

Club Constitution of Buccaneers Rugby Football Club

Updated by Executive April 2015 – to be approved at AGM 2015

- 1. The Club shall be called “Buccaneers Rugby Football Club”.**
2. The Objects of the Club are the playing and furtherance of rugby union football. All other games and pastimes or athletic activities, whether indoors or outdoors, lawfully, permitted by the Club Executive Committee in or on the Club’s property shall be ‘subject to the control of the Buccaneers Rugby Football Club Executive Committee and shall be incidental or ancillary, subservient in all respect to rugby football and its best interests in the Club

Buccaneers RFC is a community based Club which is opened to all strands of society, encouraging the enjoyment of the game of Rugby Union, by all age groups, both on and off the pitch. The Club should strive to succeed at every level, offering the opportunity to players to progress to the highest level, and ensuring that the resources and structures are in place, for all age groups, to sustain Buccaneers status of the top of Irish Club Rugby.
3. The title of the Club’s Grounds and premises and its registered address shall be known as “Keane Park”, Clonbrusk, Coosan, Athlone, County Westmeath unless otherwise decided by the executive committee from time to time.
4. The Club’s colours shall be black and yellow unless otherwise agreed by the executive committee.
5. The Club shall consist of life, full, youth, family, pirates, temporary and associate members. Youth, temporary and associate members shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting or to engage in the management or control of the Club.
6. The subscription for all membership shall be recommended at the Annual General Meeting of the Club including a subscription for Life, Full, Youth, Associate, and Family Membership. The Family Membership Subscription shall entitle the nomination of one full member, one associate member and all the members of the family eligible for youth membership.
7. Honorary Membership shall be open to all persons who have rendered exceptional services to the Club or to the games and/or activities of the Club. They may be elected for life or for any defined period but, unless otherwise stated in the Minute made on the occasion of their election their membership, shall terminate at the close of the current year but may be renewed by the Executive Committee of the Club from year to year. Honorary Members shall have all the privileges of full members and they shall not be obliged to pay the subscription as provided for in Rule 15.
8. Full Membership of the Club which shall be for a period of not less than one year shall be open to all persons of eighteen years of age and over.
9. Youth Membership shall be opened to all persons of eighteen years of age and under or in full time education.
10. Temporary and Associate Membership shall be open to all persons actively involved in such additional activities as may be promoted by the Club. They may be admitted for periods not exceeding twelve months.
- 11.

Application for Membership: – persons seeking admission as a member of any Class shall be proposed by a full member and seconded by another full member and balloted on by the Executive Committee. The Application must be approved by a majority of 75% of the executive members attending the meeting and entitled to vote.

12. The names and addresses of persons proposed as candidates for membership of the Club shall be displayed on a conspicuous place in the Club premises for at least one week before their election and an interval of not less than two weeks shall elapse between nomination and election.
13. At the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Club the foregoing procedure (Club Rules 5 to 12) need not apply in cases other than the election of full members.
14. The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend from Club activities or to impose such other sanctions as it deems appropriate in the circumstances against any member of the Club whose actions are in the opinion of the Executive Committee, prejudicial to the interests of the Club having first investigated the matter and having given the effected member an opportunity to answer the complaint.

The Honorary Secretary shall keep a list of the names and addresses of members and shall on request furnish to each member on his election a copy of the rules.
15. The Annual Subscription of members, other than Honorary Members, shall be decided by the Executive Committee of the Club. Subscriptions are payable in advance.
16. Any Member other than an Honorary Member whose annual subscription is not paid prior to October 31st in any calendar year shall not be eligible to participate in any of the privileges attached to members of the Club.
17. The Executive Committee shall have power to grant temporary membership under such terms as it thinks fit to any person whose membership shall have lapsed under the foregoing Rule.
18. The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of an Executive Committee and it shall be the controlling body of the Club. The Executive Committee must act in the best interest of the Members of the Club. No member of the Executive Committee or a sub committee shall act where potential conflict of interest arises.
19. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the full members present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting and nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be any two full members. All persons serving on Committees must be paid up or honorary members.
20. The Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of one year or until the following Annual General Meeting whichever is sooner.
21. **The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following:**
 - o **President of the Club,**
 - o **Senior Vice-President,**
 - o **Junior Vice-President,**
 - o **Honorary Secretary,**
 - o **Honorary Assistant Secretary,**
 - o **Honorary Treasurer,**
 - o **Honorary Assistant Treasurer,**
 - o **Club Senior Representative to the Connacht Branch**
 - o **Representative of the Trustees**

- o **Media Officer**
 - o **Chairperson of the Football Committee**
 - o **Facilities Chairperson**
 - o **Commercial & Marketing Chairperson**
 - o **Youths Secretary**
 - o **Minis Secretary**
 - o **Membership Registrar**
 - o **The immediate past President**
- 22.

