

**GREENWICH ROYALS
SWIMMING CLUB:**

CONSTITUTION



Rules of Greenwich Royals Swimming Club as at 01 July 2020

1 Name

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be Greenwich Royals Swimming Club.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the Club shall be the teaching, development and practice of swimming for its members and shall, where appropriate, be to compete. If possible and where appropriate, the club shall apply the same objectives for diving, artistic swimming, open water and water polo for its members. In the furtherance of these objects:

- 2.1.1 The Club is committed to treat everyone equally within the context of its activity and with due respect to the differences of individuals. It shall not apply nor endorse unlawful or unjustified discrimination, and shall act in compliance with the protections afforded by the Equality Act 2010.

- 2.1.2 The Club shall implement the Swim England Equality Policy (as may be amended from time to time).

- 2.2 The Club shall be affiliated to Swim England London Region, and shall adopt and conform to the rules of Swim England London Region, and to such other bodies as the Club may determine from time to time.

- 2.3 The business and affairs of the Club shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the Articles, Regulations and Technical Rules of Swim England (“Swim England Regulations”) and in particular:

- (a) all competing members shall be eligible competitors as defined in the Swim England Regulations;
- (b) the Club shall in accordance with Swim England Regulations adopt the Swim England’s Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (“Wavepower”); and shall recognise that the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm; and
- (c) members of the Club shall in accordance with Swim England Regulations comply with Wavepower.

- 2.4 By virtue of the affiliation of the Club to Swim England London Region, the Club and all members of the Club acknowledge that they are subject to the regulations, rules and constitutions of:

- (a) Swim England London Region; and

- (b) the Swim England (to include the Code of Ethics); and
- (c) British Swimming (in particular its Anti-Doping Rules and Judicial Code); and
- (d) FINA, the world governing body for the sport of swimming in all its disciplines (together “the Governing Body Rules”).

2.5 In the event that there shall be any conflict between any rule or by-law of the Club and any of the Governing Body Rules then the relevant Governing Body Rule shall prevail.

3 Membership

3.1 Membership categories shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and the total membership of the Club shall not normally be limited. If however the Committee considers that there is a good reason to impose any limit from time to time then the Committee shall have the power to impose such a limit and remove any category of membership if it is felt that this is in the best interests of the existing members. The members shall have the right to impose (and remove) from time to time any limits on total membership (or any category of membership) of the Club.

3.2 All persons who assist in any way with the Club’s activities shall become members of the Club and hence of the Swim England. and the relevant Swim England. membership fee shall be paid. Assisting with the Club’s activities shall include, but not be restricted to, administrators, associate members, voluntary instructors, teachers and/or coaches, Committee members, helpers, Honorary members, life members, officers, patrons, Presidents, technical and non-technical officials, temporary members, Vice-Presidents and verifiers or tutors of the Swim England’s educational certificates.

3.3 Instructors, teachers and coaches who are not members of the Club must be members of a body which accepts that its members are bound by the Swim England’s Code of Ethics, Swim England’s Regulations relating to Wavepower, those parts of the Judicial Regulations and procedures necessary for their implementation and whilst engaged in activities under the jurisdiction of the Swim England. shall be subject to all the constraints and privileges of the Judicial Regulations.

3.4 Any person who wishes to become a member of the Club must submit a signed application to the Secretary or any other person authorised by the Committee (and in the case of a swimmer who has not reached their 18th birthday the application must be signed by the swimmer’s parent or guardian). Election to membership shall be determined by the Membership Secretary or other person(s) authorised by the Committee, but other person(s) authorised by the Committee may make recommendation as to the applicants’ acceptability.

3.5 The Membership Secretary or other person(s) authorised by the Committee shall be required to give reasons for the refusal of any application for membership. Any

person refused membership may seek a review of this decision before a review panel appointed by the Committee, comprised of not less than three members (who may or may not be members of the Committee). The panel shall wherever practicable include one independent member nominated by Swim England. London Region. The person refused membership shall be entitled to make representations to the Review Panel. The procedures for review shall be at the discretion of the Review Panel whose decision shall be final and binding.

- 3.6 In its consideration of applications for membership, the Club shall not act in a discriminatory manner and in particular, shall adhere to the Equality Act 2010 (as may be amended). Accordingly, unless the Club chooses to restrict its membership only to people who share the same Protected Characteristic, the Club shall not refuse membership on the basis of a Protected Characteristic within the Equality Act 2010, such as disability; gender or gender identity; pregnancy; race; religion or belief; or sexual orientation. Neither may refusal be made on the grounds of political persuasion.
- 3.7 The Club may refuse membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute, or, in the case of a swimmer, being unable to achieve the entry standards as laid down and provided by the Club to the applicant for membership.

4 Subscription and Other Fees

- 4.1 Members' subscriptions and coaching and squad fees (as applicable) shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and the Committee shall in so doing make special provision for different categories of membership.
- 4.2 Any subscription and joining fee (if any) shall be due on joining the Club and thereafter the amount, timing and method of invoicing and payment, of all fees shall be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- 4.3 Any member whose subscription or other fees remain unpaid by the date falling 60 days after the due date for payment may be suspended by the Committee from some or all Club activities from a date to be determined by the Committee and until such payment is made.
- 4.4 Where the Club pays mandatory third party membership such as but not limited to Swim England Membership Fees to the Swim England on behalf of members, the Club may invoice members for those fees.
- 4.5 In determining any subscriptions or fees as set out in Rule 4, the Committee shall have the power to make such increase in the subscriptions or fees and shall advise members in writing, with the reasons for any increase to be reported to members at the next Annual General Meeting.

- 4.6 The Executive Officers (or the Committee) shall have the power in special circumstances to remit the whole or part of the fees, including the Swim England membership fees, to address issues of social inclusion.

5 Resignation

- 5.1 A member wishing to resign membership of the Club must give to the Secretary written notice of his resignation (and in the case of a swimmer who has not reached their 16th birthday the resignation must be signed by the swimmer's parent or guardian). A member's resignation shall only take effect when this (Rule 5.1) has been complied with.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 5.1 a member whose subscription is more than 90 days in arrears may be deemed by the Committee in its discretion to have resigned. Where the membership of a member shall be terminated in this way the individual shall be informed in writing that he/she is no longer a member by notice handed to him/her or sent to his/her last known postal or e-mail address.

6 Expulsion and other Disciplinary action

- 6.1 The Committee shall have power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for the individual to remain a member. The Club in exercising this power shall comply with the provisions of Rules 6.2 and 6.4.
- 6.2 Upon expulsion the former member shall not be entitled to have any part of any fees refunded and must immediately return to the Club, any Club or external body's trophies or property held. Clubs in exercising this power are required to comply with the provision of Rules 6.3 and 6.4.
- 6.3 The Club shall comply with the relevant Judicial Regulations for handling Internal Club Disputes Procedures ("the Procedures") as the same may be revised from time to time. (A copy of the Procedures may be obtained from the Swim England website, Swim England Handbook or from the Office of Judicial Administration).
- 6.4 A member may not be expelled or (subject to Rule 6.5) be made the subject of any other penalty unless the panel hearing the complaint shall by a two-thirds majority vote in favour of the expulsion of (or other penalty imposed upon) the member.
- 6.5 The Officers of the Club (or any person to whom the Committee shall delegate this power) may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider club activities, when in their opinion, such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the incident or matter will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate Judicial Regulations.

