

WELSH HOCKEY UNION (NORTH REGION) MEN

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CONSTITUTION

Including amendments agreed at May 2007 AGM

1. Title

The organisation shall be called the "Welsh Hockey Union (North Region) Men, (WHU(NR))". The WHU North Region is defined as the Counties of Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Flintshire, Wrexham and North Powys to include Newtown. The WHU(NR) is a defined region of the WHU and it is responsible to the WHU Council.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the WHU(NR) shall be:

- (a) To encourage, promote, develop and control hockey in North Wales, including indoor hockey, regional representative teams and such other forms of hockey as may be decided by the WHU Council.
- (b) To appoint officials to set up and run League Hockey in North Wales according to rules defined by an Executive Committee and agreed by an AGM of WHU(NR) member clubs.
- (c) To appoint officials to set up and run North Wales Cup Competitions according to rules defined by the WHU Competitions Committee.
- (d) To appoint officials to be responsible for all forms of male Youth and Schools hockey in North Wales.
- (e) To receive reports from the North Wales Hockey Umpires Association, the Development Representative and the Regional Development Officer and take any appropriate action.
- (f) to do all such other things as may be necessary or conducive for the attainment of the above objectives including making, maintaining and publishing regional rules and regulations and administering the funds of the WHU(NR).

3. Membership

Membership of the WHU(NR) and /or its sub-committees shall be open to any club or school situated in the North Wales region and affiliated to the WHU.

4. North Wales Hockey Umpires Association

The interests of all umpires in North Wales shall be administered by the North Wales Hockey Umpires Association (NWHUA), membership of which shall be open to all umpires in North Wales. The NWHUA is an integral part of the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association.

5. Officers

- (a) The officers of the WHU(NR) shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Immediate Past Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.
- (b) The officers shall be elected for one year at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the WHU(NR). The Chairman is nominated from each represented club in turn and shall serve for one year only. In the year before being Chairman he shall serve as Vice-Chairman and in the year after he shall serve as Immediate past Chairman.
- (c) Any casual vacancy arising among the officers of the WHU(NR) shall be filled by the Executive Committee and the person appointed shall hold office until the next AGM.
- (d) The Chairman shall chair Executive Meetings. In his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall chair the meeting.
- (e) The WHU shall indemnify, on behalf of the WHU(NR), each WHU(NR) officer, official and employee when acting in good faith against claims by third parties for liabilities arising out of their official duties for or on behalf of the WHU(NR).

6. Executive Committee

- (a) The WHU(NR) shall be governed by an Executive Committee (the Executive) consisting of the officers of the WHU(NR) together with the Chairman of the NWHUA, a Youth and Schools representative, the North Wales League Co-ordinator and the Development Representative. Additional members with full voting rights may be approved at a General Meeting
- (b) The Executive shall have the power to co-opt extra members.
- (c) The Regional Development Officer and any co-opted members shall be non-voting members.
- (d) The NWHUA may send an alternative in the absence of the Chairman. Such alternative shall be eligible to vote.

7. Meetings of the Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive shall meet at least eight times each year. At least two of these meetings shall be open to all clubs in the region.

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- (b) Open meetings become General Meetings and all those present are entitled to vote subject to a maximum of two votes per club.
- (c) Any member of the Executive has the power to call a Special Meeting of the Executive by writing to the Chairman. This request shall express the purpose of the proposed meeting and upon receipt of the request, the Chairman shall immediately call a Special Meeting of the Executive.
- (d) The Secretary shall give at least fourteen days notice in writing of any Special meeting of the Executive, specifying the date, time and place of the meeting and the agenda for the meeting.
- (e) The quorum for meetings of the Executive shall be four members present and eligible to vote.
- (f) Every resolution at Executive meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of those present and voting. Except as mentioned in (g) below, no person shall cast more than one vote.
- (g) In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

8. Powers and Duties of the Executive

Subject to the overall authority of a General Meeting, the Executive shall be responsible for governing the WHU(NR) including policymaking. The role shall include:

- (a) The preparation, development, implementation and review of plans designed to achieve the objectives laid down in section 2,
- (b) Oversee the organisation of league and cup hockey in the region, including financial matters,
- (c) Oversee the organisation of Youth and Schools activities and ensure that the necessary resources are in place.
- (d) Take note of the programmes organised by the coaching and umpires committees and encourage the co-operation of all clubs,
- (e) Appoint delegates to WHU committees, receive reports, and take appropriate action,
- (f) Receive reports from the RDO and take appropriate supporting action,
- (g) deciding upon any matters not specifically covered in the constitution.

The Executive may delegate any of its powers to a committee or person as it thinks fit.

9. Annual General Meeting

- (a) The WHU(NR) shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May each year - the date, time and place to be determined by the Executive.
- (b) The business of the meeting shall be to elect the officers, to receive reports of the activities of the WHU(NR) during the preceding year, to receive the accounts of the WHU(NR) for the previous financial year, to fix the subscription fees for the ensuing year and to consider any other business specified on the agenda for the meeting.
- (c) There shall be in the hands of the Secretary by 1st April, prior to the AGM in May, full written details of any business required to be transacted, or any nominations for election. Such business or nomination shall be proposed by the Executive Committee or shall be proposed and seconded by two affiliated clubs.

10. Special General Meeting

- (a) A Special General Meeting shall be convened at any time by order of the Executive Committee or by a request in writing to the Secretary signed by the Secretaries of at least two affiliated clubs.
- (b) The request shall include full written details of all business to be transacted at the proposed meeting and upon receipt of the request, the Secretary shall immediately proceed to call a Special General Meeting.
- (c) No business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting other than that which is specified in the agenda for the meeting circulated beforehand.

