

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME.

The name of the Society shall be the Plymouth Rugby Referees Society. The Society shall be constituted in accordance with Bye-Law 2(d) of the Plymouth & District Rugby Combination and be subject to its Bye-Laws.

2. OBJECTS.

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) To provide competent referees for Clubs of the Plymouth & District Combination as requested and other rugby union games upon application to the Hon. Referees Appointments/ Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary.
- b) To maintain and improve the standard of refereeing.
- c) To foster discussion on all matters relating to refereeing and to seek to establish uniformity of interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- d) To promote the interests of its referee members and provide an effective recruitment and training structure to safeguard the future of the Society.

3. MEMBERSHIP.

There shall be the following categories of members;

- a) Honorary Life Members – On the recommendation of the Executive Committee the Annual General Meeting shall have the power to elect Honorary Life members in recognition of past services to the Society.
- b) Associate Members – These may be elected and their membership terminated at any time by the Executive Committee.
- c) Active Members - These shall be referees who have passed the Society's examination as referred to in Rule 9(f) or have been accepted from other Referee Societies with suitable qualifications and who, in each case, have been placed and remain on the Active List as referred to in Rule 9(b).
- d) Probationary members – These shall be persons who wish to become Active members but have not passed the Society's examination as referred to in Rule 9(f). Applications for Probationary Membership may be accepted by the Hon. Referees Appointments/Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee.

4. BADGES, SWEATERS AND TIES.

All members shall be entitled to wear the Society's tie, sweater, jersey badge and blazer badge, which shall be supplied at the members' expense.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

All categories of members other than Honorary Life Members shall pay an annual subscription the amount of which shall be determined each year at the AGM. Subscriptions shall be due on the

1st September each year. Members who fail to pay their subscriptions by 30th November shall have their membership suspended and, if payment is not received by 31st December, membership shall be terminated at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Note; only paid up members shall be eligible for coverage for insurance purposes.

6. OFFICERS.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of; President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Hon. Referees Appointments/

Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Reports/Grading Secretary, Recruitment and Retention Secretary and Training Officer.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee which shall consist of; President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Hon. Referees Appointments/ Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Reports/Grading Secretary, Training Officer, two elected members who shall be Active Members and one further representative who may be appointed annually by the Plymouth and District Rugby Combination, such representative deemed to be an Associate member of the Society if not already a member. Five members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

a) The Officers of the Society and the elected members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at AGM, from members of the society as follows; President and Chairman every two years and the remainder each year. The normal method of election shall require nomination by a proposer and seconder to be given in writing to be given to the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting with the written consent of the nominee. If vacancies still exist after the normal election has been held then an emergency election may be held. Nominations by a proposer and seconder would be taken from the floor together with the nominees own personal consent to stand.

The A.G.M. shall have power, in the absence of written nominations or if otherwise necessary, to decide to accept all nominations from the floor at the meeting, or not to fill all of the vacant appointments, or to allow one member to hold more than one appointment.

b) The President and Chairman shall serve for a period of two years and should not, under normal circumstances, be re-elected to the same post. All other Officers and members of the Executive Committee shall serve for the ensuing year. Replacements for any Officers or elected members who cease to serve before the expiration of the said term shall serve until the subsequent A.G.M. and may then stand for re-election for a further period in all cases.

c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies including the circumstances of Rule 8(b) above and to co-opt additional members for such special services or purposes as it may deem necessary.

d) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees.

e) Retiring Officers and members of the executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election for the following term, with the exception of the President and Chairman who may not be re-elected to the same post other than according to the circumstances of Rule 8(b) above.

9. APPOINTMENTS AND GRADING COMMITTEE

a) This shall consist of the Hon. Referees Appointments/ Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary, Hon. Reports and Grading Secretary and Training Officer.

b) An official Active List of referees shall be kept by the Hon. Referees Appointments/Re-appointments/Exchange Secretary. Names may be added or removed from the list at any time.

c) Appointments of referees to matches shall be made by the Hon. Referees Appointments/Re-appointments/ Exchange Secretary as directed by the Appointments and Grading Committee.

d) The grading of referees shall be carried out under the control of the Appointments and Grading Committee which has the power to co-opt such additional members as it deems necessary for this purpose. The Hon. Reports/Grading Secretary shall arrange two Grading meetings in each season following which each referee shall be notified in confidence of any change to that referee's grading.

e) The Appointments and Grading Committee shall have the power to appoint any persons to assist the Committee as assessors/adjudicators. Such persons need not be members or former members of the Society.

f) The Appointments and Grading Committee shall arrange the examination of applicants to become active referees. The examination shall consist of either a written examination approved by the Appointments and Grading Committee or an examination board consisting of not less than three persons appointed by that Committee for that purpose.

10. MEETINGS

a) The A.G.M. shall be held before the end of May in each year and not less than seven days notice shall be given to all members.

b) A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Hon. Secretary within twenty-eight days of being requested to do so:

i) By a resolution of the Executive Committee specifying the purpose thereof.

ii) Upon receipt of a request signed by ten Active Members, specifying the purpose thereof

c) At any General Meeting, one third of the Active Members shall form a quorum

d) The Executive Committee shall hold meetings on such occasions as it shall deem necessary. Minutes of all Executive Committee meetings shall be made available to all members of the Executive Committee

e) The Appointments and Grading Committee shall hold meetings as specified in Rule 9(d) and on such additional occasions as it shall deem necessary

f) A quorum of any committee or sub-committee shall be persons representing a minimum of 50% of the members on any such committee

11. VOTING

a) All categories of members shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting

b) The Chairman of any meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his own.

c) Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands unless a ballot is requested by a majority of those present.

d) Voting shall be decided by a simple majority of those members voting.

12. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Committee shall have the power to request the resignation or to terminate the membership of any member without being required to state its reasons.