



HARROGATE STRAYS WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The club shall be called Harrogate Strays Walking Football Club (HSWFC or the Club)

2. Objectives

HSWFC is a non-profit Club, any profits of which are to be used for the benefit of the Club but not for distribution to individual Club members.

The objectives of the Club shall be to provide facilities to promote walking football primarily for members aged 50 and above and to arrange matches and social activities for those members. Exceptions to the age limit may be made if deemed to be in the best interests of the club (see Club Membership below).

HSWFC undertakes to promote as wide an engagement as possible for the purpose of improving the physical and mental wellbeing of its membership via participation in the sport of walking football.

3. Status of Rules

The club rules form a binding agreement between each member of the Club and the Club itself.

4. Rules and Regulations

(a) The members of the Club shall use their best endeavours to ensure that they conduct themselves in accordance with the HSWFC Code of Conduct and consistent with the relevant Rules and Regulations of The Football Association (FA), the Walking Football Association (WFA) and any competitions in which the Club participates.

(b) No alteration to the Club Rules shall be effective without prior approval of a quorum of the Club members, which shall be 20% of the playing membership or not less than 15 members.

(c) There shall be no restriction to membership based on race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.



5. Club Membership

(a) The members of the Club shall be those persons listed in the Membership Register which shall be maintained by the Club Management Committee. Membership lists shall be made available at the time of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

(b) Full membership shall be open to men over the age of 50 years and women over the age of 40 years and granted in accordance with the anti-discrimination and equality policies which are in place.

(c) Members shall provide name, address, contact number, email (if available), date of birth, emergency contact number and details of significant health issues relevant to participation in the sport.

(d) Players under 60 years may join the club as Associate Members if approved by the Management Committee but will not be granted voting rights at General Meetings.

(e) An appeal against refusal may be made to the Management Committee who will convene an independent panel to review the initial decision.

(f) Membership shall become effective upon an applicant's name being entered in the Membership Register.

(g) Honorary Membership may be conferred on non-playing individuals connected to the Club.

(h) In the event of a member's resignation or expulsion, his or her name and associated personal details described above shall be removed from the Membership Register.

(i) The Club shall be fully compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018 and ensure the Act's principles are applied.

(j) Non-members may not turn up and play without being registered



6. Membership Fee

(a) An annual subscription shall be determined by the Club Management Committee and set at a level that will not pose a significant obstacle to community participation. Fees shall not be repayable and may be subject to change over time.

(b) Membership enables full members' access to club sessions, consideration for competitive teams, and participation in Club activities. Associate members will not be considered for competitive teams.

(c) Member contributions to the costs of training sessions, matches and events will be determined by the Committee and reviewed when necessary to ensure appropriate costs are covered.

7. Resignation and Expulsion

(a) A member shall cease to be a member of the Club if, and from the date on which, he/she gives notice to the Club Management Committee of his/her resignation. A member whose subscription is more than two (2) months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

(b) The Club Management Committee shall have the power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for them to remain a member. An appeal against such a decision may be made to a general meeting. (See Disciplinary Procedure)

(c) A member who resigns or is expelled shall not be entitled to claim any, or a share of any, of the income and assets of the Club.



8. Club Management Committee

- (a) The Club Management Committee shall consist of three permanent officials. Supporting roles may be established by the CMC as required. Post holders shall be elected and/or re-elected by a simple majority of the members at an Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Each Committee member shall hold office from the date of appointment until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) unless otherwise resolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), which can be held virtually if circumstances require.
- (c) The Committee shall be responsible for the management of all the affairs of Club. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority of those attending the Committee meeting, whether in person or virtually. A quorum for the CMC will comprise a minimum of two CMC members
- (d) Decisions taken at formal Committee meetings shall be kept as Minutes.
- (e) Any member of the Committee may call a meeting of the Committee by giving not less than seven days' notice to all members of the Committee. The Committee shall otherwise hold formal meetings quarterly, with one of these events being the AGM.
- (f) An outgoing member of the Committee may be re-elected. Any vacancy on the Club Committee which arises between AGMs shall be filled by a member proposed by one and seconded by another of the remaining Committee members and approved by a simple majority of the remaining Committee members.
- (g) Save as provided for in the Rules and Regulations of the FA and any applicable competition, and as outlined in the Club's Disciplinary Procedure, the Committee shall have the power to decide all questions and disputes arising in respect of any issue concerning the Club Rules.
- (h) The Committee shall have the power to allow players under 60 to participate in any training, competitive or friendly walking game if in accordance with the rules of the fixtures and if their participation is considered of benefit to the Club and the Club's future.



9. Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings

(a) An AGM shall be held by 31st March of each year to:

- i. receive a report of the activities of the Club over the previous year;
- ii. receive a report of the Club's finances over the previous year;
- iii. elect and/or re-elect the members of the Club Committee; and
- iv. consider any other business.

(b) Nominations for election of members as members of the Committee or as support members shall be made by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be existing members of the Club, preferably 7 days before the AGM, although nominations to unfilled positions may be accepted at the meeting.

(c) Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the AGM shall be given in writing before the meeting.

(d) An EGM may be called at any time by the Committee or majority vote of club members and shall be called within 21 days of the receipt by the Committee of a requisition in writing, signed by not less than five members of the Club, stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and the resolutions proposed. Business at an EGM may be any business that may be transacted at an AGM, but the EGM may be conducted virtually if convenient.

(e) Members will be notified via email of the date of a General Meeting (whether an AGM or an EGM) together with the resolutions to be proposed at least 14 days before the meeting.

(f) The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 10% of the playing membership or not less than 10 members.

(g) A Committee member shall chair a General Meeting. Each full member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority through a simple show of hands. Members who are unable to attend may permit another full member to vote on his or her behalf as a proxy. A proxy agreement must be notified to the CMC 7 days in advance of an EGM or AGM. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

(h) Minutes of General Meetings will be entered into the Minute Register of the Club. The Minute Register shall be made available to members for inspection at the AGM



10. Club Teams

- (a) Members with designated responsibility for competitive squads in leagues, cups or friendly fixtures shall be responsible for managing the conduct and affairs of the relevant teams on behalf of the Club Management Committee. Their team selection decisions are final.
- (b) The Committee shall appoint Team Managers from the membership of the Club to manage Over 60, 65 and 70 teams. Selection of players for each age group squad shall be made by the Team Manager.



11. Club Finances

- (a) A bank account shall be opened and maintained in the name of the Club (the Club Account). Designated account signatories shall be the Club Management Committee. No sum shall be drawn from the Club Account except by authorisation of two of the designated signatories recorded by email.
- (b) All monies payable to the Club shall be deposited in the Club Account.
- (c) Club Property shall be applied only in furtherance of the objectives of the Club. The distribution of profits or proceeds arising from the sale of Club Property to individual members is prohibited.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any member of the Club and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.
- (e) The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, and other ordinary benefits of amateur Sports Clubs.
- (f) The Club may also:
- i. pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests; and
 - ii. indemnify the Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).
- (g) The Club shall keep accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all payments and receipts so as to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position, including the assets and liabilities of the Club. The Club must retain its accounting records for a minimum of six years.
- (h) An Interim Annual Financial Statement will be presented to members at the AGM which will be held by the 31st March of each year. A final Annual Financial Statement which will be subject to independent audit by a volunteer member (see below) will be provided to all members no later than two weeks after the Club Financial Year which shall be 31st March.
- (i) As an unincorporated body there is no formal requirement for the club accounts to be audited. However, one volunteer member with voting rights will be sought and provided with sufficient time before the AGM to inspect the accounts and supporting records and to provide an independent report to the full membership. Where this is not possible, an external auditor should be appointed for which a charge would be payable.



12. Dissolution

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the Club shall only be proposed at a General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present.
- (b) The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Club.
- (c) Any surplus assets remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be transferred to the FA for use by them for related community sports.

13. General Affairs

Members, guests, officials or spectators who leave unattended vehicles, clothing or other property at club events do so at their own risk. The Club shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury.