

The Financial Rules of the Blandford Scout Group

These are the financial rules (known as the group financial policy), of Blandford Scout Group and were adopted and approved by the group's executive committee at its regular meeting held online on 28th July 2020.

1. Introduction

a) The Blandford Scout Group has a management committee (known as the Group Executive Committee) which is elected each year at the group's annual general meeting;

b) The group executive committee is responsible for ensuring that the group is well managed and that all group income is managed properly and put to best use.

c) Our financial records are kept so that the group can:

- meet its legal and other obligations, regarding the policy, organisation & rules (POR), of the scout association, the charities act (1992), the inland revenue, customs & excise and common law.
- enable the trustees to be in proper financial control of the group.
- enable the group to meet any obligations and requirements of any funders should there be any.

d) The group executive committee will ensure that appropriate financial records are kept, including:

- an account book or computer spreadsheet recording all the transactions in the group's bank account(s)
- bank statements or building society passbook
- a petty cash book (if we make cash payments)
- details of all funds received
- invoices and other receipts for all payments

If we keep our records on computer, then an 'account book' will be printed out in date order and kept in a ring binder or other file.

e) Our financial year ends on 31st March.

f) We will draw up accounts at the end of the financial year and have them examined by a suitable person who is independent of the group. Our annual end of year accounts will be presented to the group's annual general meeting for approval.

g) Before the start of the financial year, we will set a budget for the following year.

h) We will discuss a financial report at each executive committee meeting showing cash received, payments, and remaining funds. This can be a verbal or written report and will provide the committee members with enough information to make good decisions. When possible It will also show expected/forecast future receipts and payments.

2. Bank accounts

a) We have a current cheque account for Scouting and a current cheque account for HQ, both with Lloyds Bank, 6 Market Place, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7EE

b) Any bank transactions will go through our current account. To withdraw money from any other account, we shall first transfer it to the current account and withdraw it from there. If we pay money into any other account, it will be as a transfer from the current account.

c) Up to four members of the group executive committee may be signatories to the accounts and this must include the group scout leader and group chair.

The bank mandate (list of people who can sign cheques on the organisations behalf) will always be approved and minuted by the trustees as will all the changes to it.

d) Any withdrawals or transfers between accounts will be signed by two of the signatories. We expect that one of these will be the treasurer. If not, we will give the treasurer full details of the payment.

e) We will ask the bank to provide statements every month and will reconcile the statements against our account book.

3. Income

a) If we receive cash from the public we will issue a receipt and keep a copy.

b) Where we receive cash from the public at fundraising events two members of the group will count up the cash, make a note of the total and sign for it.

c) When the treasurer collects cash from a group member, the treasurer will issue a receipt.

d) Details of cash received will be entered appropriately in the cashbook.

e) We shall bank all cash received – we will not use it for cash payments. We expect that cash over £100 will be banked within a week.

f) We will record details of cheques received in the account book and bank the cheques within one to two weeks.

g) The treasurer will keep files of paperwork relating to the cheques (e.g. grant award letters or copies of receipts issued by the group).

All fundraising and grant applications undertaken on behalf of the group will be done in the name of the group (as detailed at the top of this document), with the prior approval of the group executive committee or in urgent situations the approval of the group scout leader and group chair who will provide full details to the next meeting of the group executive

committee.

4. Expenditure:

Buying goods and services

a) Our group executive committee will agree any orders in advance. This will be either shown in our annual budget or discussed at a meeting during the year.

b) The authority levels for spending from the group's Scouting account are:

Amount	Signature Requirements	Supporting Documents
Up to £50 (excluding badge orders and pre-paid activities/camp/events)	Treasurer and one other (GSL, Chair or Exec Com Member)	Invoice or expenses claim with receipts
Over £50	Treasurer and one other (GSL, Chair or Exec Com Member)	with the prior written approval of the group executive committee (this can be the minutes of the meeting)

b) The authority levels for spending from the group's HQ account are:

Amount	Signature Requirements	Supporting Documents
Up to £50	Treasurer and one other (GSL, Chair or Exec Com Member)	Invoice or expenses claim with receipts
Over £50	Treasurer and one other (GSL, Chair or Exec Com Member)	with the prior written approval of the group executive committee (this can be the minutes of the meeting)

c) The latest approved budget provides the cheque signatories with authority to spend up to the budgeted expenditure and not beyond it.

c) Our treasurer will keep a file of all the paperwork and check firms' invoices before making payments.

d) Every payment out of the groups bank accounts will be evidenced by an original invoice (never against a supplier's statement or final demand), or an expenses claims form with receipts).

The original invoice or claims form and receipts will be retained by the group treasurer and filed appropriately. The cheque signatories should ensure that the paperwork is referenced with:

- Cheque number
- Date cheque drawn

- Amount of cheque
- Who signed the cheque.

The only exceptions to cheques not being supported by an original invoice would be for such items as advanced booking fees or deposit for a venue etc. Here a cheque requisition form will be used and a photocopy of the cheque kept.

- e) Our treasurer will write details of all cheque payments in the account book.
- f) Our cheque book(s) (unused and partly used) will be kept under lock and key.
- g) We will not sign a cheque without paperwork to support the payment.
- h) We will never sign a blank cheque. The relevant payee's name will always be inserted on the cheque before signature and the cheque stubs will be properly completed at the time of payment.
- i) Two signatories are required on each cheque. We expect that one of these will normally be the treasurer.
- j) We will not authorise payments by bank transfer (BACS) unless we have the facility to provide two authorisations these being any two of our authorised cheque signatories.
- k) Two signatories are required to set up a direct debit or standing orders. We expect that one of these will normally be the treasurer.
- l) We will keep records of direct debit and standing orders as for cheque payments.
- m) We will, if asked, reimburse expenditure paid for personally by group members, providing:
 - Fares are evidenced by tickets.
 - Other expenditure is evidenced by original receipts.
 - Car mileage is based on local authority scales.
- n) No cheque signatory signs for the payment of expenses to themselves.
- o) Cash point cards will not be used and if issued by the bank they will be immediately cut up and disposed of appropriately.

6. Petty cash

We do not hold any Petty Cash.

7 Fixed Assets

The group will adhere to good practice in relation to its finances at all times, e.g. when relevant we will set up and maintain a fixed asset register stating the date of purchase, cost, serial numbers and normal location.

8 Reserves Policy

Our group, like most charities, hold some funds in reserve. Our level of reserves is set to ensure that there are sufficient resources to continue the core charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The group executive committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to three months running costs in Scouting account and a sum equivalent to six months running costs £4,000 in HQ account in reserve and this is held on deposit as detailed in article 2a of this policy.

Should the level of reserves fall below the target level, the group executive committee will make efforts to restore the level within the next financial year.

9 Investment Policy

Currently the group's income and expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

The group executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the group executive committee considers the cash flow requirements.