7 Committee and Welfare Officer

- 7.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (together “the Executive Officers of the Club”) and up to twelve elected members all of whom must be members of the Club. All Committee members must be not less than 18 years of age though the Committee may allow younger member(s) to attend their meetings without power to vote.
- 7.2 The Club shall also have a Welfare Officer who shall undergo relevant training. The Committee shall appoint a member of the Club as Welfare Officer, who must be not less than 18 years of age, who should have an appropriate background and who is required to undertake appropriate training in accordance with Wavepower. The Welfare Officer will have a right to attend Committee meetings without a power to vote.
- 7.3 The Executive Officers and Committee members shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting each year and shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next Annual General Meeting and will take office when the Chair has closed the meeting. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- 7.4 Committee meetings shall be held not less than monthly (save where the Committee itself shall by a simple majority resolve not to meet), and the quorum of that meeting shall be eight Committee members (to include not less than one Executive Officer). The Chair and the Secretary shall have discretion to call further meetings of the Committee if they consider it to be in the interests of the Club. The Secretary shall give all the members of the Committee not less than two days notice of a meeting. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority and in the event of equality of votes the Chair (or the acting Chair of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote. The Secretary or a member of the Committee, or a member of the Club appointed by the Committee, shall take minutes.
- 7.5 In the event that a quorum is not present within thirty minutes of the published start time, a meeting shall stand adjourned to the time and date falling seven days after the date of the meeting, or such other date and time as may be determined by the Chair. If a quorum is not present at the adjourned meeting then those Committee members attending may act for the purpose of calling a Special General Meeting of the members, to which the provisions as to minimum notice contained in Rule 11.1 shall not apply.
- 7.6 In addition to the members so elected, the Committee may co-opt up to three further members of the Club who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee and shall not be counted in establishing whether a quorum is present.

- 7.7 The Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees as they may consider necessary and will apply, vary or remove (in whole or in part) terms of reference of such sub-committees. All sub-committees shall:
- 7.7.1 include at least one Committee member;
 - 7.7.2 periodically report their proceedings to the Committee; and
 - 7.7.3 conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee.
- 7.8 The Committee shall:
- 7.8.1 be responsible for the management of the Club;
 - 7.8.2 have the sole right of appointing and determining the terms and conditions of service of employees of the Club;
 - 7.8.3 have power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the Club on behalf of all the members of the Club;
 - 7.8.4 be responsible for ensuring that the Accounts of the Club for each financial year be examined by an independent examiner to be appointed by the members in General Meeting; and
 - 7.8.5 maintain an Accident Book in which all accidents to club members at swimming related activities shall be recorded. Details of such accidents shall be reported to the insurers in accordance with the Accident/Incident Notification guidelines. The Club shall make an annual return to the Swim England Membership Department indicating whether or not an entry has been made in the prescribed form.
 - 7.8.6 have power to make regulations, create by-laws (see Rule 13.1) and to settle disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.
- 7.9 The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Club against all liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Club.

8 Ceremonial positions and Honorary members

- 8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club, if it thinks fit, may elect a President and Vice-President(s). A President or Vice-President need not be a member of the Club and on election shall, *ex officio*, be an honorary member of the Club and must be included in the Club's Annual Return of Members to the Swim England.
- 8.2 The Committee may elect any person who has given long, substantial and/or outstanding service to the Club as an honorary member of the Club, for such period as it thinks fit and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except that they shall not be entitled to vote at meetings and serve as Executive Officers or on the Committee unless any such person shall have retained in addition ordinary

membership of the Club. Such honorary members must be included in the Club's annual return as to membership.

9 Annual General Meeting

- 9.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year on a date in June. The date, time and place for the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed by the Committee.
- 9.2 The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to transact the following business:
- 9.2.1 to receive the Chair's report of the activities of the Club during the previous year;
- 9.2.2 to receive and consider the accounts of the Club for the previous year and the report on the accounts of the independent examiner and the Treasurer's report as to the financial position of the Club;
- 9.2.3 to remove and elect the independent examiner (who must not be a member of the Committee or a member of the family of a member of the Committee) or confirm that person remains in office;
- 9.2.4 to elect the Executive Officers and other members of the Committee; and
- 9.2.5 to decide on any resolution which may be duly submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3.
- 9.3 Nominations for election of members to any office or for membership of the Committee shall be made in writing by the proposer and seconder to the Secretary not later than 10th May. Any nominee shall be required to indicate in writing on the nomination form his willingness to stand for election. Notice of any resolution proposed to be moved at the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to the Secretary not later than 10th May.

10 Special General Meeting

- 10.1 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary within 28 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 10 members entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting or (if greater) such numbers as represents 20% in number of such members stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and the resolutions proposed.

11 Procedure at the Annual and Special General Meetings

- 11.1 The Secretary shall personally be responsible for the handing out or sending to each member at his last known postal or e-mail address a written agenda giving notice of the date, time and place of the General Meeting together with the

resolutions to be proposed there at least 14 days before the meeting and in the case of the Annual General Meeting a list of the nominees for the Committee posts and notification of the availability of the examined accounts. The Secretary may, alternatively, with the agreement of member(s) concerned distribute these materials by e-mail or similar form of communication. The Notice of Meeting shall in addition wherever possible be displayed on the Club Notice Board where one exists.

- 11.2 The quorum for the Annual and Special General Meetings shall be 15 members entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting or if greater, such number as represents 20% in number of such members.
- 11.3 The Chair, or in his absence a member selected by the Committee, shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. For the procedures for submitting resolutions to be considered at a General Meeting members are referred to Rule 9.3. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting or additional vote. Only paid up members who have reached their 16th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and to vote on all matters. Members who have not reached their 16th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and vote only on those matters determined by the Chair as matters concerning juniors.
- 11.4 The Secretary or a member of the Committee, or a member of the Club appointed by the Committee, shall take minutes at the Annual and Special General Meetings.
- 11.5 The Chair shall at all General Meetings have unlimited authority upon every question of order and shall be, for the purpose of such meeting, the sole interpreter of the Rules of the Club.

12 Alteration of the Rules and other Resolutions

- 12.1 The rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual or Special General Meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of members exercising a vote at the General Meeting. No amendment(s) to the rules shall become effective until such amendment(s) shall have been submitted to and validated by such person as is authorised to do so by the Kent County Amateur Swimming Association/Swim England London Region.
- 12.2 Any member entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting shall be entitled to put any proposal for consideration at any General Meeting provided the proposal in writing shall have been handed to or e-mailed or posted to the Secretary of the Club so as to be received by him not later than 10th May in the case of the Annual General Meeting or, in the case of a Special General Meeting, 14 days before the date of the meeting and thereafter the Secretary shall supply a copy of the proposal or resolution to the members in the manner provided in Rule 11.1.

13 By-Laws

- 13.1 The Committee shall have power to make, repeal and amend such by-laws as they may from time to time consider necessary for the wellbeing of the Club which by-laws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Committee or at a General Meeting.

14 Finance

- 14.1 All money payable to the Club shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the Club. Any sum withdrawn from the account shall be in accordance with the Banking Mandate provided to the Bank and approved by the Committee. Any money not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in its discretion think fit.
- 14.2 The income and property of the Club shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Club and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Club, (save as set out in Rule 17.3).
- 14.3 The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any officer, member or employee of the Club and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.
- 14.4 The financial transactions of the Club shall be recorded by the Treasurer in such manner as the Committee thinks fit.
- 14.5 The financial year of the Club shall be the period commencing on 1st January and ending on 31st December. Any change to the financial year shall require the approval of the members in a General Meeting.
- 14.6 The Committee shall retain for a minimum period of six years all financial records relating to the Club and copies of Minutes of all meetings.

15 Borrowing

- 15.1 The Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Club for the purposes of the Club from time to time at their own discretion up to such limits on borrowing as may be laid down from time to time by the General Meeting for the general upkeep of the Club or with the prior approval of a General Meeting for any other expenditure, additions or improvements.
- 15.2 The Committee shall have no power to pledge the personal liability of any member of the Club for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.

16 Property

- 16.1 The property of the Club, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not more than four Custodians. They shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.
- 16.2 The Custodians shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Club and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at a General Meeting.
- 16.3 The Custodians shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the property of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the discharge of their duties.

17 Dissolution

- 17.1 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 and entitled to vote. A specific date for the dissolution, which shall be no later than the last day of the calendar month that follows the General Meeting, shall be included in the resolution.
- 17.2 The dissolution shall take effect from the date specified in the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the Club.
- 17.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be given to a charity or charities (or other non-profit making organisation having objects similar to those of the Club for the furtherance of such objects) nominated by the last Committee.

18 Acknowledgement

- 18.1 The Members acknowledge that these Rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.
- 18.2 The following statement must appear on the Club's application for membership forms and be signed in accordance with Rule 3.2 by the member and countersigned by a parent or guardian if the member is less than 18 years of age.

"I acknowledge the rules of Greenwich Royals Swimming Club and confirm my understanding and acceptance that such rules (as amended from time to time) shall govern my membership of the Club. I further acknowledge and accept the responsibilities of membership upon members as set out in these rules."