

CONSTITUTION OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS UNION

Version 2.0

Article 1 – Name

1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the **Rugby Football Supporters Union** ("RFSU").

1.2 The RFSU is established as an independent, non-profit membership organisation representing rugby union supporters' clubs in England.

Article 2 – Vision

The RFSU believes that supporters are at the heart of rugby union.

Supporters create atmosphere, preserve tradition, sustain clubs through good times and bad, volunteer within their communities and help ensure that rugby remains accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

The RFSU exists to ensure that the collective voice of supporters is heard and respected.

Article 3 – Mission

To connect and empower supporters' clubs throughout English rugby union—across all competitions and for both women's and men's rugby—by advocating for supporters, sharing best practice, and working in partnership with the sport's governing and professional bodies for the benefit of the game and its communities.

Article 4 – Objects

The RFSU shall:

- a. represent the interests of rugby supporters' clubs;
- b. promote supporter engagement across all levels of English rugby;
- c. encourage the establishment of supporters' clubs where none currently exist;
- d. share knowledge, ideas and examples of good practice;
- e. encourage equality, diversity and inclusion;

f. improve the matchday experience for supporters;

g. encourage affordable access to rugby;

h. support volunteer development;

i. maintain constructive relationships with:

- the Rugby Football Union;
- Premiership Rugby;
- Premiership Women's Rugby;
- Championship Rugby;
- National League Rugby;
- clubs;
- supporters' organisations;
- Government;
- Level Playing Field;
- local authorities;
- police;
- transport providers;
- broadcasters;
- commercial partners;
- and other stakeholders.

j. commission research into supporter issues;

k. promote rugby's core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship.

Article 5 – Independence

The RFSU shall remain politically independent.

No external organisation shall control the RFSU or appoint members to its Committee.

The RFSU may work in partnership with any organisation where this advances its Objects.

Article 6 – Membership

Membership is open to recognised supporters' clubs representing rugby union clubs based in England.

Applications shall be made in writing.

Membership shall commence once approved by the Committee.

Article 7 – Classes of Membership

Full Member

A Full Member:

- pays the annual subscription;
- has one vote;
- may nominate candidates;
- may stand for office;
- may submit motions.

Each Full Member shall appoint one voting delegate.

A substitute delegate may attend where necessary.

Affiliate Member

Affiliate Members may include:

- newly established supporters' clubs;
- supporters' groups;
- overseas supporters' clubs;
- organisations with a shared interest.

Affiliate Members:

- may attend meetings;
- may speak;
- may participate in working groups;
- receive communications.

Affiliate Members shall not vote.

Honorary Membership

The AGM may award Honorary Membership to individuals who have given exceptional service to rugby supporters.

Honorary Members shall not vote unless representing a Full Member.

Article 8 – Rights and Responsibilities

Members shall:

- uphold this Constitution;
 - act respectfully;
 - promote rugby's values;
 - avoid bringing the RFSU into disrepute;
 - comply with safeguarding policies;
 - comply with equality policies;
 - comply with data protection legislation.
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Article 9 – Membership Fees

The AGM shall determine annual subscriptions.

The Committee may introduce reduced subscriptions for newly formed supporters' clubs.

Article 10 – Suspension and Expulsion

Membership may only be suspended where there is evidence of:

- serious misconduct;
- financial impropriety;
- discrimination;
- harassment;
- violence;

- persistent breaches of this Constitution.

The member shall:

- receive written notice;
- have at least 21 days to respond;
- have the right to attend the disciplinary hearing;
- have the right of appeal.

Appeals shall be heard by an independent Appeals Panel appointed by the AGM.

Article 11 – Officers

The elected Officers shall be:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Together these constitute the Executive Committee.

Article 12 – Duties

Chair

Responsible for:

- strategic leadership;
- chairing meetings;
- representing the RFSU;
- media engagement;
- ensuring good governance.

Vice Chair

Responsible for:

- supporting the Chair;
- leading specific projects;

- acting in the Chair's absence.

Secretary

Responsible for:

- constitutional compliance;
- meeting administration;
- minutes;
- registers;
- correspondence.

