

## Oxford University Water Polo Club

### Constitution

#### NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The Club is called the Oxford University Water Polo Club. This is a federal name which incorporates the following teams: the men's teams and the women's team. The Club's objects are the support, development, improvement and promotion of water polo within the University of Oxford; and the income and property of the Club shall be applied solely to those objects.

#### 2. COMPLIANCE

- (a) The Club shall be administered in accordance with the regulations for University clubs which are published from time to time in the Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum ("the Proctors' Memorandum"). At the time of the adoption of this Constitution the Club is designated by the Proctors as a half-Blue sport with discretionary full Blue status. If the Club has "Blues" status then in relation to that status and issues surrounding the award of Blues and half-Blues, the Club will also abide by the regulations of the relevant (Men's or Women's) Blues Committee of the University's Sports Federation.
- (b) The activities of the Club will at all times be conducted in accordance with the University procedures, codes of practice and policies in force from time to time on equality, harassment, freedom of speech and safeguarding (which are available to download via the University Student Handbook on the University's webpages).
- (c) If there is a national governing body for the sport with which the Club is eligible to register, the Club shall effect and maintain such registration: purchase any insurance cover which the national body makes available (unless the Insurance Section of the University's Central Administration ("the Insurance Section") agrees to or prescribes other arrangements; and make every effort to comply with all safety procedures which the national body prescribes, or recommends as good practice. This is currently the ASA.
- (d) The Club shall ensure that all paid Club administrative and coaching appointments are ratified by the University's Sports Strategy Committee; that all coaches are registered with any relevant national governing body; and that all paid coaches are accredited by such body.
- (e) The Club shall observe the Code of Conduct on Safety Matters which is set out in the Schedule to this Constitution, ensure compliance with the Code by the members of the Club, and follow an appropriate procedure for risk assessment. Both the Code of Conduct and the procedure for risk assessment must be acceptable to the Area Safety Officer (Sport) ("the Safety Officer"). If and for so long as the Club is responsible for organising an inter college

competition, the Code of Conduct shall include guidelines and appropriate risk assessments for that competition.

- (f) Not less than 21 days before any event or competition which is approved or advertised by the Club as an official event of the Club (other than events already included in the approved Code of Conduct on Safety Matters, and procedure for risk assessment) the Club shall submit to the Proctors an event plan and risk assessment, together with documentary evidence of appropriate insurance cover. The Club shall then observe such conditions as the Proctors may then wish to attach to the running of the event.
- (g) No member of the Club shall participate in any activity overseas organised by the Club, whether during term-time or vacation, unless the plans for such activity have been notified at least one calendar month in advance of the date of departure from the United Kingdom to the Director of Sport. Each member participating in such activities overseas shall observe any conditions imposed by the Proctors on the recommendation of the Director of Sport, e.g. relating to the deposit of contact addresses, fulfilment of health, safety and insurance requirements, and stipulation of coaches, trainers or Senior Members to accompany the trip.
- (h) The Club shall maintain a dedicated website and shall supply details of its web address to the Proctors for listing on the University's clubs and societies webpage. The Club may apply to the University's IT Services to use information technology ('IT') facilities in the name of the Club. Where relevant facilities are allocated by IT Services it is the responsibility of the Club:
  - (i) to designate a member of the Club entitled to a University e-mail account (as defined by the IT Rules) to act as its IT Officer, whose duties shall include liaising with IT Services about the use of facilities allocated and passing on to his or her successor in office all records relating to the use of the facilities allocated;
  - (ii) to designate one of its members (who may be, but need not necessarily be, the same as its IT Officer, or, exceptionally, a member of Congregation) to act as its principal webmaster, whose duties shall include maintaining an awareness of guidelines for web and social media publishing that the University may provide from time to time, and co-ordinating and regulating access to the web facilities used by the Club;
  - (iii) to comply with regulations and guidelines relating to the use of IT facilities published from time to time by IT Services (the "IT Rules" (<<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/rules>>)) (including those guidelines relating to the operation of electronic mailing lists);

