

WOOLER RUNNING CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. Title

The Club shall be known as Wooler Running Club. The Club colours on the vest shall be a green and purple.

2. Objectives

The Wooler Running Club is fully committed to promoting and safeguarding the wellbeing of all its members. The Club believes that it is important that members run for fitness, fun and friendship and welcomes members from Wooler and the wider community.

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- a. To encourage the practice, promotion and participation of amateur athletics in Wooler and the wider community. We welcome visiting runners, with no need for payment (see section 4c for further details)
- b. To offer the following athletics disciplines: road running, cross-country running and fell running.
- c. To provide a safe and fair environment for everyone.
- d. To be affiliated to a national amateur athletic body, with that current body being The Association of Running Clubs (ARC).

3. Membership of the Club

- a. Membership of the Club shall be open to persons who are amateurs as defined by UK Athletics governing bodies at that time, regardless of sex, age (18 and over only), disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitations of membership according to available facilities are allowable on a non-discriminatory basis. Wooler Running Club membership will not be available for people under the age of 18.
- b. By becoming a member of Wooler Running Club, every member agrees to abide by the Club's constitution and rules and any rules and regulations of the Club's affiliated body.
- c. Each membership application must be made by either on-line electronic submission, using the web site application form, or by submitting a paper version. The appropriate subscription fee must accompany the application.
- d. Members can join more than one club and can race for whichever club they prefer, subject to the rules of the race or event in which they are competing.
- e. The Club could confer an annual prize, by a majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting (AGM), for recognition of someone who has performed an outstanding service, or who has made an outstanding contribution to the Club.
- f. Any member wishing to resign from the Club must do so in writing or by email to the Secretary before the 1st May, failing that, they may be liable for the ensuing year's subscription fees.
- g. Resignation shall be managed by the Committee within one calendar month of receipt and will be held as effective from the date of tendering.

- h. The Club reserves the right to suspend or exclude any member for contravention of this constitution, documented rules or published codes of conduct that may exist at that time.

4. Subscriptions

- a. Annual subscriptions shall become due for payment on 1st April with final payment date 30st April each year, with the amounts being determined at the AGM.
- b. There is no initial joining fee for the first three sessions, however a membership form must be completed to ensure that the Club has emergency contact details. Cost of Club kit (Wooler Running Club vest) is an additional payment.
- c. The affiliated body's insurance policy covers all members and volunteers. The Club's liability to visitors and potential new members will be covered by the ARC insurance. Visitors and potential new members will not be covered by the ARC insurance for any liabilities that they may incur until they become actual members of the Club. See *ARC's Summary of Liability Cover* for further details.
- d. Members joining after the 1st January shall be deemed to have paid their subscription for the following year.
- e. Members who have not renewed their subscription before the affiliated body's registration deadline of 30th April, shall cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership and could be resigned from the Club, unless prior arrangements have been made for late payment.

5. Management

- a. The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee that shall consist of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer. All the foregoing, and any other positions created, shall be elected at the AGM, and remain in office until the conclusion of the AGM of the following year.
- b. Three elected Committee members are required for a quorum for a committee meeting to take place, providing the Chair or Secretary is also present.

6. Annual General Meeting

The AGM shall be held in the month of March or as dictated by the practical circumstances applicable at that time.

At least 21 days' notice shall be given to members of the date, venue and agenda items for the AGM.

At the AGM the meeting will:

- a. Receive the Secretary's annual report.
- b. Receive the financial statements and the Treasurer's report.
- c. Elect the Committee members for the ensuing year.
- d. Consider any amendment to the constitution of which due notice has been given to all members. Any proposed change to the constitution must be received by the Secretary at

least 14 days preceding the meeting in order that all members shall have sufficient notice of the proposal.

- e. Transact any other notified business.

7. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

- a. An EGM may be called by the Committee to discuss changes to the constitution or any other Club business too urgent to wait for the AGM.
- b. An EGM must be called if 25% of voting members so petition the Secretary in writing.
- c. Three weeks' notice of an EGM must be given to all members by email or in writing together with the motion/s to be discussed. No other business shall be conducted.
- d. Procedures for voting shall be as used for the AGM.

8. Finance

- a. The financial year of the Club shall end on 1st April.
- b. All funds belonging to the Club shall be deposited with a bank or building society in accounts that shall carry the Club title. All accounts shall operate on two signatories, one of whom will be the Treasurer and the other either the Chair or Secretary.
- c. Expenditure above agreed budget levels may only be authorised at a committee meeting.

9. Property and Funds

- a. The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members other than as reasonably allowed by the rules and all surplus income or profits are reinvested in the Club.
- b. The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, travel expenses and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.
- c. The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:
 - i. Sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment.
 - ii. Employ members and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee.
 - iii. Pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting guests.
- d. Indemnify the Committee and members acting properly during the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

10. Alterations to the constitution

- a. The constitution may be altered but only by a resolution passed by two-thirds of those present and voting at an AGM or an EGM called for that purpose.

- b. Interpretation of all the above rules must be consistent with the statutory requirements for CASCs (Community Amateur Sports Clubs as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002).

11. Revision History

This first constitution will be formerly adopted at the AGM held on 11th April 2023.

12. Club Rules

As a member of Wooler Running Club, you are expected to abide by the following rules:

All seasons:

- a. All members should wear suitable kit appropriate for the weather conditions.
- b. Any member injured or ill should not run to further prevent injury to themselves or risk harm to others.

Trail running Summer BST:

- a. No member to run with a dog to avoid antagonising any livestock.
- b. Care will be taken to avoid distressing livestock and to abide by all landowner notices placed on gates and stiles.
- c. Members will keep to well-known routes and public footpaths to avoid disturbing young birds and maintain good relationships with gamekeepers and landowners. Landowner/s will be contacted by a member of the Committee before trail running commences each year.
- d. Care will be taken when climbing stiles. Badly maintained stiles and gates to be avoided if possible or climbed with care.

Road running Winter BST:

- a. All runners should wear high vis.
- b. All runners to run courteously when sharing the pavements with members of the public.
- c. All runners to avoid running through Bridgend Residential Park, as agreed with the residents.

Entering Races and Events under Wooler Club Colours:

It is the runner's and not the Club's responsibility to ensure appropriate event preparation and to ensure the correct kit worn and carried.

Discipline and behaviour:

The Committee will hear any complaint made against a member of the Club for inappropriate behaviour or conduct or character likely to bring the Club into disrepute. The suspension or expulsion of any member for any period will be decided by Club members. The affected member has the right to appeal against the decision. Appeals against such a decision will be heard at a meeting of Club members and decided by a majority vote.

Equality Policy Statement:

- a. The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of the sport, regardless of age*, ability**, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- b. The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy the sport in an environment free from the threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- c. All Club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- d. The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to Club disciplinary procedures.

* As stated in **3.a.**, the Club does not accept persons under the age of 18

** As stated in **3.a.**, limitations of membership according to available facilities are allowable by the Club on a non-discriminatory basis.

13. Data Protection

- a. Each Club member shall be asked permission for use, to publish or display, of any photographs or videos of the person.
- b. The Committee and members will have due regard for the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill 2022, which states pictures where people can easily be identified, count as personal information under Data Protection. This does not prevent you from using them, but generally, it means you need permission from the people being photographed. You need consent for both still and moving images.

14. Winding Up

- a. The members may vote to wind up the Club if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened general meeting.
- b. The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club's affairs.
- c. After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:
 - i. To another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity and/or
 - ii. To another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or
 - iii. To the Club's national governing bodies for use by them for related community sports.