Treasurer

Responsible for:

- accounts;
- budgeting;
- banking;
- annual financial report;
- financial controls.

Article 13 – Additional Committee Members

The AGM may elect up to six ordinary Committee Members.

The Committee should seek representation from:

- Premiership clubs;
- Women's rugby;
- Championship clubs;
- National League clubs;
- community rugby;
- geographically diverse regions.

Representation is desirable but not mandatory.

Article 14 – Terms of Office

Officers serve for two years.

Ordinary Committee Members serve for two years.

Half of the Committee should retire each year where practicable.

Members may serve consecutive terms.

Article 15 – Casual Vacancies

The Committee may appoint interim officers until the next AGM.

Article 16 – Conflict of Interest

Committee Members shall declare any personal, financial or organisational interests.

Conflicted members shall withdraw from discussions where appropriate.

The Secretary shall maintain a Register of Interests.

Article 17 – Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

Meetings may be held electronically.

Five members shall constitute a quorum.

Decisions shall normally be reached by consensus.

Where necessary, voting shall be by simple majority.

Article 18 – Annual General Meeting

The AGM shall be held once each calendar year.

Business shall include:

- Chair's report
- Treasurer's report
- approval of accounts
- election of officers
- election of committee members

- subscription rates
- motions
- constitutional amendments

Twenty-one clear days' notice shall be given.

Article 19 – Extraordinary General Meetings

An EGM may be called:

- by the Committee; or
- by at least 25% of Full Members.

Only notified business shall be considered.

Article 20 – Voting

Each Full Member has one vote.

Voting may be:

- in person;
- online;
- by secure electronic ballot.

Unless otherwise stated:

Simple majority shall apply.

The Chair has a casting vote.

Constitutional amendments require two-thirds.

Dissolution requires three-quarters.

Article 21 – Working Groups

The Committee may establish standing or temporary Working Groups.

Examples include:

- Governance
- Communications

- Women's Rugby
- Community Rugby
- Supporter Experience
- Membership
- Events
- Commercial Partnerships

Working Groups report to the Committee.

Article 22 – Regional Forums

The Committee may establish Regional Forums.

Regional Forums may elect representatives to Working Groups.

Regional Forums have advisory status.

Article 23 – Finance

The RFSU shall maintain proper accounting records.

Two authorised signatories shall approve payments over a limit set by the Committee.

Annual accounts shall be independently examined.

Financial records shall be available for inspection by members upon reasonable notice.

Article 24 – Assets

Assets belong to the RFSU.

Committee Members shall not receive financial benefit except reimbursement of legitimate expenses.

Article 25 – Communications

Official communications may be delivered electronically.

Virtual meetings shall carry equal status to physical meetings.

Electronic voting shall be valid.

Article 26 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The RFSU opposes discrimination of every kind.

Membership and participation shall be open regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

Article 27 – Safeguarding

The RFSU shall adopt safeguarding policies consistent with RFU guidance.

Article 28 – Data Protection

The RFSU shall comply with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Article 29 – Codes of Conduct

The Committee may publish Codes of Conduct for:

- Committee Members
- Member Clubs
- Meetings
- Social Media
- Events

Article 30 – Complaints

The Committee shall maintain a formal complaints procedure.

Every complaint shall receive:

- acknowledgement;
 - investigation;
 - written outcome;
 - right of appeal.
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Article 31 – Constitutional Amendments

Amendments require:

- twenty-one days' notice;
 - a two-thirds majority.
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Article 32 – Dissolution

Upon dissolution:

- liabilities shall first be settled;
 - remaining assets shall transfer to another non-profit organisation with similar objectives;
 - no member shall receive financial benefit.
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Article 33 – Standing Orders

The Committee may adopt Standing Orders consistent with this Constitution.

Standing Orders may regulate:

- debate;
- elections;
- online meetings;
- committee procedures;
- working groups.

Standing Orders may not override this Constitution.

Article 34 – Interpretation

The Committee shall interpret this Constitution.

Any interpretation may be challenged at the next General Meeting.

Article 35 – Adoption

This Constitution was adopted by the founding members of the Rugby Football Supporters Union on:

Date:

Signed:

Chair _____

Secretary _____

Founding Members _____