- (iv) to ensure that everyone responsible under (i)-(iii) is competent to deal with the requirements, where necessary undertaking training under the guidance of IT Services.
- (i) The Club is committed to treat everyone equally within the context of its activity. This shall be, for example, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, disability or political persuasion, on any grounds.
- (j) The Club shall implement the A.S.A. Equal Opportunities policy.
- (k) The Club shall be affiliated to ASA South East Region, and shall adopt and conform to the rules of this Association, and to such other bodies as the Club may determine from time to time.
- (l) The business and affairs of the Club shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the Laws and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association (“A.S.A. Laws”) and in particular:
  - i. all competing members shall be eligible competitors as defined in A.S.A. Laws; and
  - ii. the Club shall in accordance with A.S.A. Laws adopt the A.S.A. Child Safeguarding and Protection Procedures; and shall recognise that the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm.
  - iii. members of the Club shall in accordance with A.S.A. Laws comply with the A.S.A. Child Safeguarding and Protection Procedures.
- (m) By virtue of the affiliation of the Club to ASA South East Region, the Club and all members of the Club acknowledge that they are subject to the laws, rules and constitutions of:
  - i. ASA South East Region and
  - ii. the Amateur Swimming Association; (to include the A.S.A./IOS Code of Ethics); and
  - iii. British Swimming (in particular its Doping Control Rules and Protocols and Disciplinary Code); and
  - iv. FINA, the world governing body for the sport of swimming in all its disciplines (together “the Governing Body Rules”)
- (n) In the event that there shall be any conflict between any rule or by-law of the Club and any of the Governing Body Rules then the relevant Governing Body Rule shall prevail.

## MEMBERSHIP

3. The members of the Club shall be those who are eligible and apply for membership of the Club, who are admitted to and maintained in membership by the Committee, and who have paid the relevant Club subscription.
4. All student members of the University, and all persons whose names are on the University's Register of Visiting Students, shall be eligible to become members of the Club. A member shall continue to be eligible until he or she is given permission to supplicate for his or her degree, diploma or certificate, regardless of whether or not he or she continues to be liable to pay fees to the University.
5. If the Club's objects relate directly to a protected characteristic as defined in Section 4 of the Equality Act 2010, the Club may be entitled to restrict membership to members sharing that protected characteristic, provided that the Proctors shall first approve any such restriction.
6. The Committee may also, at its discretion, admit to membership:
  - (a) students registered to read for diplomas and certificates in the University;
  - (b) student members of Permanent Private Halls who are not student members of the University;
  - (c) members of Ruskin College; Ripon College, Cuddesdon and the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice;
  - (d) members of the Westminster Institute of Oxford Brookes University who are registered to read for degrees or other qualifications validated by the University of Oxford; and
  - (e) other persons not falling within paragraph 4 above or paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, provided that such members shall not constitute more than one-fifth of the total membership.
7. The Committee may remove a person from membership for good cause. The person concerned may appeal against such removal to the Senior Member.
8. The Club shall adopt and comply with the A.S.A. Guidelines for handling Internal Club Disputes ("the Guidelines") as the same may be revised from time to time. The Guidelines are set out as an Appendix to the A.S.A. Judicial Laws and appear in the A.S.A. Handbook. (A copy of the current Guidelines may be obtained from the A.S.A. Legal Affairs Department.)
9. A member may not be expelled or (subject to the rule below) be made the subject of any other penalty unless the panel hearing the complaint shall unanimously vote in favour of the expulsion of (or other penalty imposed upon) the member.

10. The Officers of the Club (or any person to whom the Committee shall delegate this power) may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider club activities, when in their opinion, such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the complaint will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the Guidelines.

#### MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

11. There shall be an Annual General Meeting for all the members of the Club in Hilary Term, convened by the Secretary on not less than fourteen days' notice.
12. The Annual General Meeting will:
  - (a) receive the annual report of the Committee for the previous year and the annual accounts of the Club for the previous year, the report and accounts having been approved by the Committee;
  - (b) receive a report from the Committee on the Club's compliance with paragraph 2 above;
  - (c) elect Members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 19 below: the Committee's nominations for the Officers and the Senior Member shall be contained in the notice of the Meeting: any alternative nominations must be seconded and have the consent of the nominee, and must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than seven days before the date of the Meeting: nominations for the other Committee Members may be taken from the floor of the meeting;
  - (d) consider any motions of which due notice has been given, and any other relevant business.
13. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called in any Full Term; by the President, the Secretary or the Treasurer on not less than seven days' notice; or on a written requisition by seven or more members, stating the reason for which the meeting is to be called, and delivered to the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of the Meeting.
14. Prior to all General Meetings notice of the agenda shall be sent out with the notice of the Meeting.
15. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be ten members present in person or by proxy, of whom four must be members of the Committee. When any financial business is to be transacted there must be present the Treasurer, or a member of the Committee deputed by the Treasurer to represent his or her views to the Meeting (provided that where it is a case of a deputy, the only financial business transacted shall be that which was set out in the agenda accompanying the notice of the Meeting).

## THE COMMITTEE

16. The affairs of the Club shall be administered by a Committee consisting of not more than twelve persons, which shall determine the subscriptions payable by the members of the Club, and have ultimate responsibility for the activities of the Club. Members of the University shall at all times make up the majority of the members of the Committee. The Committee shall have control of the funds and property of the Club, and of its administration.
17. The quorum for a Committee meeting shall be six members present in person. When any financial business is to be transacted, there must be present either the Treasurer or a member of the Committee deputed by the Treasurer to represent his or her views to the meeting.
18. The Committee shall be made up of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer (together, the "Office Holders"; and their offices are referred to as "the Offices"), the Senior Member and up to eight other persons. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall each be either a member of the Club whose eligibility stems from paragraph 4 above or paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, or (with the approval of the Proctors) a member of Congregation. If his or her eligibility stems from paragraphs 5(a) to 5(d) above, on election to office he or she must sign an undertaking to abide by the Proctors' Memorandum, and to accept the authority of the Proctors on Club matters.
19. The President shall have the right to preside at all meetings of the members of the Club and at all meetings of the Committee. Should the President be absent, or decline to take the chair, the Committee shall elect another member of the Committee to chair the meeting.
20. The Secretary shall:
  - (a) maintain a register of the members of the Club, which shall be available for inspection by the Proctors on request;
  - (b) give notice of meetings of the members and the Committee;
  - (c) draw up the agenda for and minutes of those meetings;
  - (d) notify the Proctors (through the Director of Sport) promptly following the appointment and resignation or removal of Office Holders and other members of the Committee;
  - (e) advise the Proctors promptly (through the Director of Sport) of any changes in this Constitution;
  - (f) notify the Proctors (through the Director of Sport) not later than the end of the second week of every Full Term of the programme of fixtures which has been arranged for that term (e.g. by providing them a copy of the fixture card);

- (g) take responsibility for the operation and updating of a suitable club web-page displaying (at a minimum) current club contact, the constitution, and the Code of Conduct on Safety Matters and procedure for risk assessment approved from time to time by the Safety Officer under paragraph 2(e) above;
- (h) provide the Insurance Section with full details of any insurance cover purchased from or through a national governing body pursuant to paragraph 2 (c) above; and
- (i) inform the Proctors if the Club ceases to operate, or is to be dissolved, and in doing so present a final statement of accounts (the format of which the Proctors may prescribe).

21. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) keep proper records of the Club's financial transactions in accordance with current accepted accounting rules and practices;
- (b) develop and implement control procedures to minimise the risk of financial exposure, such procedures to be reviewed regularly with the University's Internal Audit Section ("Internal Audit");
- (c) ensure that bills are paid and cash is banked in accordance with the procedures developed under (b);
- (d) prepare an annual budget for the Club and regularly inform the Committee of progress against that budget;
- (e) ensure that all statutory returns are made including VAT, income tax and corporation tax if appropriate;
- (f) seek advice as necessary on tax matters from the University's Finance Division;
- (g) develop and maintain a manual of written procedures for all aspects of the Treasurer's responsibility;
- (h) make all records, procedures and accounts available on request to the Senior Member, the Proctor and Internal Audit;
- (i) forward to the Proctors (through the Director of Sport) by the end of the second week of each Full Term in the Club's first year of operation (1 August to 31 July) a copy of the accounts for the preceding term (the format of which the Proctors may prescribe) signed by the Senior Member for retention on the Proctors' files; and after the first year of operation forward a copy of the signed annual accounts to 31 July as soon as possible after the year end (and in any event no later than the 1 October following the year end); and

