

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION 2018

1.0 **NAME**

1.1 The League shall be named the National Conference League comprising a Premier Division supported below by others underpinning and representative of the Competition structure.

2.0 **OBJECTS**

2.1 The League shall, as Associate Members of BARLA, be run under the auspices of the Community Board with the Rugby Football League recognised as the National Governing Body.

2.2 That the game be played and controlled by amateur players clubs and officials.

2.3 To foster develop and extend the game of Rugby League.

3.0 **CONSTITUTION**

3.1 The League shall consist of duly elected clubs – these being known as Full Members – playing rugby league football willing to conform to the Bye Laws and Rules of the League.

4.0 **OFFICERS**

4.1 The Officers of the League shall comprise a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Competition Administrator. A President shall also be elected.

5.0 **MANAGEMENT**

5.1 The management of the League shall be vested by the members in a management committee, comprising a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Administrator together with four Club Representatives of the member clubs (each member being selected to represent each of the respective divisions) and a President.

5.2 These officers as enumerated – save for the Administrator who shall be appointed by the Rugby Football League without voting rights – to be elected annually by the member clubs and shall be eligible for re-election. In addition and subject to review periodically, the Rugby Football League shall be entitled to nominate two persons one of whom acting in the capacity of treasurer to sit on the National Conference League's Management Committee that shall have the power, as and when necessary, to co-opt persons both to maintain and assist the efficient management of the League.

6.0 **ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 Membership of the National Conference League is open to all clubs playing rugby league football, which are capable of meeting the Minimum Standards Criteria.

6.2 Applications from new clubs must be submitted in writing for the receipt by the Competition Administrator not later than the end of the playing season prior to the year in which they play.

6.3 The Management Committee reserves the right to request any club to seek re-election.

- 6.4 Any club failing to secure re-election / re-selection will revert to the League from which it vacated.
- 6.5 The management will consider the decision on new applications and the issue of re-election two weeks after the playing season ends.
- 6.6 Any club entering the League whether ex-professional or amateur, may not join the Premier Division unless replacing a club being promoted to the Rugby Football League and must join the lowest division.
- 6.7 Any club desirous of leaving to join another competition either winter or summer and seeks re-admission to the National Conference League at some future date must again submit themselves to the standardised selection process and if successful in its bid will, on entry, be placed in the lowest division.
- 6.8 Membership of the League is by invitation only and all existing clubs desirous of retaining their status under the current Rules and Associated Bye Laws must submit to the League at an appropriate time written confirmation of their intent to do so.
- 6.9 The Management Committee may expel from the National Conference League any Member whose conduct shall, in the opinion of the Committee, render that club unfit to be a member or otherwise demonstrates an unwillingness/inability to meet the Minimum Standards.

7.0 **MINIMUM STANDARDS**

- 7.1 The National Conference League shall operate and apply strictly a Minimum Standards criterion to which all clubs in membership shall be obliged to comply.

8.0 **PATRONS**

- 8.1 The title of Patron shall be bestowed on such citizens prepared to contribute annual subscriptions – which shall be determined by the Management Committee – for use towards further development of the League.

9.0 **LIFE MEMBERS**

- 9.1 Life Members shall be elected by the club delegates only following recommendations of the Management Committee in lieu of outstanding service given to the League. These members shall be entitled to attend and speak at meetings but hold no voting rights.

10.0 **TRUSTEES**

- 10.01 Shall be appointed by the League's Management Committee as and when necessary.

11.0 **MEETINGS**

- 11.1 Full meetings to which each club may send two representatives one of whom only being allowed to vote, shall be held as and when necessary. Any club not represented will be fined as deemed appropriate.
- 11.2 The Management Committee shall meet monthly or when called upon to do so as the occasion demands, by the Chairman/Administrator.
- 11.3 The Annual General meeting shall be held in January to transact the following business

