



MID SUSSEX MARLINS SWIMMING CLUB LIMITED CLUB RULES

October 2014

To be read in conjunction with the Articles of Association

Approved by Board

RULES of Mid Sussex Marlins Swimming Club Limited (“the Club”) as at October 2014

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be Mid Sussex Marlins Swimming Club Limited

2. Objects

- 2.1 The objects of the Club are as set out in the Articles of Association.
- 2.2 All Directors of the Club shall form the Committee. All Committee members must become Directors of the Limited Company. Their obligations and conduct are set out in the Articles of Association.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The total membership of the Club shall not normally be limited. If however the Committee considers that there is a good reason to impose any limit from time to time then the Committee shall put forward appropriate proposals for consideration at a General Meeting of the Club. The members shall have the right to impose (and remove) from time to time any limits on total membership (or any category of membership) of the Club.
- 3.2 All persons who assist in any way with the Club’s activities shall become members of the Club and hence of the A.S.A. and the relevant A.S.A. membership fee shall be paid. Assisting with the Club’s activities shall include, but not be restricted to, administrators, associate members, voluntary instructors, teachers and coaches, Committee members, helpers, Honorary members, life members, Officers, patrons, Presidents, technical and non-technical officials, temporary members, Vice Presidents and verifiers or tutors of the ASA’s educational certificates.
- 3.3 Paid instructors, teachers and coaches who are not members of the Club must be members of a body which accepts that its members are bound by the ASA’s Code of Ethics, the Laws relating to Child Protection and those parts of the Judicial Laws, Judicial Rules and procedures necessary for their implementation and whilst engaged in activities under the jurisdiction of the ASA shall be subject to all the constraints and privileges of the Judicial Laws and Rules.
- 3.4 Any person who wishes to become a member of the Club must submit a signed application to the Secretary (and in the case of a junior swimmer the application must be signed by the swimmer’s parent or guardian). Membership shall be approved by the Club Manager duly authorised by the Committee.

The Club Manager shall be required to give reasons for the refusal of any application for membership. Any person refused membership may seek a review of this decision before a Review Panel appointed by the Committee (“Review Panel”) comprised of not less than three Directors of the Club. The Review Panel shall wherever practicable include one independent member nominated by the ASA South East Region. The person refused membership shall be entitled to make representations to the Review Panel. The procedures for review shall be at the discretion of the Review Panel whose decision shall be final and binding.

- 3.5 The Club shall not refuse an application for membership on discriminatory grounds, whether in relation to ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, political persuasion or sexual orientation.
- 3.6 The Club may refuse membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute, or, in the case of a swimmer, being unable to achieve the entry standards as laid down and provided by the Club to the applicant for membership.

4. Subscription and Other Fees

- 4.1 The annual members' subscriptions and quarterly swim fees (as applicable) shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and the Committee shall in so doing make special provision for different classes of membership as the Annual General Meeting shall determine.
- 4.2 The annual subscriptions and joining fee shall be due on joining the Club and thereafter on the 1st day of October each year. The annual subscriptions may be applied on a prorated basis in the first year proportionate to the date of joining if the Committee so determine.
- 4.3 Any member whose subscription is unpaid by the date falling 30 days after the due date for payment may be suspended by the Committee from some or all Club activities from a date to be determined by the Committee and until such payment is made.
- 4.4 The Committee shall, from time to time, have the power to determine the annual membership subscription and other fees. This shall include the power to make such increase in the subscription as shall, where the Club pays the individual ASA Membership Fees to the ASA on behalf of members, be consequential upon an increase in individual ASA membership fees. Any increase in subscriptions shall be advised to the members in writing with the reasons for any increase to be reported to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

5. Resignation

- 5.1 A member wishing to resign membership of the Club must give to the Club Manager written notice of his/her resignation providing a minimum of four weeks' notice. This period of notice shall override the requirement to give 14 days' notice in the Articles of Association. A member's resignation shall only take effect when this (Rule 5.1) has been complied with.
- 5.2 The member who resigns from the Club in accordance with Rule 5.1 above shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee or any other annual fees returned. The member shall be entitled to a refund of swim fees, if paid or invoiced in advance, taking into account the required period of notice.
- 5.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 5.1 above a member whose subscription is more than six months in arrear shall be deemed to have resigned. Where the membership of a member shall be terminated in this way he/she shall be informed in writing that he/she is no longer a member by notice handed to him/her or sent by email to his/her last known email address.

