking part in any activity relating to the administration or management of a Club by a decision of England Athletics Limited or UK Athletics Limited
- (e) Is asked to resign by a majority of other Committee members, acting together.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Member to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee or amongst the Executive Officers until the next Annual General Meeting. Any Committee Member so appointed shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for election at such meeting in accordance with the provisions for Proceedings at General Meetings. Any Executive Officer so appointed shall have voting rights but will only remain in office until the end of AGM at which their predecessor was due to retire.

Proceedings of the Committee

The Committee shall meet at least four times each year in person and as often as may from time to time be necessary. Any additional meetings (above 4) may be held in a manner agreeable to the committee (including by telephone conference call or electronic correspondence).

Two-thirds (rounded to the nearest whole); of the voting members of the Committee shall be the quorum necessary for the transaction of business. A meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present and has been properly convened shall be competent to exercise all the powers and discretions invested in the Committee by these Rules.

The Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its numbers, so long as the number of members of the Committee entitled to vote is not reduced below four in which case it shall be entitled to act only for the purpose of appointing or arranging the election of new members of the Committee or calling for a Special General Meeting.

Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a simple majority of votes illustrated by a show of hands. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

The Committee may regulate their meetings and proceedings as they think fit. As soon as is reasonably possible after a meeting but no later than 28 days, the Secretary shall distribute minutes of the meeting to the other Committee members for comment.

The minutes of a meeting will be approved at the following meeting and signed as such by the Chairman.

The Committee may invite persons who are not members of the Committee to attend and or address a meeting of the Committee.

Powers of the Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Club and shall have the following specific powers to:

- a) Make Club Rules and regulations to allow for the day to day operation of the Club and its activities. Such Club Rules may not supersede or contradict provisions of the Constitution and must be reasonably available to Members at least by publishing on the Club website.
- b) Operate a Member's Welfare policy in accordance with the Policy and Procedures issued by UK Athletics Limited. <https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/guidance-documents-and-policy/>
- c) Appoint any person or persons to accept and hold in trust for the Club any property belonging to the Club or in which it is interested. The Chairman from time to time is nominated as the person to appoint new trustees within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925. A new trustee shall be nominated by resolution of the Committee and the Chairman shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Club and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 shall apply to such appointment.
- d) Make and give receipts, releases and other discharges for any amount payable to the Club and for claims and demands of the Club.
- e) Invest, place on deposit and deal with any finances of the Club not immediately required upon any investments or securities which the Committee thinks fit.
- f) issue, sign, draw, endorse, negotiate, transfer and assign all cheques, bills, drafts, promissory notes, securities and instruments, negotiable and non-negotiable, to operate on the Club's banking accounts.
- g) Enter into all such negotiations and contracts and rescind and vary all such contracts and execute and do all such acts, deeds and things in the name of, and on behalf of, the Club as they may consider expedient.
- h) Pay all the costs and expenses of, and incidental to, any of the aforesaid matters and things.
- i) Determine how and by whom any such power shall be executed, operations effected and documents signed or things done.
- j) Appoint Members or sub-Committees consisting wholly or partly of the members of the Committee to exercise such functions as the Committee may from time to time delegate to them.
- k) Organise Club activities.

The members of the Committee and any trustees appointed under paragraph (c) above to act as trustees shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Club.

Club Meetings

The accidental omission to give any such notice to or the non-receipt of any such notice by, any person entitled to receive the same shall not invalidate the proceedings at any General Meeting. Every notice calling

a meeting shall specify the general nature of the business to be transacted and shall specify if the meeting is to be an Annual General Meeting.

At all such meetings the Chair, or in the Chair's absence a member of the Club selected by those members of the Committee present, shall take the Chair. At all special General Meetings every Member shall have one vote unless disqualified from voting by the Constitution. Votes may be given personally or by proxy. Every resolution submitted to a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands and in the case of an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

The following rules shall apply to all General Meetings:

- (a) The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 10% of total membership or 10 Members (whichever is greater) personally present and entitled to vote. No business shall be transacted at any special General Meeting unless the required quorum is present. If, within half an hour following the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time and a place agreed by the majority of Members present. If, at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present, those Members who are present shall be a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called.
- (b) All resolutions (and amendments thereto) shall be put to the meeting.
- (c) Resolutions proposed for consideration by a General Meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.
- (d) Amendments may be proposed at any time during debate, although the Chair shall have the right to require these to be put in writing together with the name of the proposer.
- (e) The Chair shall deal with amendments in the strict order in which they are proposed, although they shall have the right to refuse amendments which negate the resolution. If an amendment to a resolution is proposed, no further amendments shall be proposed until the first is disposed of. If an amendment is lost, a further amendment may be moved to the original resolution but only one amendment shall be submitted to the meeting at one time; if an amendment to a resolution is carried, then the resolution as amended shall become the resolution to which further amendments may be proposed.