- 11.3.1 Receive and approve the Audited Accounts.
- 11.3.2 Present deal and vote upon amendments to the Constitution.
- 11.3.3 Elect the Officers
- 11.3.4 Elect an Auditor
- 11.3.5 Elect the Club Representatives
- 11.3.6 Transact any Other Business specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- 11.3.7 Notice of other changes or additions to the Constitution may be given by the Management Committee or any two named clubs proposing and seconding the same. Such proposals must be forwarded in writing for receipt not later than 1st December to the Competition Administrator who shall not later than 14th December release a copy of such notice to all Members of the League.
- 11.3.8 The League shall appoint “tellers” responsible for counting votes and communicating the results directly to the Chair.
- 11.3.9 Amendments or alterations to such proposals in writing by two Member Clubs must reach the Competition Administrator by 1st January after which all members will be advised by letter the date fixed for the AGM together with the proposals amendments and alterations. A two-thirds majority of Member Clubs present with voting rights is required to carry the foregoing.
- 11.3.10 The audited accounts, encompassing an operational period beginning 1st January and ending 31st December annually, shall be circulated to all members.
- 11.3.11 A Special General Meeting shall be convened at the direction of the Management Committee or by requisition, signed by not less than 30% of the Member Clubs, stating the object for which such a meeting is called. Notice of the Special General Meeting will then be posted to Member Clubs inside ten days of receiving the requisition, amendments to which returned in writing within a further period of seven days from the original date of notification by the Competition Administrator. The meeting must be held within thirty days of receiving the requisition. No Other Business other than that for which the meeting was called shall be transacted. A two-thirds majority of those Member Clubs present with voting rights is required to carry the foregoing.
- 11.3.12 30% of members present with voting rights shall constitute a quorum in respect of Annual and Special General Meetings.
- 11.4 A Full Delegates meeting shall transact the following business
 - 11.4.1 At a Full Delegates meeting deal and vote upon amendments to the Competition Rules.
 - 11.4.2 Notice of other changes or additions to the Competition Rules may be given by the Management Committee or any two named clubs proposing and seconding the same. Such proposals must be forwarded in writing for receipt not later than 14 days prior to the meeting to the Competition Administrator who shall not later than 7 days release a copy of such notice to all Members of the League.

- 11.4.3 A Full Delegates meeting with member clubs present or a closed ballot is conducted as otherwise directed by the Management Committee, a 51% majority of those members in attendance exercising voting rights is required to carry the foregoing.
- 11.4.4 Where a closed ballot is called, all completed voting slips shall at a date specified by the Management Committee be forwarded for collation directly to the Competition Administrator. The result of a closed ballot shall, after the Management Committee has been advised and as soon as possible thereafter be communicated in writing to the constituent members either by the Competition Administrator or senior officer designated such duties.
- 11.4.5 30% of members present with voting rights shall constitute a quorum in respect of Full Delegates meetings and sub committees of the League.
- 11.4.6. Receive and act upon information and or instructions by the Management.
- 11.4.7 The methodology by which clubs are permitted to cast their votes shall be as follows
- 11.4.7.1 By E-Mail or any other method deemed appropriate by the Management
- 11.4.7.2 A closed ballot whereby voting slips together with the rules of engagement are clearly endorsed. The ballot documentation shall be distributed in a timely manner to all constituent members exercising the ability to vote.
- Prospective New Members
 - Clubs seeking Re-Election
 - Clubs seeking Re-Selection
- 11.5 With the exception of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, the chairman of any meeting shall be permitted to exercise the right of a casting vote.

12.0 **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- 12.1 The rate of subscription payable by members shall be decided annually by the League's Management Committee.

13.0 **SPONSORSHIP**

- 13.1 The Management Committee shall endeavour to obtain such sponsorship so enabling the National Conference League to continue, develop and promote rugby league football on a national basis.
- 13.2 Any supplemental sponsorship obtained by the League shall remain at the disposal of the League.

14.0 **DEVELOPMENT**

- 14.1 The League shall make every attempt at introducing and developing the game at the highest levels of amateur Rugby League throughout Great Britain.

15.0 **DISSOLUTION**

15.1 The Members may vote to wind up the League if not less than three quarters of those present with voting rights support that proposal at a properly convened General Meeting.

15.2 The Management Committee shall then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the League's affairs.

15.3 After setting all liabilities of the League the Management Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following – to:

- Another League with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity and/or
- Another League with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC charity and/or
- The League's National Governing Body for use by them in terms of related community sports.

16.0 **FUNDS**

16.1 The Property and funds of the League cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of Members other than is reasonably allowed by the Rules and all surplus funds income or profits shall be re-invested in the League.

17.0 **MATTERS NOT COVERED**

17.1 The League's Management Committee may, should it so desire, be empowered to deal with any matter not provided for in the Constitution.

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*Revised & amended **26th February 2018***