

Ilkley Harriers Athletic Club Constitution 2023

(replacing that in force from May 2017)
September 2023

1. Title and Club Colours

a. The Club shall be known as Ilkley Harriers Athletic Club (hereinafter referred to as "the Club"). The Club colours shall be red and green.

2. Objectives

a. The objectives of the Club shall be:

- i. To encourage the practice, promotion, participation in, and the development of amateur athletics ,
- ii. To provide training and coaching for members.
- iii. To organise open and club races.
- iv. To organise teams to represent the Club in championships and leagues and in such other competitions as the Committee shall decide.

b. The Club shall cater for the following athletics disciplines: Road Running, Track Running, Cross-Country Running, Fell and Mountain Running, and also Track and Field Athletics for juniors.

c. The Club shall seek to be affiliated to national and regional amateur athletic bodies as the Committee considers appropriate in order to carry out the objectives of the Club.

d. The club shall ensure a duty of care to all members and provide services in a way that is fair to everyone.

e. The club supports the development of local athletics facilities in furtherance of the club's objectives including, as required, the participation in legal entities set up to provide these.

3. Membership

a. Membership of the Club shall be open to everyone regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

b. There shall be 2 categories of membership - senior and junior (under 16).

c. Each application for membership must be made on the appropriate application form which will then be considered by the Committee or Junior sub-committee. Election to membership would only be withheld if the Committee considered that there were very exceptional circumstances which were contrary to the best interests of the club. The appropriate subscription must accompany the application for membership.

d. The committee shall consider the behaviour of all members in line with the obligations of membership described above. Gross breaches of basic requirements such as child protection principles, or criminal behaviour, the taking of performance-enhancing drugs and/or bringing the club, its members, its committee, its partners and/or the sport of athletics into disrepute are liable to result in expulsion from the club, for such period as determined by the committee in a majority vote. Less serious offences shall be dealt with on their individual merits and actions/sanctions shall be determined by a majority vote. Persistent offences are also liable to result in expulsion from the club.

e. Enjoyment of athletics in a safe environment is paramount for our club hence prospective members are welcome to discuss their needs and the capability of the club to accommodate their uniqueness.

4. Subscriptions

a. Annual subscriptions shall become due for payment at the start of the membership year, with the amounts being determined by the AGM.

b. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

c. Subscription categories will be as determined by the Committee from time to time.

d. Any member failing to make payment 3 months after it is due shall cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership and their membership will cease - provided that notice has been sent at least twice to the member's last known address or email address informing him/her of the proposed action.

5. Management

a. The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee that shall consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary who shall be Officers of the Club together with a maximum of nine other members. All the foregoing shall be elected at the AGM and remain in office until the conclusion of the AGM of the following year.

b. Five elected Committee members are required for a quorum for a Committee meeting to take place providing one of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer or Secretary is also present.

c. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies if they arise and to co-opt members, but co-opted members shall not have a Committee vote.

d. The Committee shall also have the power to establish any sub Committee deemed appropriate to assist in meeting the objectives of the Club, and to delegate to these sub Committees such duties as may be considered appropriate.

e. With reference to d above, the Junior Section of the club will be managed by the Junior Committee to be agreed by the main Committee and which will report to the main Committee. The finances will be accounted for separately, but as part of the club accounts and will be audited as a part of the club audit.

f. The Committee shall have the power to appoint individuals to perform specific duties on behalf of the Committee, and to delegate to those individuals such duties as they consider appropriate.

g. Officers and Committee Members must be 'fit and proper persons' in line with the guidance issued by HMRC or any other relevant body

6. Juniors and Child Protection

a. Young people may continue to train with the junior section up to the age of 18. However, If they are over 16 they will become a senior member of the club.

b. All coaches and helpers associated with junior members shall be screened according to prevailing legal and governing body requirements and required to abide by the club's Child Protection Policy.

- c. The Club Committee shall appoint a Child Protection Officer to implement the Child Protection Policy.
- d. All coaches and helpers shall be encouraged to undertake relevant training in terms of specific events and in terms of generic skills.
- e. Junior members who are over 15 years old may train with senior members at specified sessions where an appropriately qualified coach is present and where a parental/ guardian consent form has been completed.
- f. A parental/guardian consent form is required for all senior members under the age of 18.

7. Annual General Meeting

- a. The AGM shall be held by the end of October (or within 2 months of the end of the club financial year).
- b. At the AGM the meeting will:
 - i. Receive the annual report of the Committee.
 - ii. Receive the audited financial statements and the Treasurer's report.
 - iii. Elect the officers and the Committee for the ensuing year.
 - iv. Elect the honorary auditors.
 - v. 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 21 days preceding the meeting in order that all members shall have sufficient notice of the proposal.
 - vi. Transact any other notified business.
- c. At least 21 days notice shall be given to members of the date, venue and agenda items for the AGM.
- d. All registered members of the Club at the meeting who are aged 16 years or more shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the Chair will have a second, casting vote. Voting shall be by a show of hands except where the Chair decides voting shall be by ballot.
- e. AGMs will be minuted and will require a quorum of 15 senior members.

8. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

- a. An EGM may be called by the Committee to discuss changes to the Constitution and Rules or any other Club business too urgent to wait for the AGM.
- b. An EGM must be called if at least 25 voting members so petition the Secretary in writing.
- c. 21 days 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.

9. Finance

- a. The financial year of the Club shall end on 31st August.
- b. All funds belonging to the Club shall be deposited with a bank or building society in

dedicated accounts. All accounts shall operate on at least two signatories.

10. 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 (subject to d below):
 - i. To another Club with similar sports purposes.
 - ii. To the Club's national governing bodies for use by them for related community sports.
- d. Assets that relate to the Junior section of the club shall be distributed to support sport in local schools as determined by the Junior Committee.

11. Alterations to the Constitution

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.