



Sportsworld Running Club

Constitution

Ethos of the Club

The club aspires to provide the support and facilities necessary for each member to achieve their potential and to enjoy their athletic career to the full. The club sees athletics as a means to improving the health, self-esteem and quality of life of its members and the role of the club shall be to bind the members together in an atmosphere of friendship and guidance so that each will train and compete for the love of it and remain a member for the friends they will make there. Success for the club will be measured by the enjoyment the sport will bring to its members and for this reason the members adopt the following rules.

1. The Club:

- (a) The following shall be the Constitution and Rules (the “**Rules**”) governing Sportsworld Running Club (**the “Club**”). The Rules shall only be amended at a general meeting of the membership of the Club. An amendment to a rule shall require a two-thirds majority of members present and entitled to vote.
- (b) The official name of the club shall be Sportsworld Running Club. It shall be affiliated to the Athletic Association of Ireland (“**AAI**”). The Club shall be non-sectarian in membership, character and operation.
- (c) The main object of the Club shall be to promote the sport of athletics.
- (d) The Club shall endeavour to provide and/or purchase such facilities as necessary to achieve the main object set out in paragraph 1(c).
- (e) The Club colours shall be red and white vest with the wording “**Sportsworld Running Club**” displayed on the front of the vest.

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2. Income and Property

The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the main objects as set forth in the Rules. No portion of the Club's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the Club. No officer shall be appointed to any office of the Club paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of:

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the Club (not being an officer) for any services rendered to the Club;
- (b) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by an officer or other members of the Club to the Club;
- (c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Club (including any officer) to the Club;
- (d) reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club;
- (e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any company of which an officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such company;

3. Membership:

- (a) Membership shall be open to those persons interested in athletics who may be accepted by the committee of the Club (the "**Committee**") and who pay the current subscription. All Club members including committee members will be subject to the rules and regulations of the AAI.
- (b) There shall be three types of Membership of the Club:
 - (i) **Full Membership** may be granted to persons having reached the age of eighteen years;
 - (ii) **Honorary Membership.** The Committee may, from time to time, (by simple majority of the members of the Committee present at any meeting of the Committee), nominate a member of the Club for honorary membership.

In order to be eligible to be nominated by the Committee for such honorary membership, the member must firstly satisfy one of the following categories:-

- (A) Persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, have rendered exceptional and meritorious service to the Club. In particular, this category envisages the recognising of members who have given the Club many years of active service, both as an athlete and through active involvement in the administration of the Club;
- (B) Any member who serves as Chairperson or President of the Club;
- (C) In the case of active athletes, as a consequence of being awarded a senior international vest, for any country, provided that they have been a member of the Club for at least two full calendar years.

Where the Committee nominates a member for honorary membership, such nomination will be proposed and seconded by members of the Committee at the next AGM of the Club following such nomination. For each nominated member, a simple majority vote of fully paid up Members present at the AGM will be required in order to confer such honorary membership.

The Committee shall have an absolute discretion as to the number of members it nominates at each AGM.

An Honorary Member shall have the rights of a Full Member, but shall be exempt from paying the Club's annual subscription fee. The name of each Honorary Member together with the year of conferral of honorary membership shall be maintained in a permanent record of the Honorary Members of the Club in the clubhouse.

- (iii) **Associate Membership** may be granted to persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club, but who do not seek full voting rights. An Associate Member will not take part in the regular scheduled training of the Club, or seek to represent the Club in AAI approved races.
- (c) Membership shall mean that he/she has been duly accepted as a member of the Club and that he/she has undertaken to abide by the Rules, to uphold the good name of the Club and agrees as between the member and the Club that the Club and its officers and Committee are relieved of all responsibility for any loss, personal injury or damage by the member while engaged in any of the Club's activities for any purpose whatsoever.
- (d) A person seeking admission as a member shall have the right to obtain a copy of the Rules and shall complete and lodge the prescribed application form and the first year's membership fee with the Committee.
- (e) Any dispute as to whether any person is a member shall be decided by the Committee. Any person the subject of dispute shall have the right of appeal to a general meeting, the decision of which, by simple majority, shall be final and binding on all parties.
- (f) A member who wishes to resign from the Club shall send his/her resignation in writing to the Secretary and it shall be accepted by the Committee if the member's subscription is up to date.
- (g) A member shall be removed from membership by the Committee for conduct calculated to bring the Club into disrepute. In compliance with the rules of natural justice, the Committee shall state its case to a member who is threatened with suspension or removal and that member shall have the right to make representations in his/her defence and may be represented by a spokesperson on his/her behalf, before any action is taken to suspend his/her name from the register.

4. Subscription

- (a) Subscription for all categories of membership shall be determined by the Committee. The annual subscription becomes due and payable on becoming a member of the Club and thereafter annually in advance of the date and in the manner decided by the Committee. The date set shall be a date prior to 31st March each year. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears may be removed from the register by the Committee.
- (b) The Committee can relieve any member of his/her liability to subscribe.

