

Bury & North Manchester Referees

www.buryrefs.org.uk

Rules of the Association

TITLE AND AIM

1. This Association shall be called "Bury and North Manchester Referees' Association".
2. The aims of the Association shall be:
 - a) To endeavour to improve the standard of refereeing;
 - b) To provide support, training and development so that the interpretation of the Laws of the Game is as consistent as possible;
 - c) To advise, protect and further the interests of members;

AFFILIATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

3. The three categories of affiliation to the Association will be:
 - a) FULL MEMBERS, who are entitled to all the benefits provided by the Association and are entitled to vote at all meetings and hold office. Full Members will be affiliated to the Referees' Association.
 - b) LIFE MEMBERS, who are provided with all the benefits of the Association free of charge and are entitled to vote at all meetings and hold office;
 - c) AFFILIATE MEMBERS, who may attend and vote at meetings and Monthly Development Sessions and hold office, along with any other benefits agreed by the Management Committee.Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all references to a "member" in these rules shall include all of the above categories of members. All members will be affiliated to the Lancashire Referees' Association Benevolent Fund.
4. Any person who is a Member agrees to be bound by these Rules.

The Association and all members (whether active or not) must comply and co-operate with the Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and procedures and the Football Association's Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and Procedures.

Subject to meeting the requirements above, any person may apply to become a Full Member or an Affiliate Member. For new Members, any membership benefits and the right to vote at meetings will commence 28 days after:

 - a) the Membership Secretary has received a completed application form, and
 - b) the Association has received any subscription due.
5. Members subscriptions for the following season may be determined by the general membership at a meeting in January, February or March. At least seven days notice shall be given to all members by the Secretary. If the subscriptions have not been determined by the end of March, they will be determined at the AGM.
6. The subscriptions are due by 1 June. Any member who has not paid by 31 August shall cease to be a member of the Association.
7. The Chairman shall have the right to suspend any member whose conduct is considered to be unbecoming to the Association and any further action if necessary shall be decided by the Management Committee.
8. The Association shall have the right to terminate the affiliation of any Member whose conduct is deemed to bring the Association into disrepute. Such a decision will be taken by the general membership, with at least seven days' notice given, after the matter has been discussed by the Management Committee. Any subscriptions paid that season by that member will be reimbursed, if requested within twenty-eight days.

GOVERNMENT, OFFICIALS AND DELEGATES

9. The Association shall be governed by a Management Committee, elected at the AGM, consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and four members.
10. Should any members of the Management Committee be absent from three consecutive Management Meetings except by reasons the Committee consider sufficient, such member shall cease to be a member thereof.
11. If during the period of any year any vacancies occur in the offices of the Association, the Management Committee in their discretion shall have the power to fill such vacancies.
12. At any meeting of the Management Committee duly summoned, three committee members shall form a quorum. The Management Committee shall be free to determine the format of its meetings and may, at its discretion, permit committee members to attend by telephone and/or video conference.

13. The Management Committee may delegate a group of members to deal with any matter they consider necessary. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer may be part of all groups.
14. At each AGM the following shall be appointed:
 - a) One Independent Examiner, who shall scrutinise the accounts and provide a report to the next AGM.
15. Nominations for President, Life Members and Patrons shall be made by two members, in writing or by email, and reach the Secretary no later than 1 April each year. Such nominations shall then be considered by the Management Committee, and subject to the approval of the Management Committee, shall then be voted on at the AGM.

The President shall be a member of the Association but may not be either a Life Member or a Patron. The President and Patrons shall be elected annually at the AGM.
16. Nominations for all offices shall be made by two members, in writing or by email, and reach the Secretary not later than 1 April each year. If insufficient nominations are received nominations may be taken at the AGM.

ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES

17. Amendments to these rules may only be made at the AGM or an EGM called under rule 18.

Any proposed amendments to these rules for consideration at the AGM must be in writing or by email, duly proposed and seconded, and reach the Secretary not later than 1 April. A two to one majority of members voting is necessary to approve any rule amendment.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

18. An EGM may be called at the request of ten members or at least half of all members, whichever is the lower. They shall state the reason(s) for the request and all must sign a written request or individually email their request to the Secretary.

The Secretary shall call the meeting, giving at least seven days notice to all members and stating the reason(s). The notice will normally be sent by email. In exceptional circumstances, the Management Committee may authorise the EGM to be held by telephone and/or video conference. If so, these arrangements must be specified in the notice of the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

19. The AGM shall be held on or before 30 May each year. In exceptional circumstances, the Management Committee may authorise the AGM to be held by telephone and/or video conference. If so, these arrangements must be specified in the agenda for the meeting sent in accordance with Rule 20.
20. At least seven clear days before the AGM the following items shall be sent to the members. The notice will normally be sent by email.
 - a) The agenda of the meeting;
 - b) The Balance Sheet and the Independent Examiner's Report;
 - c) Details of any proposed alterations to these rules;
 - d) A schedule of the nominations for office.
21. The Chairman of the meeting shall announce the result of all elections. Should the number of votes cast be equal, then the Chairman shall have the casting vote(s).

GENERAL

22. No member(s) of the Association shall be held personally liable for any loss (including consequential loss) when acting on behalf of the Association within the terms of these Rules.
23. The Association will indemnify all its officials against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Association (to the extent of its assets).
24. The financial year of the Association will end on 31 March each year.
25. Applications for tickets allocated to the Association shall be in writing or by email and reach the Secretary by 31 December. All applicants must be Members. If there are more applicants than tickets the recipients will be chosen by lot. All security procedures relating to the tickets shall be complied with by all concerned.
26. The Association may only be dissolved by way of a resolution at an Extraordinary General Meeting called under Rule 18. A two to one majority is necessary for this resolution to dissolve to be carried. In the event that the association is dissolved, any grant monies that have been received but not yet spent will be returned to the awarding body. Any remaining funds and assets will be donated to sports-related associations or charities as determined at the Extraordinary General Meeting.
27. Anything not provided for in these rules may, in their discretion, be dealt with by the Management Committee.