6. Expulsion and Other Disciplinary Action

- 6.1 The Committee shall have power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for the individual to remain a member. The Club in exercising this power shall comply with the provisions of Rules 6.3 and 6.4 below.
- 6.2 Upon expulsion the former member shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee to be refunded and must return any Club or external body's trophy or trophies held forthwith. Clubs in exercising this power are required to comply with the provision of Rules 6.3 and 6.4 below.
- 6.3 The Club shall comply with the relevant Judicial Rules for handling Internal Club Disputes ("the Rules") as the same may be revised from time to time. The Rules are set out in the ASA Judicial Laws and appear in the ASA Handbook. (A copy of the current Rules may be obtained from the ASA Department of Legal Affairs.)

- 6.4 A member may not be expelled or (subject to Rule 6.5 below) be made the subject of any other penalty unless the panel hearing the complaint shall by a two-thirds majority vote in favour of the expulsion of (or other penalty imposed upon) the member.
- 6.5 The Officers of the Club (or any person to whom the Committee shall delegate this power) may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider club activities, when in their opinion, such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the incident or matter will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate Judicial Rules.

7. Committee

- 7.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer and up to six (6) other Directors of the limited Company, all of whom must be members of the club. Further individuals MAY be invited to the Committee meetings by formal resolution of the Directors to take on a defined role including, but not limited to, President, Club Manager, Swimming Representative, but these representatives will not have voting rights. All Committee members must be not less than 18 years of age though the Committee may allow younger member(s) to attend meetings without power to vote.
- 7.2 The Committee shall appoint a member of the Club as Welfare Officer who must be not less than 18 years of age, who should have an appropriate background and who is required to undertake appropriate training in accordance with ASA Child Safeguarding courses. The Welfare Officer will have a right to attend Committee meetings without a power to vote.
- 7.3 The Directors shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Election to an Executive post or Committee member shall be for maximum three years at which point the member should resign and present for re-election if so desired. The newly elected Executive Officers and Committee members will take office when the Chairman has closed the meeting. One third of those holding an Executive post and the members of the Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election; the members so retiring being those who have been longest in office. Any casual vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee but any member so chosen shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election at that Meeting.
- 7.4 Committee meetings shall be held at least quarterly (save where the Committee itself shall by a simple majority resolve not to meet), and the quorum of that meeting shall be such number as shall represent not less than a simple majority of the Committee members (to include not less than one Executive Officer). The Chairman and the Secretary shall have discretion to call further meetings of the Committee if they consider it to be in the interests of the Club. The Secretary shall give all the members of the Committee not less than two days written notice of a meeting. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority (and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman (or the acting Chairman of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote.) The Secretary, or in his/her absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes.
- 7.5 In the event that a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the published start time, a meeting shall stand adjourned to the time and date falling seven days after the date of the meeting, or such other date and time as may be determined by the Chairman. If a quorum is not present at the adjourned meeting then those Committee members attending may act for the purpose of calling a Special General Meeting of the members, to which the provisions as to minimum notice contained in Rule 11.1 shall not apply.

- 7.6 In addition to the members so elected the Committee may co-opt up to four further members of the Club who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee and shall not be counted in establishing whether a quorum is present.
- 7.7 The Committee may from time to time appoint from among their number such sub-committees as they may consider necessary (and to remove (in whole or in part) or vary the terms of reference of such sub-committees) and may delegate to them such of the powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee may determine. All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee.
- 7.8 The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Club and shall have the sole right of appointing and determining the terms and conditions of service of employees of the Club. The Committee shall have power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the Club on behalf of all the members of the Club. The Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Accounts of the Club for each financial year be examined by an independent examiner to be appointed by the members in General Meeting. The Committee may delegate such responsibilities to the Club Manager at its discretion; the responsibilities and authority of the Club Manager shall be documented.
- 7.9 The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Club against all liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Club and the Directors liability shall be further limited in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Limited Company.
- 7.10 The Committee shall maintain an Accident Book in which all accidents to Club members at swimming related activities shall be recorded. Details of such accidents shall be reported to the ASA Membership Department. The Club shall make an annual return to the ASA Membership Department indicating whether or not an entry has been made in the prescribed form, which is to be found on the membership renewal form.
- 7.11 The Committee shall have power to make regulations, create by-laws (see Rule 13.1) and to settle disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

8. Ceremonial Positions and Honorary Members/Life Members

- 8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club, if it thinks fit may elect a President and Vice-Presidents. A President or Vice-President need not be a member of the Club on election shall, *ex officio*, be an honorary member of the Club and must be included in the Club's Annual Return of Members to the ASA.
- 8.2 The Committee may elect any person as an honorary member of the Club for such period as it thinks fit, or as a Life Member, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except that they shall not be entitled to vote at meetings and serve as Officers or on the Committee unless any such person shall have retained in addition their ordinary membership of the Club. Such honorary members and Life Members must be included in the Club's annual return as to membership.

9. Annual General Meeting

- 9.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be conducted as set out in the Articles of Association.

