

NORTHUMBERLAND FELL RUNNERS (the "Club")

CLUB CONSTITUTION

1 Title & Objects

The name of the Club shall be "Northumberland Fell Runners".

The Club objects shall be to: -

- a) To provide its members with a Club dedicated to fell running and to promote the fell running interests of its members individually and collectively;
- b) To provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for our members;
- c) Where appropriate, to encourage the practice and development of fell running beyond the Club membership; and
- d) To abide by the rules of the UK governing body(s) to which the Club is affiliated

The Club's designated colours shall be a vest of purple with a green diagonal stripe and, if available, purple shorts. The Club shall encourage its members to promote the Club where possible by wearing a Club vest in competitive events.

2 Affiliation

The Club shall affiliate to UK Athletics via the regional body England Athletics (or such body as succeeds them).

The Club shall affiliate for fell running only.

3 Membership

Membership shall be open to persons over the age of 18.

Each applicant for membership shall complete the official application form located on the Club website.

Membership may be withdrawn by the Committee for any member deemed to have acted against the interests of the Club, or the sport, to sufficiently serious effect or brought the Club into disrepute (see Sections 13 - Grievance & Disciplinary Policy and 14 - Code of Conduct).

4 Subscriptions

Members shall pay an annual subscription which will become due on 1st January.

Membership subscriptions will be decided at an Annual General Meeting, and may differ in respect of individual status, or an Extraordinary General Meeting and any such change will come into force 14 days after the date of such Meeting.

New members joining for the first time after 1st October in any year will be exempt from the following year's subscription.

Members' qualification criteria for the annual Club Championships are set out in Section 11

Any member who fails to renew their subscription for a full membership year shall be required to re-apply for membership for any subsequent membership years.

5 Cessation of Membership

Any member wishing to resign or transfer to another club shall do so in writing (including email) to the Membership Secretary and follow such formal process in doing so as is required by the Club's governing body.

6 Management

The day-to-day management of the Club shall be vested in its Committee.

The Committee shall consist of those holding the following positions: -

- (i) Chairman,
- (ii) Secretary,
- (iii) Treasurer,
- (iv) Membership Secretary, and
- (v) Welfare Officer

each being designated as a Club Officer, to which may be added any role which may be required in order to comply with England Athletics governance rules.

In addition, to ensure the smooth running of the Club, volunteers will be sought to assume the following non Committee roles: -

- (i) Kit Manager,
- (ii) Club Championship Organiser(s),
- (iii) Social Secretary,
- (iv) Website Manager,
- (v) E Group Administrator,
- (vi) Social Media Administrator(s) (e.g. Facebook, Instagram),
- (vii) Hodgson Brothers Relay Co-ordinator, and
- (viii) British Athletics & Hill Relay Championships Co-ordinator

In addition new (non-Committee) roles may be created or existing roles made redundant, as determined by the Committee.

All Committee positions shall be for a period of one year and shall be elected by a vote of the members who are in attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

Only members can be nominated for a Committee position, and nominations must be made, and seconded by two other separate members.

The quorum for Committee decisions shall be a minimum of three Committee members, one of which must be the Club Chairman.

An individual may hold a maximum of 2 Committee posts at any one time.

No individual, save for the casting vote of the Chairman (see below), may have more than one Committee vote.

A Committee position may be held by more than one person jointly. In such a joint-office holding situation, that position shall carry only one Committee vote.

In the event of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

All Committee and non-Committee positions shall be Honorary, but this shall not prevent any holder of such a position from making a claim to the Club for any properly incurred expenses suffered in performing the duties of the position held.

The Committee shall have the power to:

- a) co-opt members for particular projects subject to co-opted members not having a Committee vote;
- b) consider and deal with matters referred to them for investigation;
- c) sanction, suspend or expel a member as a result of the Club's Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure (see Section 13) and / or for a breach of the Club's Code of Conduct (see Section 14);or
- d) call an Extraordinary General Meeting as provided for by Section 9.

7 Finance

Management of the Club's finances shall be vested in the Club Treasurer.

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

The accounts of the Club shall be prepared at 31st December each year and presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

The Club Treasurer shall have the vested power to incur expenditure of up to £300 on any one transaction for the Club Objects.