During the course of debate the proposer of a resolution may accept an amendment to the resolution, in which case the amended resolution shall become the resolution under debate. The proposer can withdraw a resolution or amendment. The resolution shall be debated and decided by the meeting.

The Chair of the General Meeting may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the same from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from the point at which the adjournment took place.

Annual General Meetings

Calling Of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held within the month of December each year (While the financial year is November through October), on a date and at a reasonable time and place to be fixed by the Committee for the following purposes and order of business:

- to receive from the committee an Annual Report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year;
- to elect the Executive Officers
- to elect the Committee Members
- to decide on any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting as provided by these Rules, including changes to the Constitution and Rules

Not less than three weeks notice of an Annual General Meeting specifying the place, day and time of the meeting shall be given to the Members.

The Annual General Meeting shall elect from those present a Returning Officer unless the Chairman is present who will act as the Returning Officer to oversee any elections conducted at the meeting.

Special General Meetings

Not less than three weeks notice of a Special General Meeting specifying the place, day and time of the meeting shall be given to the Members.

The Secretary shall, on the requisition in writing (including email) of not less than 20 Members entitled to vote at such meetings, convene a Special General Meeting within four weeks of the receipt by the Secretary of the requisition stating the business to be raised. No other business is to be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

Accounts

The Treasurer will ensure proper accounts are kept and provide Committee Members with accurate financial reports on at least a quarterly basis. The Club's financial records shall always be open to inspection by the Committee.

The Club's Financial Year shall run from November 1 to October 31 inclusive. The Treasurer shall present accounts for the previous Financial Year to the Annual General meeting for consideration and copies of these will be available to Members at the meeting. If the Accounts are not accepted at the Annual General Meeting, a qualified Accountant may be appointed to investigate members' concerns.

Property and Facilities

The property of the Club, other than cash at bank, shall be vested in the Trustees who shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee.

The Club's facilities shall be provided to its members without discrimination.

Application of Surplus Funds

The Club is a non-profit-distributing organisation. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the club and will be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities or otherwise in furtherance of the Club's objects.

The Club may also in furtherance with the objects of the Club:

- Sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment.
- Remunerate members for providing goods and services, provided that such arrangements are approved by the Committee (without the Member being present) and are agreed on an arm's length basis.
- Pay in good faith interest on money lent by a Member at a commercial rate of interest; reimburse any Committee Member or Honorary Officer their reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred on Club business; any premium in respect of the purchase and maintenance of indemnity insurance in respect of liability for any act or default of the Committee members in relation to the Club.
- Pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests.

No Member shall be paid a salary, bonus fee or other remuneration for competing for the Club.

Interpretation of Club Constitution & Rules

The Constitution may be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members voting thereon.

The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and of Club Rules. The decision of the Committee upon any questions of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by the Constitution, shall be final and binding on the Members except if otherwise directed by the Club in a Special or Annual General Meeting.

Dissolution of the Club

If at any special General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the Members present, a further special General Meeting shall be convened, to be held not less than four weeks thereafter (of which two weeks written notice shall be given to each Member in addition to the other provisions for Notices), to further consider the matter.

The members may vote to wind up the Club if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened special General Meeting. If successful, the Committee shall proceed to realise the property of the Club and discharge all liabilities.

Any property remaining after the discharge of debts and liabilities of the Club shall be paid to or distributed to another community amateur sports club for road running or athletics, [or to UK Athletics Limited for use in community-related road running initiatives] or to a charitable organisation having similar objects and affiliations, as nominated at the Special General Meeting.

Disciplinary Procedures

The Club shall not tolerate the physical or psychological abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination or defamation of any of its Members during, or subsequent to, Club Events.

Any Member may be disciplined or excluded from membership of the Club if the Members conduct has been, or is likely to be, prejudicial to the interests of the Club or a Club member. The Club shall follow the "Club Discipline and Appeals Process" that can be found on the Clubs website.

Notices

Any notice required to be given under this Constitution will be deemed to have been given and received having been sent by mail or email to the last known postal or email address of the member as appropriate or by publication on the Club's website.