Any member duly nominated by the club to hold Executive Office in the IRFU and/or Affiliated Branch of the IRFU shall be entitled to non-voting position on the club's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the sole discretion to appoint sub committees and to review, alter or terminate such sub committees as required. It shall define the duties of such sub-committees and retain control in all matters and activities, which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Club including the disposal of the funds in the hands of sub-committees. All sub-committees shall report regularly to the Executive Committee. The President shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Sub-Committee meetings.

23.

The Executive Committee shall have power to nominate the Chairperson of such sub-committees. All sub committees shall automatically terminate at the Annual General Meeting and may be re-appointed, altered or reviewed by the incoming Executive Committee.

24.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a month throughout the season and five members shall constitute a quorum at a Meeting of the Executive Committee.

25.

The Executive Committee shall administer the business and affairs of the Club and the property under its control in accordance with the aims and objectives specified in these Rules and shall have all such administrative powers as may be necessary for properly carrying out the aims and objects of the Club.

26.

Each Member of the Club shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon any complaint or representation sent by him/her in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

27.

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee of the Club, over all General Meetings and is entitled to preside over all Sub-committee meetings. In his/her absence, the Senior Vice-President shall preside and in their absence, the Junior Vice-President shall preside. If the President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President are all absent, the Meeting may elect a member present to chair the Meeting. The Chairperson at every Meeting shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote.

28.

Any member of the Executive Committee who shall have absented him/herself from three consecutive Meetings without reasonable explanation shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

29.

Should any member of the Executive Committee resign or his/her position otherwise lapse the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy by co-opting from the body of the full membership.

30.

All full members whose subscriptions at the prescribed rate are not in arrears shall be eligible to vote at the General Meeting of the Club and voting shall be by show of hands or, where requested by two full members entitled to vote, by secret ballot. Where there is any other dispute as to the voting procedure to be adopted the Chairman of the Meeting shall be the sole Arbitrator.

31.

- Not less than twenty eight days final notice of Annual General Meetings shall be given by the
32. Honorary Secretary to all full members of the Club. *Note:* notifications have to be received by full members of the Club 28 days or more prior to AGM.
 33. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of May or on the earliest possible date thereafter in each year.

In the case of the Annual General Meeting, all motions and nominations must be approved by two full members and in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. All motions and resolutions to be circulated to members seven days before AGM.

34.

The following business shall be transacted and approved by the full members entitled to vote by simple majority at the Annual General Meeting: -

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Annual Report submitted by the Honorary Secretary

Financial Statement submitted by the Honorary Treasurer

Annual Football Report

Recommendation of Subscription Rates

Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

35. **Notices of Motion**

General Business

A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called by the Honorary Secretary within twenty one days if directed by the Executive Committee or demanded in writing by not less than ten full members

36. who in their requisition shall state the object of such a Meeting. No other business shall be transacted at that Special Meeting.

37. Twelve members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at the Annual General or Special General Meeting of the Club.

(a)

ASSETS AND TRUSTEES

- (b) The Club shall have power to acquire and hold and sell, lease, mortgage or charge real and personal property.

The property of the Club shall be vested in Trustees and the number of such Trustees shall be not more than five or less than two. Trustees shall be appointed at a General Meeting of the Club. No Trustee of the Club shall be appointed unless he/she shall have been previously approved in writing

- (c) by the IRFU Committee and no Trustee of the Club shall be removed from office without the sanction of a Resolution passed at a General Meeting of the Club.

- (d) The Trustees shall, when and so often as they shall be required to do so by resolution of the Executive Committee, sell, lease, mortgage, charge or otherwise dispose of or deal with any property vested in them.

Each new Trustee shall hold office for 10 years and shall be eligible for re-election. Any vacancy, which occurs, will be filled at the next Annual General Meeting of the club. Any vacancy occurring due to death, retirement, absence, incapacity or unfitness shall be filled at the next AGM. The

- (e) Surviving or continuing Trustee or Trustees shall have power to act notwithstanding any casual vacancy in the number of Trustees.

