



Constitution of Fence Like an Olympian Club  
Revised January 2020

## 1. Name

The Club will be called Fence Like an Olympian and will be affiliated to Northern Ireland Fencing, a subsidiary of British Fencing.

## 2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the club will be:

- To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in the sport of fencing
- To promote the club, and the sport of fencing generally, within the local community
- To provide facilities for the promotion of participation in Fencing.
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone

## 3. Membership

- Membership is open to the whole community without discrimination.
- Membership ensures that all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment.
- Membership will consist of officers and ordinary members of the club.
- All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted.
- Applicants for membership have the right to appeal if their membership application is rejected. This must be done in writing to the Board Secretary.
- Members will have joined the club and enrolled in one or more of our classes/training sessions:

## 4. Membership fees

Membership fees will be set annually and agreed by the Board or determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Most fees are available as an annual payment package or as a 3 times a year payment package.

Membership will run in line with the calendar year, regardless of the date of payment at the discretion of the Board.

Any member who has financial difficulties in meeting the cost of membership may write to the Board Secretary asking for financial support to facilitate them being able to join

## 5. Officers of the club

The officers of the club, forming the Board, will be:

- Chair: SCOTT HANLEY
- Secretary: SHAUNA HEGARTY
- Treasurer: MONIKA TURKIEWICZ
- Children's Officer: CONAL HEATLEY
- Outreach & Development Officer: KATIE ARUP
- IT Officer: SIGGI SAEVARSSON
- Parents Action Group Co-Odinator: VALERIE MCMULLAN
- Ordinary Member: JOHNNY DAVIS

Officers will be elected annually at the AGM. All officers will retire each year, but will be eligible for re-appointment. The Management Committee may be extended with the approval of the membership and the election of additional Committee Members at an AGM/EGM.

## 6. Club Board

The club will be managed through the Board

- Only those holding the posts, as listed above, will have the right to vote at meetings of the Board.
- The Board will be convened by the Secretary of the club and held no less than 2 times per year.
- The quorum required for business to be agreed at Board meetings will be 4.
- The Board will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- The Board will have powers to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Board as necessary to fulfil its business.
- The Board will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Board will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

## 7. Finance

- All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.
- The financial year of the club will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- A statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the AGM.
- Any cheques drawn against club funds will require the signatures of at least two Board members.

## 8. Annual General meetings

- Notice of AGMs will be given by the Secretary. Not less than 14 clear days notice to be given to all members. The AGM will be held before 31<sup>st</sup> June each year.
- The AGM will receive a report from each of the principle officers of the Board and a statement of the accounts.
- Nominations for officers of the Board will be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM.
- Elections of officers are to take place at the AGM. All members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- The quorum for AGMs will be 4 Board Members.
- The Board has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

## 9. Safeguarding children

Fence Like an Olympian Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines provided by NI Fencing.

A dedicated Children's Officer will liaise with the Child Protection Officer at NI Fencing to ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding are implemented at all times.

## 10. Equity Policy Statement

- Fence Like an Olympian Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport Northern Ireland definition of sports equity:  
"Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society."
- The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- Membership is open to the whole community without discrimination
- All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

## 11. Discipline and appeals

All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club's safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures. The club Children's Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any safeguarding concerns.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.

The Board will meet to hear complaints within 7 days of a complaint being lodged.

The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Board following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 7 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

## 12. Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the club that remain may only be transferred to another registered CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) with similar objectives to Fence Like an Olympian Club, a registered charity or become the property of NI Fencing, our sports governing body for use by them in community related sports.

We strictly prohibit the distribution of surplus funds to members or third parties.

## 13. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by the Board or a majority vote at an AGM or EGM.