

MRHA CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The Association shall be called the “Midland Region Hockey Association” (hereinafter referred to as “The Association” or MRHA) and shall, subject to any overriding powers of the England Hockey Ltd (EH) of which it is a Constituent Body, be the governing body for all hockey within the Midland Region.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

These shall be to:-

- 2.1 promote, encourage and extend hockey for adults and young people in clubs and schools;
- 2.2 arrange such Leagues and other Competitions as may be approved by the Council;
- 2.3. select and train squads of players to represent the Midland Region;
- 2.4 organise umpiring and umpire coach education and improve standards of umpiring;
- 2.5 organise coaching and coach education and improve standards of coaching and playing;
- 2.6. support clubs and schools seeking to improve playing facilities;
- 2.7. raise funds by any means approved by the Council.

3. CONSTITUENT BODIES

3.1 The following County Associations, each of which shall abide by and be bound by this Constitution, shall be the Constituent Bodies of MRHA. Except where stated below, each shall encompass men’s, women’s and mixed hockey.

- 3.1.1. Bedfordshire (women)
- 3.1.2. Derbyshire
- 3.1.3. Leicestershire & Rutland
- 3.1.4. Northamptonshire
- 3.1.5. Nottinghamshire
- 3.1.6. Shropshire
- 3.1.7. Staffordshire
- 3.1.8 Warwickshire
- 3.1.9 Worcestershire

3.2 The boundaries of the County Associations referred to in 3.1 shall be those pertaining on 31st May 1997.

3.3 A County within the boundaries of The Association obtaining on 31st May 1997 and having a minimum of three affiliated clubs may apply to MRHA for permission to form an association. The Board of EH, in conjunction with MRHA, have the right to confer or withdraw County status.

3.4 Only with the prior approval of MRHA Council and of the Board of EH, shall any association of leagues, clubs, schools or umpires within MRHA be formed.

3.5 The Midland Region Hockey Umpiring Association (MRHUA) shall be a Constituent

Body of the MRHA.

3.6 Duties of Constituent Bodies:-

- 3.6.1 to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on a date prior to the MRHA AGM;
- 3.6.2. by the date(s) set by Council each year, to submit to the Secretary of MRHA:-
 - 3.6.2.1. any nominations for Officers of MRHA;
 - 3.6.2.2. any proposals for the AGM (Clause 5.1.5);
- 3.6.3. each year on a specified date, to submit to the Secretary of MRHA:-
 - 3.6.3.1. names and addresses of its Officers and Officials for the subsequent season;
 - 3.6.3.2. names and addresses of its Representatives to the Council and to the Committees (Clauses 9.1.1.8)
- 3.6.4. to inform immediately the Secretary of MRHA of any changes of their affiliated clubs;
- 3.6.5. to collect from each of its members, any relevant affiliation fees.

3.7. No association or combination of clubs shall be formed in the Midland Region without sanction of the Council of the Association.

3.8 Every constituent body shall submit their rules and any alteration that may hereafter be made to the Council of the Association for approval and comments and for transmission to the Board of England Hockey..

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. FULL MEMBERSHIP, which shall be the only category of membership available to clubs and schools, shall be by affiliation to the relevant County Association, to MRHA and to England Hockey. All affiliated clubs and schools shall abide by and be bound by this Constitution. A bona-fide member of any affiliated County Association, Umpires Association, club or school shall be deemed to be a member of MRHA.

4.1.1 Clubs:

- 4.1.1.1. a club shall normally affiliate only through the County Association within whose boundaries it is situated;
- 4.1.1.2. no County Association may accept affiliation of a club, which is situated geographically outside the MRHA, except with the prior approval of Council;
- 4.1.1.3. a club, or the men’s or women’s sections of a club, may continue to affiliate through the County Association of which it was a member on 31st May 1997;
- 4.1.1.4. if a club moves to a ground

within the boundaries of another County, it may continue to affiliate through the County of which it was formerly a member.;

4.1.1.5 at the discretion of Council, occasional clubs with no direct County links may affiliate directly to MRHA;

4.1.1.6. No club shall be accepted as a member unless its name clearly distinguishes it from any other club already affiliated;

4.1.1.7. no club shall change its name, nor incorporate any part of the names of a sponsor in its title without prior permission of the Board of England Hockey.

4.1.1.8. without the prior permission of the Councils of the MRHA and EH, no affiliated club shall play a club not affiliated, unless the opposition is an invitation team raised for a specific event.

