

Bridport Runners Constitution

1. Name

The Club will be called **BRIDPORT RUNNERS** (hereinafter to be referred to as "the Club"), and will be affiliated to **England Athletics**.

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club will be:

- To encourage the practice, promotion, development and participation of road and cross country running in Bridport and the wider community
- To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in road and cross country running
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the Club and provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.
- To organise open, Club, and Club handicap running races.
- To organise teams to represent the Club in championships and leagues and in such other competitions as the Committee shall decide.

- The Club shall cater for the following athletics disciplines: Road Running, Cross-Country Running and Fell Running.
- The Club shall seek to be affiliated to national and regional amateur athletic bodies as the Committee consider appropriate in order to carry out the objectives of the Club.

3. Club Equity Statement

This Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

- The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All Club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

- The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to Club disciplinary procedures.

4. Membership

To ensure all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment. Membership should consist of officers and members of the Club. Membership of the Club shall be open to persons who are amateurs as defined by UK athletics governing bodies at that time, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.

Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- Full member.
- Associate member.
- Junior member.
- Life member.

For young people age 16 or 17, a parent or guardian is to be entirely responsible for their attendance at all Club activities.

Each membership application must be made by using the application form available on the Club's website or from the Secretary. The appropriate subscription must accompany the application for membership.

Honorary life membership of the Club may be conferred upon any member by a majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in recognition of someone who has performed an outstanding service, or who has made an outstanding contribution to the Club.

The Committee shall have the power to suspend or exclude any member for contravention of this Constitution, documented rules or published codes of conduct that may exist at that time. In exercising these powers the Committee shall adhere to the Club's disciplinary procedures. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.

5. Membership fees

Membership fees will be set annually and determined at the Annual General Meeting. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

Fees will be paid: annually on 1st April each year

Members under 18 shall pay half rate subscriptions.

Members joining after the 1st January shall be deemed to have paid their subscription for the following year.

Any member failing to make payment by 31st October shall cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership.

6. Officers of the Club

The officers of the Club will be:

- Chair.
- Secretary.
- Membership Secretary
- Treasurer.
- Fund Raising Officer
- Publicity Officer.
- Coaching Coordinator.
- Welfare Officer
- Any other relevant position.

Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-appointment.

7. Committee

The Club will be managed through the Management Committee consisting of:

- All the Officers of the Club. Only these posts will have the right to vote at meetings of the Management Committee.
- The Management Committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and held no less than **3** times per year.
- The quorum required for business to be agreed at Management Committee meetings will be: **4**
- The Management Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the Club.
- The Management Committee will have powers to appoint subcommittees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Management Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- The Management Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the Club rules/regulations/constitution. The Management Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

8. Finance

All Club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club. The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the Club.

The financial year of the Club will end on: **31st March**

An **audited** statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Annual General Meetings

Notice of Annual General Meetings (AGM) will be given by the Club Secretary. Not less than 21 clear days notice to be given to all members.

The AGM shall be held in the months of March or April as dictated by the practical circumstances applicable at that time.

The AGM will receive a report from officers of the Management Committee and a statement of the audited accounts.

Nominations for officers of the Management Committee will either be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM, or accepted at the AGM as long as they are nominated and seconded and are already paid up members of the Club

Elections of officers are to take place at the AGM.

All members have the right to vote at the AGM.

The quorum for AGMs will be **10**

The Management Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

10. Discipline and appeals

All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the Club's child protection policy and procedures. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child protection concerns.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.

The Management Committee will meet to hear complaints within **10** days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within **3** days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced.

The committee should consider the appeal within **5** days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

11. Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the Club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the Club that remain will become the property of some other Club with similar objectives to those of the Club.

12. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

13. Declaration

Bridport Runners hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.