



CLUB CONSTITUTION FOR LEE VALLEY PADDLESPORTS CLUB

1. NAME

The club shall be known as Lee Valley Paddlesports Club.

1.1. Incorporation

The Club shall be an incorporated organisation so as to limit the liability of the club and its members. The incorporated organisation is registered at Companies House as Lee Valley Paddlesports Club Ltd. Lee Valley Paddlesports Club Ltd is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee without a share capital. Registered in England & Wales, Company Number 8905366. As the resident club at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, the registered address is Lee Valley White Water Centre, Station Road, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire EN9 1AB.

In accordance with the Companies Act 2006 all official business correspondence for the club (letterheads, official publications, financial transactions, websites) will legibly state the full registered name "Lee Valley Paddlesports Club Ltd".

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The aims and objectives of the Club are to:

- Promote community participation in paddlesports through provision of a paddlesports club; and
- Promote and provide facilities for the sport and recreation of paddlesports; and
- Provide coaching and competitive or recreational opportunities; and
- Ensure a duty of care to all members of the club; and
- Promote an enduring Olympic Legacy for canoeing.

2.2. In furtherance of the above objectives the Club is committed to treating everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, disability, or beliefs.

3. AFFILIATION

3.1. The Club shall be affiliated to British Canoeing and shall incorporate its rules and regulations:

3.2. In the event that there shall be any conflict between any rule or by-law of the Club and of the rules and regulations set out above in clause 3.1 the rules above shall prevail.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Limit

4.1.1 Total membership of the Club shall not be limited, however if the General Committee considers that there is good reason to impose a limit from time to time then the General Committee shall put forward such proposal to a General Meeting of the Members.

4.2 Eligibility

4.2.1. Any person who undertakes to behave in the best interest of the Club's objectives shall be eligible for membership regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religious or other beliefs.

4.3. Classes of Membership

- a. Adult members – 19 years and over
- b. Junior members – 18 years and under
- c. Family members – family membership will be available
- d. Associate members - by invitation of the General Committee to encourage non-paddling volunteers and LVWWC staff to be members of the Club. Associate members shall have full voting rights as members of Lee Valley Paddlesports Club Ltd.

4.4. Election of members

4.4.1. Candidates for election to membership shall make a written application to the Secretary of the Club on the form provided.

4.4.2. The power of election shall rest with the General Committee.

4.4.3. The General Committee shall be required to give reasons for the refusal for an application for membership in writing.

4.4.4. Any person refused membership may seek an appeal before an appeal panel comprising of 3 members.

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES

5.1. The membership fees (including different classes and joining fees) shall be determined by the members in General Meeting and shall be due on election and, thereafter, on or before 1st October in each year.

5.2. Any member that has not paid his/her membership fee for a period in excess of 30 days from the due date shall be immediately suspended from the Club until such payment is received or that Member is deemed to have resigned in accordance with this constitution.

6. RESIGNATION

6.1. Any member may resign by giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary.

6.2. A member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, after a period of 60 days he/she has not paid the annual subscription which became due on 1st October.

7. EXPULSION AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

7.1. All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted in writing to the Welfare Officer. The Club's published complaints procedure will then be followed.

7.2. Any member violating any of the rules or regulations of the Club or being adjudged guilty of unsatisfactory conduct may, by resolution of the General Committee, be suspended or expelled.

7.3. The General Committee may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular activities where it is deemed in the best interests of the Club.

7.4. Any member who is temporarily excluded or suspended or has had his/her membership terminated shall have the right to appeal against such decision to an appeal panel which shall comprise of no less than 3 members.

8. GENERAL COMMITTEE

8.1 The General Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Club as delegated by the Directors of Lee Valley Paddlesports Club Ltd and shall meet at regular intervals during the year, as required by the business to be transacted.

8.2. Special meetings of the General Committee shall be called by the Honorary Secretary on instructions from the Chairperson, or not less than three committee members.

8.3. The General Committee shall consist of Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer and other officers as deemed necessary. The appointment of officers should seek to achieve representation of interests from at least five different paddlesport disciplines within the General Committee.

8.4. Additionally, the General Committee may co-opt members of the Club to its number. In the case of a casual vacancy among the General Committee, the said Committee shall appoint another eligible person to act until the next AGM.

8.5.a Nominations for the position of Chairperson, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and other officers shall be proposed, seconded and elected by ballot at the General Meeting of the Members. The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall be eligible for re-election.

8.5.b No member of the General Committee shall seek re-election for a role on the General Committee that they have held for the past five successive years. If however, there are no volunteers from within the Club membership to be appointed to the role, the outgoing role holder may be proposed by the AGM and voted-in to continue in the role for a further year.

8.6. All decisions of the General Committee shall be taken by a simple majority (with the Chair having a casting vote) save that expulsion of a member shall require a two thirds majority of the General Committee.

8.7. A quorum for a meeting of the General Committee shall be the lowest odd number that represents a majority of the General Committee membership and where a quorum is not present the meeting shall be adjourned to a time and date not less than 7 days from the date of the meeting.

8.8. The General Committee may from time to time appoint from their number such sub-committees as they shall see fit and delegate to them such powers and duties as they may determine.