10. General Meeting

- 10.1 A General Meeting shall be conducted as set out in the Articles of Association

11. Procedure at the Annual and General Meetings

- 11.1 The Secretary shall personally be responsible for the sending to each member at his/her last known email address a written agenda giving notice of the date, time and place of the General Meeting together with the resolutions to be proposed thereat at least fourteen days before the meeting and in the case of the Annual General Meeting a list of the nominees for the Committee posts and a copy of the examined accounts. The Notice of Meeting shall in addition wherever possible be displayed on the Club Notice Board and the Club website where one exists.
- 11.2 The quorum for the Annual and General Meetings shall be seven members entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting or, if greater, such number as represents one-tenth in number of such members.
- 11.3 The Chairman, or in the Chairman's absence a member appointed by the Committee, shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. For the procedures for submitting resolutions to be considered at a General Meeting members are referred to Rule 9.3. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting or additional vote.

Only paid up members who have reached their 18th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and to vote on all matters. (Members who have not reached their 18th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and vote only on those matters determined by the Chairman as matters concerning juniors, such as the election of club captains.)

- 11.4 The Secretary, or in his/her absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes at the Annual and General Meetings.
- 11.5 The Chairman shall at all General Meetings have unlimited authority upon every question of order and shall be, for the purpose of such meeting, the sole interpreter of the Rules of the Club.

12. Alteration of the Rules and Other Resolutions

- 12.1 The Rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual or General Meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least (two-thirds) of members present and entitled to vote at the General Meeting. No amendment(s) to the Rules shall become effective until such amendment(s) shall have been submitted to and validated by such person as is authorised to do so by the County Association/ASA South East Region.
- 12.2 Any member shall be entitled to put any proposal for consideration at any General Meeting provided the proposal in writing shall have been handed to or posted to the Secretary of the Club so as to be received by him/her not later than 30 days in advance in the case of the Annual General Meeting or, in the case of a Special General Meeting, 18 days before the date of the meeting and thereafter the Secretary shall supply a copy of the proposal or resolution to the members in the manner provided in Rule 11.1.

13. By-Laws

- 13.1 The Committee shall have power to make, repeal and amend such by-laws as they may from time to time consider necessary for the well-being of the Club which by-laws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Committee or at a General Meeting.

14. Finance

- 14.1 All monies payable to the Club shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the Club. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by cheque signed by two of the three signatories who shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. For the purpose of electronic banking and payment the Treasurer shall have authority to undertake sole transactions however any such transactions must have the prior written authority of the Chairman or Secretary which shall be recorded and subject to audit. Any monies not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in its discretion think fit.
- 14.2 The income and property of the Club shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Club and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Club, (save as set out in Rule 17.3.).
- 14.3 The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any Officer, member or employee of the Club and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.
- 14.4 The financial transactions of the Club shall be recorded by the Treasurer in such manner as the Committee thinks fit.
- 14.5 The financial year of the Club shall be the period commencing on 1st April and ending on 31st March. Any change to the financial year shall require the approval of the members in a General Meeting.
- 14.6 The Committee shall retain all financial records relating to the club and copies of Minutes of all meetings for a minimum period of six years.

15. Borrowing

- 15.1 The Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Club for the purposes of the Club from time to time at their own discretion for the general upkeep of the Club or with the (prior) approval of a General Meeting for any other expenditure, additions or improvements.
- 15.2 When so borrowing the Committee shall have power to raise in any way any sum or sums of money and to raise and secure the repayment of any sums or sums of money in such manner or on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, and in particular by mortgage of or charge upon or by the issues of debentures charged upon all or any part of the property of the Club.
- 15.3 The Committee shall have no power to pledge the personal liability of any member of the Club for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.

16. Property

- 16.1 The property of the Club, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not more than four Custodians. They shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.
- 16.2 The Custodians shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Club and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at a General Meeting.
- 16.3 The Custodians shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the property of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the discharge of their duties.

17. Dissolution

- 17.1 A resolution to dissolve the Club shall be dealt with in accordance with the Articles of Association

18. Acknowledgement

- 18.1 The Members acknowledge that these Rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.

The following statement needs to appear on Club membership forms and is to be signed by the member and must also be countersigned by the parent, or a person having parental responsibility for the member, if under 18 years of age:

“I acknowledge the rules of Mid Sussex Marlins Swimming Club Limited as presented on the website and confirm my understanding and acceptance that such rules (as amended from time to time) shall govern my membership of the Club. I further acknowledge and accept the responsibilities of membership upon members as set out in these rules.”

19. Conflict

- 19.1 Where it is found that any Rules of the Club as set out in this document conflict with the Articles of Association of the Club then the Committee shall apply Common Sense as to which should take precedence save where this cannot be agreed and in such situation the Articles of Association shall prevail.