

CONSTITUTION of NEWCASTLE FRONTRUNNERS

(Constitution dated October 2011, amended 23rd November 2016)



1. TITLE OF CLUB

Newcastle Frontrunners

3. CLUB HEADQUARTERS

Newcastle Frontrunners, Gosforth Pool, Regent Farm Road Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE3 3HD

2. CLUB COLOURS

- a) Club colours must be worn by all Members representing the Club at every competitive meeting.
- b) The Club colours are light teal vest with multi-coloured side panels and white trim, black shorts.

3. OBJECTS

- a) The objects of the Club shall be:
 - to promote health and wellbeing through running among lesbian, gay male, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults, regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or physical ability;
 - to combat discrimination and homophobia in sport, and to encourage LGBT involvement in the local and sporting community.
- b) In pursuit of these objects the Club shall promote equal opportunities and encourage gender parity.

4. AFFILIATION

- a) The Club shall be affiliated to International Frontrunners and support communications between Frontrunner Clubs.
- b) The Club shall be affiliated to UK Athletics (UKA) in order to carry out the objects of the Club.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall be open to anyone aged 16 or over with an interest in running and who supports the objects of the Club. Membership is open to all, and no application will be refused on other than reasonable grounds. There will be no discrimination on grounds of race, occupation, sex, religion or political persuasion.
- b) All members are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the Club's and UKA's ethical framework and codes of conduct.
- c) Application for membership shall be made in writing to the Committee.
- d) Members shall be those who have paid the annual membership fee for the current year.
- e) Members shall be amateurs according to the UKA definition of an amateur.
- f) Guests may participate in Club events upon payment of a Guest Fee (Guests are not eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)).
- g) Any Member or Guest found guilty of misconduct (i.e. behaviour contrary to this Constitution, the Club's Code of Conduct, Club Rules or contravention of UKA Laws) may be cautioned or expelled from the Club by a majority decision of the Committee. Any person expelled shall have the right to appeal at a Committee meeting held at their request no later than 2 weeks from the date of the expulsion.

6. MEMBERSHIP FEE

- a) Members shall pay an annual Membership Fee.
- b) Membership shall commence on the first day of April, and shall continue for 12 months.
- c) The Membership Fee shall only be reconfirmed or changed at the AGM or at an EGM, by a majority of the members present.
- d) The Membership Fee shall apply to all Club members.
- e) Members who wish to join after the 1st April will pay a reduced fee. This will be made up of two elements; the athlete UKA affiliation fee plus a pro-rata amount equal to the remaining number of full months to the 31st March of the following year.
- f) Members who fail to pay their Membership Fee for the coming year by 30th April will cease to be a member of Newcastle Frontrunners.

7. RESIGNATION

- a) Any member wishing to cancel their membership must do so in writing to the Club Secretary.
- b) Membership cancellation shall be effective from the date of tendering of the notice of resignation, except that cancellation shall not be accepted if the member is financially indebted to the Club. Acceptance shall be withheld until the debt is discharged.
- c) No Membership Fee (or portion thereof) shall be refunded to individuals who cancel their membership.
- d) Any Club assets in the possession of a member who intends to resign must be returned to the club before the resignation is accepted.

8. MANAGEMENT

- a) Management of the Club shall be by Committee consisting of;

Executive:

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Non-Executive:

The Non-Executive Committee shall be 6 members whose roles will be defined by the Committee prior to the AGM each year.

- b) Sub-committees will manage many areas of the day to day running of the club.
- c) A quorum for the Committee shall be five. In the absence of a quorum the normal daily Club business shall be conducted by the committee members present until the next Committee Meeting.
- d) Committee posts falling vacant during the course of the year may be filled by a vote of the existing Committee members.
- e) All decisions shall be by majority vote. The Chair shall only have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

- a) Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership at the AGM. The Club Secretary or another Member appointed by the Committee shall act as election officer, whose responsibility it shall be to oversee the election process at the AGM.
- b) Committee members shall serve a term of one year, and may stand for re-election each year at the AGM.
- c) Nominations for elected positions shall be restricted to fully paid Members, and shall be opened 14 days prior to the date of the AGM. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by a Club Member and received by the Club Secretary 48 hours in advance of the AGM. The Club Secretary shall arrange for the nomination forms to be displayed for this purpose.

- d) Election of uncontested positions will be by show of hands, unless the Chair in their discretion deems that a ballot will be necessary.
- e) The election of Club Officers shall be restricted to bona-fide Club Members.
- f) The Committee shall have the power to appoint Club Members to posts which fall vacant. The committee shall further be empowered to co-opt members as it deems necessary. Co-opted members will be non-voting unless decreed otherwise by the committee.

10. FINANCE AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

- a) The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping true accounts of the income and expenditure of the Club. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining and operating the necessary bank accounts on the Club's behalf and shall conduct all financial operations in the interest of the Club.
- b) The financial year shall end on 31st August each year and the Treasurer will be responsible for the preparation of the Annual Accounts
- c) Cheques / withdrawals shall be signed by two nominated Committee members.
- d) The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Club as set out above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any Member of the Club except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Club.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) An AGM shall be held in November each year.
- b) The AGM shall be held for the purpose of:
 - receiving the Club Officials' Annual Reports;
 - receiving the statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet;
 - approving the annual Membership Fee and Guest Fee;
 - electing the Committee members for the ensuing year;
 - agreeing amendments to the Constitution;
 - any other business.
- c) The Club Secretary must give notice of the AGM to the Members at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.
- d) Motions to be discussed must be submitted in writing to the Club Secretary at least 15 days before the meeting.
- e) At least 14 days' notice shall be given to Members of the date, venue and agenda items of the AGM.
- f) A quorum for the AGM shall be 20% of the Members.
- g) Members must be present at the meeting in order to cast their vote. Members will have one vote. The Chair shall have only a casting vote.

12. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- a) An EGM must be called by the Club Secretary within 14 days of the receipt of a requisition in writing signed by 10 members of the club, stating the business to be brought before such a meeting. An EGM may also be called by the Committee.
- b) The Club Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice to every Club member of the time and place of any EGM and the business to be dealt with. No business other than that which is published shall be discussed at any EGM.
- c) Voting rules at any EGM are the same as for the AGM.

13. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

No alteration can be made to the Constitution except at the AGM or at an EGM called specifically for this purpose. Notice of any proposed amendment must be given as stated in rules 11 and 12.

14. EMERGENCY MEETING

- a) This will consist of the Executive members of the committee.
- b) An emergency meeting can be called in order to deal with any emergency concerning the Club or the Club Members. In the case of a tied vote the Chair's vote will be the deciding vote.

15. DISSOLUTION

- a) The Committee, by a two-thirds majority of a quorate meeting, may decide to dissolve the Club. The Committee must then call an EGM, giving at least 4 weeks' notice of the meeting to all Club members.
- b) If the motion is passed by a two-thirds majority, the club is then dissolved.
- c) In the event of the Club being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution after the payment of proper debts and liabilities, shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Club.
- d) The Trustees shall remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the charity in accordance with this clause. The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the charity and must pay or make provisions for all the liabilities of the charity.
- e) The Trustees must notify the Charities Commission promptly that the charity has been dissolved. If the Trustees are obliged to submit the charity's accounts to the Charity Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must ensure the submission of the charity's final accounts to the Charity Commission.

16. The Committee have the power to deal with any contingencies not provided for by this Constitution.