A Certificate signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of a Meeting at which any Resolution referred to in this Rule has been passed shall be conclusive evidence of the passing of such Resolution in the

- (f) manner provided by this Rule and of the terms of such Resolution. The Acquisition or Disposal, Lease or Rental of land or buildings must be approved at a General Meeting.

If the Trustee when directed by Resolution of the Executive Committee to perform a certain act considers the performance of such an act is of such importance that they consider that the members shall be consulted, they may refuse to perform such act until the members have been consulted at a General Meeting and a resolution passed authorising or refusing to authorise them perform such act as was originally directed by the Executive Committee. A Representative of the Trustees shall be nominated by the Trustees and approved at the Annual General Meeting and shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Executive Committee. Every Trustee, member of the Executive Committee and duly appointed member of a Sub Committee, shall be indemnified out of the assets of the club for all acts properly carried out by him/her in pursuance of his/her duties. If such assets are insufficient then he/she shall be indemnified by the full members jointly against all losses or liabilities, which he/she may sustain or incur in or about the proper execution of the duties of his/her office. No such person shall be liable for any loss, damage or liability which may happen or be

- (g) incurred by the club due to the execution by him/her of the duties of his/her office unless the same shall occur through his/her own default or dishonesty or by gross negligence.

- 38. The Club shall indemnify and save harmless a Trustee or any Member of the Executive Committee in respect of any loss or out of pocket expenses bon-fide incurred by him/her in or about the execution of his/her trust or powers.
- 39. The Honorary Secretary shall convene all Executive, and General Meetings, keep a record of such Meetings in the Minute Book of the Club and submit an Annual Report.

- The Honorary Treasurer shall coordinate Annual Budgets as determined by the Executive and shall keep correct Accounts and Books showing the financial affairs and receipt and disbursements of the Club and shall
- 40. furnish the Executive Committee with particulars of same from time to time as may be required. He/she shall submit Annual Accounts duly audited at least once per year to a General Meeting.

- The Executive Committee shall open Bank Accounts on behalf of the Club and all cheques drawn on the said Bank Accounts shall be signed by at least two officials, members of the Executive Committee or such other person, as may be designated by the Executive Committee.
- 41.

(a)The Executive Committee shall be empowered to borrow for the purposes of and on behalf of the Club such amounts of money either at one time or from time to time at such rates of interest and in such form and manner and on such security as they shall think fit and thereupon the Trustees shall at the direction of the Executive Committee make all such dispositions of the Club property or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto as the Executive Committee may deem proper for giving security, for such loans and interest.

- (b) The Trustees of the Club shall be empowered to borrow on behalf of the Club as Trustees such sums of money to an extent not exceeding such amount and upon such terms and conditions as may be authorised by the Executive Committee of the Club. To secure the aforementioned borrowings the
- 42. committee shall be empowered to give such security which may be authorised by the Executive Committee of the Club.

- No Order or Contract relating to matters other than bar stock, light and heat, rates and insurance and other ongoing expenses of this nature shall be valid or binding on the Club unless it is sanctioned by the Trustees and all enquiries for Tenders are to have this Rule endorsed thereon; provided always
43. that the Executive Committee shall have power to order goods or make Contracts not exceeding €30,000 in value without first getting the consent of the Trustees.
 44. The Executive Committee shall have power to raise money for the purposes of the Club by such means as it may deem expedient in the interests of the club.

- Should any Motion at any General Meeting of the Club be considered by not less than twelve members present and voting to be inimical to the best interests of Rugby Football in the Club, such Motion shall be referred to the I.R.F.U. Committee whose decision whether or not the Motion be so inimical shall be final and binding and pending the decision of that Committee no steps shall be taken
45. to implement the Motion notwithstanding that it shall have received consent.
 46. The members of a visiting club and teams shall, for the day of the match only, be honorary members of the club as shall the match officials of any match played on the club's grounds.

- Alterations and additions to these Club Rules may be made at any Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, provided that the resolution proposing same is carried
47. by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

- Members wishing to propose alterations or additions to these Club Rules must send notice of the proposed alterations or additions in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting or may do so by calling a Special Meeting as provided for in the Rules.
- 48.

- The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the Interpretation of these Club Rules and of any bye-laws and regulations made there under and the decision of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these
49. Club Rules or by the Bye-laws and regulations made there under shall be final and binding on the members subject to a final appeal to a General Meeting.

The Executive Committee may prepare bye-laws and regulations for the proper control and management of the Club which shall be submitted for ratification to an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Club. Alterations, deletions or additions to such bye-laws and regulations may be made only at the following Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the Purpose.