Any expenditure above £300 and up to £600 on any one transaction shall also require the authority of a second Club Officer who must also hold the position of either Club Chairman or Secretary.

As such, the Club Committee shall have the vested power to incur expenditure of up to £600 on any one transaction for the Club Objects without specific authorisation of the Club Members.

Any expenditure beyond £600 on any one transaction shall require the authority of the members at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

8 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held within two months of the end of the Club financial year for the purpose of:

- a) receiving the annual reports of the Committee;

- b) receiving and approving the accounts prepared by the Treasurer;
- c) electing the Club Officers
- d) considering and deciding other matters as the Committee or members present at the meeting see fit.

At least 14 days notice shall be given to members of the date and venue, which may include a "virtual" venue, for the Annual General Meeting.

Each member who has paid his/her subscription for the current Club year shall be entitled to attend and have one vote. Postal or proxy votes are not permitted.

In the event of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

9 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called within two months of: -

- a) the receipt of a requisition signed by at least 10 members or 50% of the membership (whichever is the lower) stating the purpose of the meeting; or
- b) a decision by the Committee to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting for a specific purpose.

At least 14 days notice shall be given to members of the date, venue, which may include a "virtual" venue, and purpose of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

Each member present who has fully paid his/her subscription at the time of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Postal or proxy votes are not permitted. In the event of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

No other business shall be conducted at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

10 Quorum

A quorum of members at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be eight or 50% of the membership (whichever is lower).

If, after 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting:

- a) if convened by the requisition of members, shall be dissolved.
- b) if convened otherwise, shall either be adjourned to a day named by the meeting or may continue at the election of those present.
- c)

11 Club Championship

The Club shall hold an annual championship for members of the Club.

The championship format and races will be selected by the Club Championship Organiser(s) who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

There will be separate awards for different age and male/female categories. An individual member can only compete in one age category which will be defined by the age of the individual on 1st January in that championship year.

The age categories will be Senior (i.e. under 40), V40, V45, V50, V55, V60, V65, and V70.

To be able to count a championship race as a qualifying race members must enter each such relevant championship race under the designation of Northumberland Fell Runners.

Out of fairness to other Club runners, members are strongly encouraged to wear Club vests in championship races.

All members competing in the championship up to and including age category V55 must complete a short, medium, and long race to qualify for an award.

For competitors, both male and female, in the age categories V60 and above there is no requirement to complete a long race, and their overall ranking in their age category can, if appropriate, be based solely on ranking points obtained from the short and medium races.

Existing members who have renewed their subscriptions by 31 March in any subscription year will be eligible to enter races under the Club's designation and to take part in the Club championship races for that year, even where they occur prior to such renewal date. Members who renew their subscription on or after 1 April in that subscription year will only be eligible to race under the Club's designation and to be permitted to count Club championship races that occur on or after their subscription renewal date.

New members shall immediately qualify to participate in the Club championships but may only include championship races that take place after the date upon which they join the Club.

The results of the Club Championship and eligibility therefore shall be vested in the Club Championship Organiser(s)

12 Constitutional Rule Amendments

The constitutional rules can only be amended at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

Recommendations for Constitutional rule amendments shall be notified to the Club Secretary at least 14 days before an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Constitutional rule amendments shall only become effective when approved by at least two-thirds of those present and who are eligible to vote thereon.

13 Grievance & Disciplinary Procedures

Any grievances and / or disciplinary procedures, including rights of appeal, in connection to safeguarding and misconduct issues shall be dealt with in accordance with the Club's Grievance and Disciplinary Policy.

14. Code of Conduct

All members will be required to comply with the Club's Code of Conduct and will be deemed to have agreed to do so by the act of renewing their membership subscription.

15. Dissolution

The Club shall be dissolved if at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a majority of three-quarters of those members present and who vote thereon.

If upon dissolution of the Club there remains, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property or funds whatsoever, all such property or funds shall be distributed equally among those members who are fully paid up members at the date of dissolution.

Constitution adopted on November 26, 2024 by a vote of members at an Extraordinary General Meeting