4.1.2 Schools: A school shall normally affiliate through the County Association within whose boundaries its building or ground is situated. If, however, the school moves, or the location of its ground is changed, it may continue to affiliate through the County Association of which it was formerly a member.

4.2 On application from the club or school concerned, the Council of MRHA and the Board of EH may, after consultation with the relevant County Associations, permit a club or school to affiliate through any County Association.

4.3 Individual Special Membership

The Council of the Association may create and confer such special categories of membership as it may see fit and will determine the rights and privileges conferred by such membership.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

5.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.1.1 The AGM shall be held each year in May at a venue to be decided by the Council.

5.1.2 Notice of the AGM, together with a copy of the Agenda; a list of nominations for Officers as defined in Clauses 7.1; shall be sent to members of Council, each affiliated club and school at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. The annual accounts, certified by the scrutineer, shall be laid before the meeting.

5.1.3 Business to be transacted:-

5.1.3.1. presentation of reports and accounts;

5.1.3.2. election of Officers;

5.1.3.3. appointment of a Financial Scrutineer;

5.1.3.4. amendments to the

Constitution;

5.1.3.5. determination of affiliation fees;

5.1.3.6. any other business of which due notice has been given.

5.1.4. Except for those alterations arising from decisions which the Council is empowered to make, no clause of the Constitution shall be amended, nor shall any resolution passed at a previous AGM be rescinded, save by a resolution, notice of which shall be given on the Agenda, carried by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

5.1.5. Any resolution or nomination for Officers for submission to the AGM shall, unless proposed by the Council, be submitted in writing by a County Association to the Secretary not less than six weeks before that meeting.

5.1.6. Subject to the provisions of Clause 5.1.4 and Clause 6, all business at the AGM shall be transacted by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

5.1.7. The incumbent President shall be the Chairman. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall take the Chair. In the absence of the President and both Vice-Presidents, the meeting shall elect a member of Council to Chair the meeting.

5.1.8 The following shall be entitled to vote:-

5.1.8.1. The Officers and other voting members of Council;

5.1.8.2. Life Members: The Officers of MRHA will consider and make recommendation to Council for the proposed election of any new Life member.

5.1.8.3 Two representatives from each Constituent Body, except Bedfordshire (women) who shall have one representative.

5.1.8.4. One member from each affiliated club, one schools representative from each County;

5.1.8.5. No member may cast more than one vote, other than the Chairman who shall also have a casting vote.

5.1.9. Any other member of a Constituent Body or of an affiliated club or school may attend an AGM, but shall not, unless by permission of the Chairman, take part in the proceedings.

5.1.10. Twenty-five members present, and entitled to vote, shall be a quorum.

5 GENERAL MEETINGS

5.2. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

5.2.1. The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time:-

5.2.1.1 by order of the Council.

5.2.1.2 by order of the Officers.

5.2.1.3. upon receiving a requisition signed by the President and Secretary of at least two Constituent Bodies. Every requisition shall state clearly the reason.

5.2.2. A meeting called under 5.2.1. shall be held within six weeks of the receipt of the requisition.

5.2.3. Fourteen days notice of a Special General Meeting and of all resolutions to be proposed thereat, shall be given to each member, as defined in Clause 5.1.2. No other business shall be transacted.

5.2.4. The provisions of Clause 5.1.4. and Clauses 5.1.6. to 5.1.10.inclusive, shall apply to a Special General Meeting.

6 DISSOLUTION

A resolution to dissolve The Association shall be put to a General Meeting and shall be passed only by the affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of those entitled to vote and voting. If it so decides, Council shall have power to order a postal ballot to be concluded on a prescribed date prior to the General Meeting.

If the resolution is carried, the Council shall realise the assets of the Association and shall make provision for and discharge The Association's liabilities. The remaining assets at the date of dissolution shall be distributed in such manner as shall be determined by a General Meeting or, if such a meeting so decides, by the Council.

7 OFFICERS

7.1 The Officers shall be the

7.1.1 President,

7.1.2. Two Vice -Presidents (of whom one shall be a man and one shall be a woman),

7.1.3. Secretary.

7.1.4. Treasurer.

7.1.5. The Officers shall be ex-officio non voting members of all committees.

7.12. The Officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and take office at the end of that meeting.

7.3. The President normally shall hold office for a maximum of two consecutive years. The Officers shall be eligible for re-election annually.