11. Annual and Special General Meetings

- (a) The Secretary shall give at least fourteen days notice in writing of Annual and Special General Meetings specifying the date, time and place of the meeting and including the agenda for the meeting and details of any resolution to be proposed. The notice shall be sent to the members of Executive and the Secretary of each affiliated club.
- (b) The Chairman shall chair Annual and Special General Meetings. In his absence, the Vice-chairman shall chair the meeting. In their absence, the voting members present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting.

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- (c) Eight members present and eligible to vote shall form a quorum.
- (d) Every resolution at Annual and Special General Meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of those present and voting except for resolutions concerning amendments to the constitution, when a two thirds majority shall prevail (see Section 22). Except as mentioned in (e) below, no person shall cast more than one vote.
- (e) In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (f) There shall be no postal or proxy votes.

12. Voting Entitlement at Annual and Special General Meetings

Those entitled to vote at Annual and Special General Meetings shall be:

- (a) members of the Executive eligible to vote at Executive meetings,
- (b) two members from the WHU(NR) Hockey Umpires Association,
- (c) two members from each affiliated WHU(NR) club,
- (d) for league matters only, two members of each club with a team(s) in the league.

13. Finance

- (a) The financial year of the WHU(NR) shall be from 1 May one year until to 30th April the next year,
- (b) An income and expenditure account shall be prepared in respect of each financial year,
- (c) A copy of the account for the previous financial year shall be presented to the AGM for approval.
- (d) The WHU(NR) treasurer shall be responsible for the accounts, deposit accounts or other accounts as may be required for the purposes of and in the name of the WHU(NR). All cheques and other documents relating to such accounts shall be signed by either the Treasurer, the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the WHU(NR).

14. Subscription Fees

- (a) Each team represented in the league shall pay annually to the WHU(NR) a subscription fee which shall be due for payment each year within 30 days of the date of an invoice sent by the treasurer.
- (b) The amount of all such subscription fees shall be agreed at the AGM
- (c) The Executive shall have the power to impose sanctions on any clubs not paying its full subscription fees by the due date in any year. The sanctions to be considered may include disqualification from competitions (cup and/or league), deduction of league points, suspension from competitions (cup and / or league) and / or fines.
- (d) Each affiliated club in the Region shall provide to the Secretary of the Executive, by 30th June each year, the name, address and telephone number of its Secretary, to whom all WHU(NR) correspondence shall be sent

15. Minutes

Minutes shall be taken of all proceedings of all Annual and Special General Meetings and Executive Meetings and such minutes shall, upon questions being put and a vote taken, either at the meetings or at some subsequent meeting, be signed by the Chairman of the meeting. When thus signed these shall be conclusive evidence of the correctness of the entry.

16. Qualification for Regional Teams

A player shall be eligible to play for teams representing the region if he satisfies any of the following conditions:

- (a) A regular playing member of a regional club or school affiliated to the WHU.
- (b) Born in or resident in the region
- (c) Either parent born in the region

Players will only be able to represent regional age group squads if they are under the necessary age at the 1st January in the year of competition or otherwise as deemed by the European Hockey Federation / International Hockey Federation. In case of doubt the Executive Committee shall determine any player's eligibility to play for the region. It should be noted that these regional qualification rules differ from those for national teams

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17. Discipline and Appeals

- (a) In the event of any affiliated club or school, official, player, coach, umpire or member of an affiliated club or school being reported in writing to the Secretary for an alleged breach of this constitution or misconduct which has brought the game or the WHU(NR) into disrepute, the Executive shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee of three persons to enquire into the alleged offence.
- (b) After fully investigating the alleged breach or misconduct, the Disciplinary Committee shall advise the Executive regarding the action to be taken. Proven offences may result in an order that the offending club, school, official, player, coach, umpire or member to be expelled, suspended or dealt with in such other manner as the Executive shall think fit.
- (c) Any club, school, official, player, coach, umpire or member found guilty by the Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to appeal the WHU. Any such appeal must be lodged in writing with the Director of Hockey within 14 days of notification of the penalty.
- (d) The WHU(NR) reserves the right to refuse, suspend or cancel registration of any member or proposed member for such reasons that may be deemed to be appropriate, provided that the member shall have the right to appear before the WHU Council, within 21 days of any notification under this rule, to give such explanations as they may desire. Any person may make a written appeal against the Council's decision, by informing the Director of Hockey within 10 working days. An Appeals Committee, consisting of three independent and impartial persons, will be appointed to hear such appeals. The Appeal Committee's decision will be final and binding on both parties.

18. Conflict of Interest

Any member or officer of the WHU(NR) is required to observe the WHU constitutional clause concerning Conflict of Interest.

19. WHU Doping Control and Child Protection Policies

The WHU(NR) shall implement these and any other such Policies as may be issued by WHU Council.

20. WHU Disciplinary and Pitchside Codes of Conduct

The WHU(NR) shall implement these and any other such Codes as may be issued by WHU Council.

22. Constitution

- a) No amendments to this constitution shall be made except by a resolution at an Annual or Special General Meeting supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting.
- b) This constitution, and any amendments thereto, must be approved by the WHU Council before implementation.

23. Dissolution

No resolution for the dissolution of the WHU(NR) shall be passed except at an Annual or Special General Meeting and supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. In the event of such a resolution being passed, the Executive shall realise the property of the WHU(NR) and shall make provision for the WHU(NR)'s liabilities. The remaining assets at the date of dissolution shall be distributed in such a manner as shall be determined by the same Annual or Special General Meeting.