- (j) if the Club has a turnover in excess of £40,000 in the preceding year, or if owing to a change in the nature or scale of its activities, it may confidently be expected to have such a turnover in the current year, submit its accounts (the format of which the Proctors may prescribe) for independent professional inspection and report by a reporting accountant approved in advance by the Proctors. Accounts are to be ready for inspection within a month after the year end and the costs of the inspection and report shall be borne by the Club. If requested by the reporting accountant, the Club shall submit accounts and related material as a basis for a review of accounting procedures, the cost likewise to be borne by the Club.
22. The Senior Member shall:
- (a) hear appeals from removal from membership under paragraph 6 above;
  - (b) following paragraph 17(i) above, consider the accounts of the Club and sign them if he or she considers them to be in order;
  - (c) ensure that adequate advice and assistance is available to the Secretary and the Treasurer in the performance of their responsibilities under paragraphs 16 and 17 above; and
  - (d) be available to represent and speak for the Club in the public forum, and before the Courts of the University and the University authorities.
23. The members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Club annually, and shall be eligible for re-election. The members of the Club shall not appoint several individuals jointly to hold any of the Offices, nor allow any individual to hold more than one Office at a time. The members of the Club shall appoint a member of Congregation as the Senior Member when electing other members of the Committee each year. The Senior Member shall be a member of the Committee *ex officio*.
24. If during the period between the annual elections to offices any vacancies occur amongst the members of Committee, the Committee shall have the power of filling the vacancy or vacancies up to the next Annual General Meeting by co-optation.
25. Each Office Holder must, on relinquishing his or her appointment, promptly hand to his or her successor in Office (or to another member of the Club nominated by the Committee) all official documents and records belonging to the Club, together with (on request from the Committee) any other property of the Club which may be in his or her possession; and must complete any requirements to transfer authority relating to control of the Club's bank accounts, building society accounts, or other financial affairs.
26. Without derogating from its primary responsibility, the Committee may delegate its functions to finance and general purposes and other subcommittees which are made up exclusively of members of the Committee.

27. The Committee shall have power to make regulations and by-laws in order to implement the paragraphs of this Constitution, and to settle any disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution. Any alteration to this Constitution shall require the approving vote of two-thirds of those present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting.
28. No member of the Committee shall be removed from office except by the approving votes of two-thirds of those present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting.

#### INDEMNITY

29. So far as may be permitted by law, every member of the Committee and every officer of the Club shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Club against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her in the execution or discharge of his or her duties or the exercise of his or her powers, or otherwise properly in relation to or in connection with his or her duties. This indemnity extends to any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted by him or her as a member of the Committee or officer of the Club and in which judgement is given in his or her favour (or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on his or her part), or in which he or she is acquitted, or in connection with any application under any statute for relief from liability in respect of any such act or omission in which relief is granted to him or her by the Court.
30. So far as may be permitted by law, the Club may purchase and maintain for any member of the Committee or officer of the Club insurance cover against any liability which by virtue of any rule of law may attach to him or her in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which he or she may be guilty in relation to the Club and against all costs, charges, losses and expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her and for which he or she is entitled to be indemnified by the Club by virtue of paragraph 25.

#### DISSOLUTION

31. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the approving votes of two-thirds of those present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting. The Club may also be dissolved (without the need for any resolution of the members) by means of not less than thirty days notice from the Proctors to the Secretary of the Club if at any time the Club ceases to be registered with the Proctors.
32. In the event of the Club being dissolved, its assets shall not be distributed amongst the members, but shall be paid to or at the direction of the University for use in support of University Water Polo or other sporting activities within the University.

## INTERPRETATION

33. Any question about the interpretation of this Constitution shall be settled by the Proctors.