

COLCHESTER HARRIERS ATHLETIC CLUB

CONSTITUTION

General

1. The Club is known as The Colchester Harriers Athletic Club and will henceforth be referred to as The Club.
2. The Club is based at The Athletic Track, Circular Road, North, Colchester, Essex.
3. The East Anglian Children's Hospices and the Cardiac Risk in the Young are the main Club Charities.

Our vision and aims

1. To encourage and develop family enjoyment in athletics and social pursuits in the Colchester and surrounding area. The Club in addition to athletics aims to promote healthy recreational pursuits to include caravanning and camping, rambling and cycling. The Club endeavours to arrange at least two rallies per year for members, families and guests
2. To encourage the involvement of the public from all social and ethnic backgrounds in athletics as defined by the UK National Governing Body for Athletics.
3. To assist athletes in need.
4. To assist in the development of coaches by actively servicing their needs in relation to the development of athletic talent.
5. To assist in the provision of athletic equipment to the highest safety standards.
6. To assist in the improvement of existing athletic equipment particularly with reference to safety.
7. To raise general awareness of athletics as defined above, by organising publicity, events and exhibitions.

Membership

1. Membership to The Club is open to all individuals, regardless of difference of ability, background, race, religion, gender and age. Personalities are of equal worth and have equal entitlement to consideration for membership and once accepted as members to all the advantages and facilities that The Club can offer.
2. All competing members shall be amateurs as defined by Athletics UK or the appropriate governing body in the United Kingdom.
3. A person will only be deemed to be a member when the appropriate membership fee has been paid in full. Only fully paid up members will be eligible to compete for The Club. The annual membership runs from 1st April until 31st March the following year. Applicants applying for membership after 1 October will be required to pay 50% of one full year's subscription. A member may only resign from The Club in writing to the Secretary in accordance with UK Athletics Rules for Competition. A resignation may not be accepted if the member is financially indebted to The Club.
4. The Committee of The Club will set membership fees and any changes will be communicated to members at least three months before they come effective.
5. New members are subject of a three week "sounding out" period during which time they will not be eligible to compete for The Club in competition. Thereafter they will be invited to become a full member and the appropriate membership fee due.
6. Members who fail to pay their subscription in full by 1st September each year will have deemed to have resigned from The Club. (see rule 3 above)

7. The Club runs a child safe guarding policy for all junior members under the age of 16 years. The relevant information is attached to membership forms given to their parents/guardian.
8. Coaching will only be provided to Club members over the age 10 years.

Life membership

1. The Committee may, at its discretion, grant life membership to any member who has made a valuable contribution to The Club over a period of not less than ten years. Such members are not required to pay an annual subscription. All other fees are due.
2. The maximum number of life members is subject to the discretion of The Committee.

The Club Committee

1. The Committee, henceforth referred to as the Committee, shall comprise of the following Officers;
2. A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. A maximum of Ten members can be elected
4. An Honorary President
5. Other members can be co-opted as required
6. The committee shall be elected at the AGM
7. All Committee Members will remain (if re-elected) for no more than three consecutive years in the same office (except in exceptional circumstances to be agreed by a majority vote at the AGM)
8. Committee meetings will be held at least once every six weeks and on any other occasions as may be necessary, with a least five days' notice to all Committee members. Committee decisions can only be deemed valid if 50% of the elected members are present. (Co-opted members are deemed to be elected members.)
9. A member cannot be elected as an **Officer of The Club**, as at 2 above, until they have been a fully paid up member for two complete years.

General Meetings

1. Annual General Meeting (AGM) An AGM will be held during October each year. All retiring Committee members will be eligible for re-election within time limits set out above. Members will be given 28 days' notice of such meeting by notice on Official noticeboard at the Garrison Track and Club website. A quorum of at least 10% voting members or 30 voting members must be present; whichever figure is the lowest. To be eligible for a vote the member must be a fully paid up member of the Club at least one month prior to the meeting. Names will be taken at the door.
2. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) An EGM can be called at any time during the year by the Committee with 28 days' notice being given. Any voting member wishing to call such meeting shall inform the Committee in writing clearly setting out the reason for such a meeting. The proposal will need the signatures of a proposer, a seconder and have the backing and signatures of at least 10 named voting members. Rules re attendance at AGM's apply.

3. Motions for members meetings must be received by the Club Secretary in writing at least 14 days prior to meeting, setting out clearly the wording and reasons for motion. The proposer and seconder must attend such meeting. The written motion must be displayed for all members to see on the official Club noticeboard and website.

Voting

1. All full members over the age of 14 years are entitled to vote at either AGM or EGM.
2. The Committee shall deal with all matters not provided for in the Constitution, importantly issues arising from parents and/or guardians who are not eligible to vote.

Finance

1. The Treasurer shall maintain records of all Club income and expenditure and shall provide at the AGM written details of the annual income/expenditure for the previous financial year.
2. The Club accounts shall be independently audited annually and copies available for members at the AGM.
3. All bank accounts are only to be in the name of the Club.
4. Any three Committee Members can spend £150.00 on emergency equipment without the consent of the full Committee. Full details with receipts to be provided to the Treasurer and item to be discussed at the first available Committee meeting.
5. All Club cheques to be signed by two authorised signatories. The authorised signatories will be The Chairperson, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and one other long standing member.
6. If the Club is dissolved, funds in the accounts shall be donated to our nominated Charities at that time after all liabilities have been paid. If the Club amalgamates with another Club, the Club is not be deemed dissolved and all funds will be transferred to the new Club.

Conduct of Members

1. Any member whose conduct or actions are in any way detrimental to the best interests of The Club may be expelled or suspended from The Club by the Committee. The Club Secretary in accordance with Athletics UK procedures reports such action to Athletics UK.
2. The Club will fully investigate such matters, a small Sub Committee will report to the main Committee with recommendations.

Changes to Constitution

1. The Constitution can only be changed at an AGM or EGM.

Lance Williams. Chairman

Date: October 2015