8.9. The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Club against all liabilities properly incurred by them in performing their duties.

8.10. Any member who is under the age of 16 years shall not be eligible for election to the General Committee.

8.11. Any member who wishes to become or to participate as a member of the General Committee shall declare potential conflicts of interest, to include but not limited to, commercial interests. Any member who is disqualified as an amateur under the rules of British Canoeing will not be eligible for election to the General Committee of the club but such a person may be co-opted without voting rights.

9. FINANCES

9.1. The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.

9.2. The financial year of the club will end on 31st March. Any change to the financial year shall require the approval of the Members in General Meeting.

9.3. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not, however, be the personal liability of the Committee but shall be the responsibility of the Club as a whole.

9.4. The club may not make payment to members for participation in the sport which would contravene amateur status nor can any profit be distributed to members, but any profits earned shall be contributed to a General Fund for furthering the objects of the Club.

9.5. Every AGM shall consider an appointment of an Honorary Auditor to examine the accounts of the Club.

9.6. The Committee shall retain for a period of six years all financial records relating to the Club.

10. BORROWING

10.1. The General Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Club from time to time only with the prior approval of the Members in General Meeting.

10.2. The General Committee shall have no power to commit the personal liability of any Member when seeking borrowing.

11. PROPERTY

11.1. All property of the Club, excluding cash at bank, shall be vested in [no less than two Members] acting as custodians. Such custodians shall act in accordance with the instructions of the General Committee when dealing with the property of the Club.

11.2. The custodians shall be elected at General Meeting by the Members and shall hold such position until removed at General Meeting or death.

11.3. The custodians shall be indemnified and kept indemnified by the Members against all losses costs and liabilities they may suffer as a result of the position as a custodian.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

12.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held, in the three month period preceding the start of each Club Membership Year, in accordance with the Club's Articles of Association (Articles 23 to 33 inclusive) and the paragraphs following of this Constitution.

12.2. There shall be laid before the meeting a statement of accounts made up to the 31st day of the month of March immediately preceding.

12.3. Not less than 21 days notice shall be given specifying to all Members the time and business of the General Meeting.

12.4. A resolution put to vote of the Meeting shall be decided by a show of hands of those entitled to vote, except when more than one nomination has been received for a position on the General Committee, in which case voting will be by secret ballot.

12.5. Motions for discussion at Annual General Meetings, not of origin from within the General Committee, shall be lodged with the Honorary Secretary at least 30 days preceding the AGM and signed by 5 (five) members entitled to vote.

12.6. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the instructions of a simple majority of the General Committee, or on requisition signed by not less than 10 % of the members of the Club entitled to vote.

13. SECTION COMMITTEES

13.1. The Club may organise various sections to cover the various activities of paddlesports.

13.2. The Section Committees shall each consist of a maximum of 3 (three) members elected by the section concerned, one of whom shall be the section Captain and/or section secretary. A Section Committee may nominate other members of the section to serve the Section Committee.

13.2. The Secretary of each section shall keep minutes of all section meetings and be prepared to produce these if required at General Committee meetings. He/ she or she shall also be responsible for the collection of all monies relating to the section and shall submit a balance sheet showing the financial state of the section at the AGM. He/she shall also be prepared at all General Committee meetings to give a statement of the section's finances.

13.3. Section Committees may draw up rules and regulations necessary for the efficient management of the section, but such rules and regulations shall not become operative until approved by the General Committee.

13.4. Section Committees shall meet at such intervals as are required to satisfactorily conduct the business of the Section, or upon a demand signed by not less than two Club Members who are members of the section committee and/or recognised participants in the Section's activities.

14. SAFETY RULES

The General Committee shall be empowered to draw up rules for the safe conduct of paddlesports activities and should be adhered to by all members.

15. DISSOLUTION AND TERMINATION

15.1. The Club shall not dissolve except by a resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting passed by a three quarters majority of the Members present and entitled to vote. A date for dissolution must be set and dissolution will take place immediately on that date.

15.2. Following dissolution of the Club any surplus assets (after the discharge of all liabilities) shall be handed over to British Canoeing for use in related amateur Sport. Any matter not provided for in this constitution, or any question over the interpretation of it shall be dealt with by the General Committee whose decision shall be final.

16. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

16.1 The Constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

17. DECLARATION

Lee Valley Paddlesports Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

SIGNED:  DATE: 05/12/2023
Name: Jonathan Males.....
Club Chair

SIGNED:  DATE: 05/12/2023
Name: Martin Smyth.....
Club Secretary

VERSION CONTROL

Version 5.0 of the LVPC Constitution was approved by the LVPC EGM on 5th December 2023 with an update to para.12.1 of the LVPC Club Constitution “The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Autumn of each year...” to read “The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the three month period preceding the start of each Club Membership Year”.

Version 4.0 of the LVPC Constitution was approved by the LVPC AGM on 17th November 2022 with (i) addition to para 4.3 Classes of Membership; update to Para 8.5 on the appointment and tenure of General Committee members; amendment to wording of Appointment of Honorary Auditor (Para 9.5); and, amendment to wording of para 13.4 on Section Committees.