

Preston Pirates Football Club - Constitution and Club Rules



Introduction

Preston Pirates is a small but expanding football club in the Preston/South Ribble area, a full list of names of contacts can be found on our website at:

www.prestonpiratesfc.com

The Club was established in 2004 with just one team in the Mid Lancashire colts League. Each year as the children move up a year we will be looking to develop a new team(s).

Running a club of this size is costly. We charge each player a membership fee each year and a monthly subscription fee. Money collected is used towards providing the teams with kits, equipment, paying league fees and covers the cost of training and match facilities. Fees are kept to a minimum and all monies collected are ploughed back into the Club.

All the Club's coaches are F.A. qualified, are trained First Aiders and, as with all our volunteers, are C.R.B cleared through the F.A.

The ethos of the Club has always been and will continue to be to coach players of all abilities, encourage fair play, and to develop the child not just the footballer.

Constitution and Club Rules

1. Name

The club shall be called Preston Pirates Football Club (the “Club”)

2. Objects

The objects of the Club shall be to provide facilities, promote the game of Association Football, to arrange matches and social activities for its members.

3. Status of Rules

These rules (the “Club Rules”) form a binding agreement between each member of the Club.

4. Rules and Regulations

(a) The members of the Club shall so exercise their rights, powers and duties and shall, where appropriate use their best endeavours to ensure that others conduct themselves so that the business and affairs of the Club are carried out in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association Limited (“The FA”) and Lancashire County Football Association (the ‘Parent Football Association’) to which the Club is affiliated and Competitions in which the Club participates, for the time being in force.

(b) The Club will also abide by The FA’s Child Protection Policies and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and the Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Policy as shall be in place from time to time.

5. Club Membership

(a) The members of the Club from time to time shall be those persons listed in the register of members (the “Membership Register”) which shall be maintained by the Club Secretary.

(b) Any person who wishes to be a member must apply on the Membership Application Form and deliver it to the Club. Election to membership shall be at the discretion of the Club Committee and granted in accordance with the anti-discrimination and equality policies which are in place from time to time. An appeal against refusal may be made to the Club Committee in accordance with the Complaints Procedure in force from time to time. Membership shall become effective upon an applicant’s name being entered in the Membership Register. Membership will be in one of the following categories:

- (i) Joint player/adult, open to young people under 18 years of age jointly with their parents/guardians; or
- (ii) Non-playing membership open to any adult over 18 years of age subject to the adult being prepared to undertake a Club role and be prepared to undertake a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check.
- (iii) Family membership available to families who have more than one sibling playing for the Club’s teams.

(c) In the event of a member’s resignation or expulsion, his or her name shall be removed from the Membership Register.

(d) The FA and Parent County Association shall be given access to the Membership Register on demand.

6. Annual Membership Fee

(a) An annual fee payable by each member shall be determined by the Club Committee (“the Committee”) and set at a level that will not pose a significant obstacle to community participation. Any fee shall be payable on a successful application for membership and annually by each member. Fees shall not be refundable.

(b) The Committee shall have the authority to levy further subscriptions from the members as are reasonably necessary to fulfil the objects of the Club.

(c) Should any member fall into arrears with the monthly subscriptions by more than two months, they then shall not be eligible to play for the club until all subscriptions are up to date (unless prior permission has been sought from the committee)

(d) Team managers and one of their children will be exempt from subscription fees in lieu of incidental costs incurred in their role e.g. telephone calls, text messages, postage costs etc for which they will receive no recompense.

7. Resignation and Expulsion

(a) A member shall cease to be a member of the Club if, and from the date on which he/she gives notice to the Committee of his/her resignation.

(b) The Committee shall have the power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for them to remain a member. An appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club Committee in accordance with the Complaints Procedure in force from time to time.

(c) A member who resigns or is expelled shall not be entitled to claim any, or a share of any, of the income and assets of the Club (the “Club Property”).

8. Club Committee

(a) The Committee shall consist of the following Club Officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Minutes Secretary and up to 7 other members, elected at the AGM.