- (c) Upon payment of subscriptions by members, the Secretary shall register that member with the AAI for the calendar year

5. Committee

- (a) The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of the Committee and it shall be the controlling body of the Club.
- (b) The Committee shall be comprised of the following: the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Men's Captain, the Ladies' Captain and at least five other Full Members.
- (c) The Committee shall be responsible for the formation of sub-committees as required. The Committee shall define the duties of such sub-committees, and retain control in all matters and activities which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Club, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such sub-committees. The Chairperson shall be an ex officio member of all sub-committees and shall give direction and assistance where appropriate.
- (d) The Committee shall be elected by the Full Members present, entitled to vote and voting at the annual general meeting. Only Full Members whose membership fees are paid up to date shall be eligible to vote. Only Full Members who have been Full Members of the Club for a period of two full calendar years and whose membership fees are paid up to date shall be eligible for election to the Committee.
- (e) Candidates for election must be nominated and seconded and must indicate beforehand their willingness to act if elected. Each member will be notified of those standing for election under paragraph 5(d). No person shall be eligible for election unless they are a fully paid-up member. (Note: Postal or proxy votes shall not be allowed). Casual vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by co-option.

6. President

- (a) He/she shall be the elected head of the Club and shall preside over the Club in all matters unconnected with the Committee, in particular, those that do not come within the functions of the Chairperson. The President shall endeavour to obtain maximum publicity for the Club and its members by informing the press of all achievements by members of the Club. The President shall assist where possible in obtaining sponsorship for the Club and individual members. All statements by the Club are to be cleared by the Chairperson or in his/her absence the Secretary and issued through the President.

7. Functions of the members of the Committee

- (a) **Chairperson:** He/she shall be elected head of the Committee and shall chair all meetings of the Club and be responsible to delegate and ensure that specific tasks are carried out.
- (b) **Secretary:** He/she shall keep meetings and record all decisions taken. The minutes of previous meetings shall be read by the Secretary, who shall keep members informed of all activities. He/she shall read all correspondence and other items received by him/her in his/her capacity as Secretary. The Secretary shall co-ordinate entry forms for all competitions in conjunction with the Men's and Ladies' Captains. A register of members shall be kept by the Secretary and must include full name, address, email address, telephone number and registration number of each member. He/she shall represent the Club at AAI meetings or in the event he/she is unable to attend, will obtain a substitute from the Committee.
- (c) **Treasurer:** the Treasurer shall receive all monies, including members' subscriptions and shall be responsible for the funds of the Club and shall establish and manage bank accounts on its

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behalf. He/she shall maintain a written record of the income and expenditure of the Club and prepare an annual statement of accounts, financial balance sheet and an annual report for submission to and consideration at, and the approval and adoption of the membership at the annual general meeting, financial year to end 31st August. The Treasurer shall not be entitled to spend more than €200.00 on any one occasion without the approval of the Chairperson or in his/her absence the Secretary. He/she shall administer the Club's funds in accordance with the instructions of the Committee and carry out all other duties properly assigned to him/her by it.

- (d) **Captains:** The Captains shall encourage and assist the appropriate members to achieve their personal and the Club's aspirations. The two captains shall be the team selectors for teams but shall have regard to the opinions of other members.

8. Period of Office

- (a) The year of election of the Secretary and Treasurer shall not coincide with the year of election of the Chairperson; all other Committee members shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

President: 2 year period

Chairperson: 2 year period

Secretary: 2 year period

Treasurer: 2 year period

9. General Meetings

- (a) The annual general meeting of the Club shall be held within the first four months of the start of the calendar year, each year. At least 21 days' notice in writing of the meeting shall be served on all members by the Secretary by post and/or by email and by placing notice on the club notice board. The notice shall include the agenda for the meeting. The annual general meeting shall receive the Chairperson's address and annual reports of the following:

- (i) The Secretary;

- (ii) The Treasurer, who shall furnish a statement of annual accounts.

- (b) The annual general meeting shall:

- (i) Elect the officers and members of the Committee;

- (ii) Determine the policy of the Club;

- (iii) Consider and decide on all or any other matters.

- (c) The Committee may convene a special general meeting. The Committee shall, on receipt of a request to do so from one third of the members, convene a special general meeting which shall be held within one month following the receipt of such a request.

- (d) Business shall not be transacted at any general meetings unless 10 (ten) fully paid-up members are present when the meeting proceeds to business.

- (e) Business not on the agenda of an annual general meeting shall only be transacted under the heading of any other business under paragraph 9(b)(iii) above.

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- (f) Notices of Motion for the annual general meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 14 (Fourteen) days before such meeting and shall bear the signature of both the proposer and seconder. Copies of such motions shall be provided by the Secretary to all members no less than 10 (ten) days prior to such meeting.
- (g) The Chairperson at any meeting shall have, in addition to his/her ordinary vote, a second or casting vote in the case of a tie.
- (h) Except as otherwise specifically provided for in the Rules, all matters shall be decided by a single majority vote of the members present.

10. Sponsorship

- (a) The Committee may enter into sponsorship and for this purpose may change the Club's name for competition purposes, but strictly subject to reverting to its original name on the termination of such sponsorship as at Article 1 hereof.

11. Winding Up

- (a) A resolution to wind up the Club shall be passed only at a general meeting, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- (b) If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Club. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under or by virtue of the Income and Property clause hereof (clause 2). Members of the Club shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.

12. Interpretation of Constitution and Rules

- (a) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Club Constitution and Rules; and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for, shall be final and binding on the members, and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any Court of Law.

13. Keeping of Accounts.

- (a) Annual accounts of the Club shall be kept and made available to the Revenue Commissioners on request.

14. Additions, alterations or amendments

- (a) No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the main object of the Club, the income and property clause, the winding up clause, the keeping of accounts clause or this clause of the Rules for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners.

15. General

- (a) A Notice may be given by the Club to any member either personally or by sending it by post or electronically to him at his last known address.
- (b) Where a Notice is sent by post, service of this Notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the Notice, and shall be deemed to have been effected at the time which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- (c) The failure to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.