7.4 Nominations for Officers may be made by the Council, a Constituent Body, an affiliated club. New nominations shall be submitted in writing to reach the Secretary by 1st March and shall include the written consent of the nominee. Nominations made by a club shall be

seconded by another affiliated club or by the County Association through which the club is affiliated.

7.5. If an Officer does not complete the term of office, the Council may fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

8 FINANCE

8.1. The Treasurer shall deal with the assets of MRHA in such manner as Council or a General Meeting may from time to time direct.

8.1.1. The financial policies of MRHA shall be determined by the Council.

8.1.2. The income of MRHA shall be derived from the affiliation fees and subscriptions of members and, subject to approval of the Council, from any other appropriate source. Such income shall be used for the furtherance of the aims and objects of MRHA (Clause 2), and for such other purposes as a General Meeting or the Council may determine.

8.2 AFFILIATION FEES shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting.

9 THE COUNCIL

The Association shall be governed by a Council. The Council may, however, delegate to a Committee or to an appointed person.

9.1 Membership

9.1.1. The Council shall consist of:-

9.1.1.1 The President, who shall be Chairman;

9.1.1.2 The Officers.

9.1.1.3 The Immediate Past President.

9.1.1.4 The Chairman of Committees or their representative.

9.1.1.5 The Regional Discipline Administrator (RDA) or Deputy (DRDA)

9.1.1.6. Two representatives from each Constituent Body, except Bedfordshire (Women) who shall have only one representative.

9.1.2. Council shall have the power to co-opt a maximum of three persons who shall have power to vote. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, one of the Vice Presidents shall take the Chair. In the absence of the President and both Vice Presidents, the voting members shall appoint one of their number to Chair that meeting.

9.2. Voting : Each member present shall have one vote, other than the Chairman, who shall also have a casting vote. Decisions shall be by a majority.

9.3 Quorum: Twelve voting members shall

form a quorum.

9.4. Invited Persons: The Council may invite any person for all or part of any meeting. Such persons shall not be entitled to vote.

9.5. Frequency of Meeting: The Council shall meet at least three times in each Association year.

9.6. Agenda: Notice of any matter which any member of the Council wishes to be included on the Agenda for any meeting shall be received by the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the meeting concerned.

9.7 Business to be transacted The Council shall:-

9.7.1 prescribe the policies of the MRHA ;

9.7.2 be responsible for the long term plans and budgets;

9.7.3 determine Committees, their terms of reference, receive and consider their reports.

9.7.4 appoint the Chairman and members of Committees.

9.7.5 appoint the Regional Discipline Administrator (RDA) and the Deputy Regional Discipline Administrator (DRDA) who shall administer the Regulations for the Enforcement of Discipline.

9.7.6 take any other action which it may deem necessary.

9.8 In an emergency, decisions may be made by the Officers and reported to Council.

9.9 The proceedings of Council and Committee meetings shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect, or by any default in the election, nomination, co-option or qualification of any member thereof.

10 COMMITTEES

10.1. The Committees shall be determined by Council and appointed annually.

10.2 General Terms of Reference for Committees Each Committee shall:

10.2.1 be responsible to Council;

10.2.2 act on terms of reference prescribed by Council;

10.2.3 present written reports to Council;

10.2.4. make recommendations to Council on any matter within its terms of reference and deal with any matters referred to it by Council;

10.2.5 recommend any changes of policy to the Council;

10.2.6. incur no expenditure outside the annual budget without the approval of the Treasurer;

10.2.7. liase with other appropriate committees and have the power to appoint any sub-committee approved by Council.

11 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

11.1. The disciplinary measures, in particular the regulations of England Hockey for the enforcement of discipline, shall apply.

11.2 The RDA or, if the RDA is unavailable, the DRDA, shall:

11.2.1. administer any disciplinary regulations which may from time to time be laid down by EH or MRHA;

11.2.2. if required by a disciplinary code, or by Council, or as otherwise necessary, convene a Disciplinary Panel;

11.2.3. A Disciplinary Panel shall comprise the RDA or DRDA and two members of Council appointed by the President or Vice President. It may be required to hear a new case or an appeal.

12 INDEMNITY

The Association shall indemnify each of its Officers and officials against any claim which may arise from any action taken with the authority of MRHA.

For the purpose of this Clause an 'official' shall be deemed to be:

12.1. any member of the Association serving on any committee or subcommittee of MRHA;

12.2. any person appointed by and acting on behalf of MRHA.

13 CONSTITUTION .

The Council shall determine any question on the interpretation of the Constitution and anything relative to MRHA not covered by it. Council's decision shall be final.