(b) Each Club Officer and Committee Member shall hold office from the date of appointment until the next Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) unless otherwise resolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”). One person may hold no more than two positions of Club Officer at any time. The Committee shall be responsible for the management of all the affairs of the Club. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority of those attending the Committee meeting. The Chairperson of the Committee meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie. Meetings of the Committee shall be chaired by the Club Chairperson or the Vice-Chairman or, in their absence, shall be elected by those Club Officers present at the meeting. The quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be three.

(c) Decisions of the Committee shall be entered into the Minute Book of the Club to be maintained by the Club Secretary.

(d) Any member of the Committee may call a meeting of the Committee by giving not less than seven days' notice to all members of the Committee. The Committee will usually meet monthly during the playing season but shall hold not less than six meetings each year.

(e) An outgoing member of the Committee may be re-elected. Any vacancy on the Committee which arises between AGMs shall be filled by a member proposed by one and seconded by another of the remaining Committee members and approved by a simple majority of the remaining Committee members.

(f) Save as provided for in the Rules and Regulations of The FA, the Parent County Association and any applicable Competition, the Committee shall have the power to decide all questions and disputes arising in respect of any issue concerning the Club Rules.

(g) The position of a Club Officer shall be vacated if such person is subject to a decision of The FA that such person be suspended from holding office or from taking part in any football activity relating to the administration or management of a football club.

9. Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings

(a) An AGM shall be held in each year to:

- (i) receive a report of the activities of the Club over the previous year;
- (ii) receive a report of the Club's finances over the previous year;
- (iii) elect the members of the Committee; and
- (iv) consider any other business.

(b) Nominations for election of members as Club Officers or as members of the Committee shall be made in writing by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be existing members of the Club, to the Club Secretary not less than 21 days before the AGM. Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the AGM shall be given in writing to the Club Secretary not less than 21 days before the meeting.

(c) An EGM may be called at any time by the Committee and shall be called within 21 days of the receipt by the Club Secretary of a requisition in writing, signed by not less than five members stating the purposes for which the Meeting is required and the resolutions proposed. Business at an EGM may be any business that may be transacted at an AGM.

(d) The Secretary shall send to each adult member at their last known e-mail address notice of the date of a General Meeting (whether an AGM or an EGM) together with the resolutions to be proposed at least 14 days before the meeting.

(e) The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 7.

(f) The Chairperson, or in their absence a member selected by the Committee, shall take the chair. Each fully paid up adult member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the Meeting shall have a casting vote.

(g) The Club Secretary, or in their absence a member of the Committee, shall enter Minutes of General Meetings into the Minute Book of the Club.

10. Club Teams

At its first meeting following each AGM the Committee shall appoint a Club member to be responsible for each of the Club's football teams. The appointed members shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the team in accordance with guidance/instructions which may from time to time be provided by the Committee. The appointed members shall present to the Committee at its last meeting prior to an AGM a written report of the activities of the team.

11. Club Finances

(a) A bank account shall be opened and maintained in the name of the Club (the "Club Account"). Designated account signatories shall be the Club Vice-Chairperson and the Treasurer. No sum shall be drawn from the Club Account except by cheque signed by the two designated signatories. All monies payable to the Club shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in the Club Account.

(b) The Club Property shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Club. The distribution of profits or proceeds arising from the sale of Club Property to members is prohibited.

(c) The Committee shall have the power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any member of the Club (although it shall not remunerate a member for playing) and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.

(d) The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, away-match expenses, post match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.

(e) The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:

- (i) sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment;
- (ii) employ members (although not for playing) and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee without the person concerned being present;
- (iii) pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests; and
- (v) indemnify the Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

(f) The Club shall keep accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all payments and receipts so as to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position, including the assets and liabilities of the Club. The Club must retain its accounting records for a minimum of six years.

(g) The Club shall prepare an annual "Financial Statement", in such format as shall be available from The FA from time to time. The Financial Statement shall be approved by members at AGM. A copy of any Financial Statement shall, on demand, be forwarded to The FA.

12. Dissolution

(a) A resolution to dissolve the Club shall only be proposed at a General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present.

(b) The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Club.

(c) Any surplus assets remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be transferred to a local charity agreed by the Committee another Club, a Competition, the Parent County Association or The FA for use by them for related community sports.