

SEFTON PARK CRICKET CLUB CONSTITUTION

Approved SGM August 2023

Preamble

Sefton Park Cricket Club is a community of members that, though brought together by cricket, are all primarily concerned by the togetherness that membership of the club brings. We all seek to help each other and the wider community. The Club will strive not only to promote cricket, but the all-important spirit of cricket, a key feature distinguishing cricket from other sports.

The aims and objectives of the club will be to:

- offer coaching and competitive opportunities in cricket.
 - promote the club within the local community and cricket.
 - manage the club's facilities at Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park.
 - ensure a duty of care to all members of the club.
 - provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.
 - promote the game of cricket in the wider community
1. The Club shall consist of existing President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life, Life, Honorary, Cricket Playing, Cricket Student Playing, School Age Cricket Playing, Non-Playing and Temporary Members (the "Members"). Non-Playing Members shall include the categories of:
- a) Family Membership. This category to include up to two parents and any children aged between 10 years and 18 years who do not play cricket or attend practice evenings.
 - b) Non-Resident Membership. This category to be available for anyone living more than 25 miles from the Club.
 - c) Senior Citizen Membership

The Management Board (referred to as the Board) shall have the power to appoint Honorary Life Members, Vice-Presidents, Honorary and Temporary Members. Playing and School Age Playing Members only are entitled to practice on the Club's ground. Non-Resident, Honorary, Temporary and School Age Playing Members under the age of 16 shall not be entitled to be summoned to, nor to vote or propose nominations at any meetings of the Club.

2. Membership of the club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of cricket on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

The club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. Application for membership of the club shall be by completion of a membership application form and by payment of the relevant subscription/joining fees as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the club. No person shall be eligible to take part in the business of the club or eligible for selection for any club team unless the appropriate subscription has been paid by the specified date or membership has been agreed by the Committee. The club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for the best interests of Sefton Park Cricket Club such as but not without limitation conduct or character likely to bring the club or cricket or members into disrepute (for the avoidance of doubt, any postings online and/or on social media (Twitter, Facebook or similar/equivalent platforms) can also be construed as a form of conduct). Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the Committee and such appeal shall be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days of the receipt of the action taken by the Committee who shall appoint an Appeals Committee to hear the appeal within 28 days of the appeal request. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties. All Members will be subject to the regulations of the Constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and any Codes of Conduct that the club has adopted. The Constitution shall identify those Members eligible to vote at any General Meetings.

3. The Annual Subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting each year, due notice of any suggested change having been displayed on the Club's notice board for at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

The agreed rate of annual subscription shall be displayed on the Club's notice board and included in the annual Fixture Card.

4. All subscriptions shall be due and payable by 1 April, or in the case of a new member on his/her election. Any member whose subscription is unpaid on the 30 April following shall be debarred from all privileges of the Club until the subscription be paid.

Any Member whose subscription has not been paid by 30 June shall be erased from the register of Members; the name may only be restored to the register upon payment of all outstanding monies.

5. Any Member absent from the Liverpool area during the whole of the cricket season may be exempt from paying his/her subscription for that year upon notifying the Secretary, in writing, prior to the commencement of the season.
6. It is a condition of membership that the Annual Subscription when payable shall be a debt due from the Member to the Treasurer for the time being.
7. All Members of an opposing Club shall, on the day or days on which their respective Clubs play on the ground, be appointed Temporary Members and be entitled to the privileges of the Club, other than those of voting or introducing visitors or guests. It shall not be necessary for the Board to specify each temporary Member by name.
8. Any Member shall be entitled to introduce guests to the Club, subject to such regulations or bye-laws as shall be made from time to time by the Board.
9. The Annual General Meeting shall be held after 1 November and prior to 1 March of the following year. The business to be conducted shall include:-
 - a) The reception and adoption of the Annual Report and duly audited Statement of Accounts. The Accounts will cover a twelve month period commencing each 1st November.
 - b) The election, by voting papers if necessary, of a President, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Cricket Chair, Junior Secretary, Women's Cricket Chair, Business Chair, House Chair, Communications Chair, Club Welfare Officer, Membership Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Ground Chair, Club (1st XI) Captain and the two other elected Board Members.

Nominations of Members of the foregoing must be proposed by two Members, in writing (for the avoidance of doubt this includes email); such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting and will be displayed on the Club notice-board for at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

For the avoidance of doubt a Member who is an employee or contractor for the Club cannot be nominated for the foregoing positions.

All posts shall be elected annually. For the avoidance of doubt members must be present at the meeting to vote in person and proxy voting shall not be permitted.

The President shall not be eligible to seek re-election, for that office, after serving as President for a period of 5 years.

- c) The appointment of an Auditor.
10. The Board shall consist of the President, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Cricket Chair, Junior Secretary, Women's Cricket Chair, Business Chair, House Chair, Communications Chair, Club Welfare Officer and the two other elected Members; in addition, the Trustees will appoint one of their number to represent them. The Cricket Committee shall have an additional allocation of two places that it may choose to exercise at any Board meeting. The Board may also co-opt up to two Members. If the post of any Board member should fall vacant after the AGM, the Board shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding AGM. A quorum shall consist of six.
11. The Board will normally meet monthly and will be assisted by Finance, Cricket, House, Business and Development Committees that will report to it. Committee Chairs may nominate a deputy to attend a Board meeting on their behalf. The President, Chair and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all such Committees. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and include the Chairs of all the above Committees. Members of other Committees will be selected by the Board, including ratification of any nominations from their respective Chair, save that the Cricket Committee shall include the Fixture and Junior Players Secretaries and all acting Captains.
- If a member of the Committee should have a separate, personal interest in a matter discussed at a Committee meeting, the interested party should make the conflict of interest known to other members of the Committee immediately and withdraw from discussing or voting on the matter. If it transpires that a member of the Committee did not declare a conflict of interest then an investigation will take place which may lead to disciplinary action.
- Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the treasurer plus up to two other officers.
12. The Board is authorised to make matches with other Clubs, to fill any vacancy that may occur, to manage and control the Club's property and finances, to suspend or expel any Member should cause arise and to decide all questions that may occur relative to the affairs of the Club not provided for in these Rules.

13. All Team Captains other than the Club (1st XI) Captain shall be elected at an Annual Players Meeting to be held in September/October, such elections to be ratified by the Board. Any consequent rejection shall necessitate a further election. In the event of any vacancy arising during the cricket season it will be nominated by the Cricket Committee and must be ratified by the Board.
14. The Cricket Selection Committee shall consist of the acting Captains and the Chair of Selectors; who will be appointed by the Cricket Committee. The Selection Committee shall choose and make public the teams to play in matches. Decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be over-ruled by any other body.
15. Each Member chosen to play shall be required to confirm with their captain before 9.00p.m on the Thursday preceding Saturday and Sunday matches and approximately 2 days (9.00p.m) before other matches. Players who have not confirmed, as above, may be deemed not to be available for this match.
16. The Board shall, at the request of twenty Members of the Club, or may on its own authority, call a Special General Meeting of which fourteen days' notice shall be given stating the place, time and object of such Meeting.
17. A copy of these Rules shall be prominently displayed in the Clubhouse and no Rules shall be added to, altered or rescinded unless by consent of the majority at any Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. Particulars of any addition, alteration or rescision of the Rules to be proposed at any Annual General Meeting shall be sent, in writing, to the Secretary by the proposer thereof, together with the name of the seconder, on or before 31 December prior to such Annual General Meeting. Amendments shall be acceptable providing the Chair does not consider such amendments to be counter-proposals.
18. The hours during which intoxicating liquor may be supplied are as specified in the Club's Licence, *vide* Licensing Registration. Alcohol may only be consumed within the Clubhouse, its terrace and the seating area known as the Garden Enclosure.
19. The Clubhouse is opened to Members at such hours as the Board shall determine. The Board shall have the right to close the bar premises on any day and to alter the times for the supply of intoxicating liquors within the times permissible by the Club's Licence.

20. The property of the Club shall be vested in not less than two or more than four Trustees who shall be appointed by the Board, and the property of the Club shall be vested in them or be dealt with by them as the Board may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Board. Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that a new Trustee or Trustees be appointed, the Board shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President for the time being of the Club is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act and they shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Board.
21. In the event that the Club ceases to exist the residual assets, after settlement of all outstanding liabilities, will be distributed to a good cricket cause in the Merseyside area. This will be one or more established cricket clubs, cricket administrative bodies (e.g. Liverpool and District Cricket Competition) or cricket promotions (e.g. local schools), to be determined by the Trustees after taking advice from the Management Board and the membership. This final distribution will be published.
22. The Board may authorise a limited number of non-member functions by a formal hire process. These will be recorded and strictly controlled so as not to interfere unduly with access by Members of Club facilities.
23. The Club aims to ensure a duty of care to all Members of the club by adopting and implementing the ECB 'Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children' and any future versions of the Policy.
24. The Club aims to ensure that all Members, playing and non-playing, abide by the ECB Code of Conduct which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and by the Laws of Cricket.
25. Sefton Park Cricket Club is committed to fulfilling its duty of care to all its Members by adopting and implementing the ECB Cricket Equity Policy and any future versions of the Policy.
26. Sefton Park Cricket Club has adopted the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Practice as part of the constitution.

27. Members (the "Complainant") shall be entitled to raise complaints regarding the behaviour of a Member (the Respondent) and should be lodged in writing with the Secretary as soon as possible. The Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Sub-Committee who will meet to hear complaints within 28 days of a complaint being lodged.

Any member (including the Complainant and the Respondent) requested to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The Committee (on the recommendation of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee) has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action against the Respondent, including but without limitation the termination of membership. The outcome of the disciplinary hearing shall be put in writing to the Complainant and the Respondent within 14 days following the hearing.

Either the Complainant or the Respondent shall have the right of appeal to the Committee following the outcome of the disciplinary hearing on the basis that either the Complainant or Respondent believes the finding outcome to be unreasonable and provides further evidence to support such argument. Such appeal shall be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days of the receipt of the outcome of the disciplinary hearing.

The Committee shall appoint an Appeals Committee (a maximum of three) which shall not include members involved with the initial disciplinary hearing but may include non-members of the club. The Appeals Committee shall consider the appeal within 28 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal. During the appeal the Complainant and the Respondent shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

For the avoidance of doubt, any postings online and/or on social media (Twitter, Facebook or similar/equivalent platforms) can also be construed as a form of behaviour.