

WARD PARK RUNNERS CONSTITUTION

NAME OF CLUB: Ward Park Runners

Introduction

The name of the club shall be, **Ward Park Runners**, hereinafter referred to as the Club.

We are an all-inclusive group and welcome members with a range of different abilities, from newly graduated Couch-to-5k runners right up to marathon runners.

The Club colours shall be a blue and green vest, with a blue and white Logo.

Objectives

The objective of the Club shall be to promote, foster and encourage running through training, competition and good fellowships. The Club is mindful of the connection between healthy well-being and physical activity and will pursue the theme of mass participation through running.

The Club is committed to incorporating inclusiveness and equal opportunities into all aspects of its work and will ensure that no individual suffers from abuse or harassment on the grounds of age, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, political or other beliefs, ethnicity, race or nationality.

Safeguarding

In working with young athletes aged 12-18 our priority is their welfare and we are committed to providing an environment that will allow all participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from abuse, neglect, bullying and intimidation.

Ward Park Runners will do this by:

- The appointment of a Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer(s) who will take specific responsibility and act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.
- Access to confidential information is restricted to the Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer(s) or the appropriate external authorities.

Ward Park Runners Designated Safeguarding Officers are:

Brian C – 07714 835 884

Danielle H – 07454 402 823

The name of the designated person(s) responsible shall be made known to young members, coaches and parents alike, as the designated person to whom concerns will be addressed. If the concern is about the designated person, please report to Ward Park Runners Chairperson.

Affiliation

The Club shall be affiliated to the laws of Athletics Northern Ireland.

Membership

Members shall be divided into the following classes: -

*Juniors 12 - 14** £10 Per Annum (ANI fees only)

Student 15 -17 £30 Per Annum

Senior 18 years plus £40 Per Annum

*Affiliate*** £30 Per Annum

*Concession**** £30 Per Annum

Pay As You Go £2 per session.

* *Must be accompanied by a parent/guardian*

** *Proof of Club membership must be provided*

*** *60 Years plus*

Unemployed

3rd level student (on presentation of valid student card)

Same household as full paying member

The Club will exercise a policy of open membership to anyone interested in recreational or competitive running. Individuals who wish to become members of the Club must apply using the Club application form; the application must be accompanied by the appropriate subscription fee.

Every candidate for membership shall be considered and approved by the committee, unless to do so would be contrary to the best interests of the sport or the good conduct and Interests of the club.

The Club may refuse or expel from membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as a character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.

Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the Committee and decided by majority vote.

By becoming a member of the Club, every member agrees to abide by the Clubs constitution and rules, the rules of competition and other rules of Athletics N I.

The Committee

The affairs of the Club shall be administered by a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer and other members to be decided by the Committee.

The Committee shall hold office for one year from 1st April. Thereafter the members of the Committee and positions on the Committee shall be elected annually by the members of the Club and shall be eligible for re-election. All posts are unpaid.

Individuals may hold more than one office at a time but the election process should seek to avoid this situation.

If any vacancies occur among the Committee members during the period between the annual elections, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt a

replacement up to the next Annual General Meeting.

The Quorum for Committee meetings shall be three members present in person. Meetings shall be called as and when the Committee feels necessary but not less than six per year.

If a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes of the specified commencement time the meeting shall be adjourned. 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.

Committee decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of those present, with the Chairperson having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Should the Chairperson be absent, The Vice-Chairperson shall be entitled to act as Chairperson. If neither person is present at a meeting, the members shall elect an Acting Chairperson from those members present.

All committee meetings shall be open to Club Members who may listen to discussions but may not vote on any of the issues raised. Members wishing to attend these meetings should give advance warning to the Secretary because accommodation at the meeting venues may be limited.

Minutes of such meetings shall be made available to members of the Club following verification. Any outstanding items from these minutes shall be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Committee shall have control of the funds, property and administration of the Club and have ultimate responsibility for its activities, however, no individual member, or group of members, shall be held responsible or become personally liable for any debts or financial liability of the Club however caused.

The AGM shall be held on or before 1st April each year and the quorum shall be 20% of all paid up members.

All paid up members of the Club will be notified in writing by the Secretary at least three weeks before the AGM.

All matters for inclusion in the Agenda of the AGM shall be received by the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary within 21 days of the receipt by him of a requisition signed by at least two-thirds of the members stating the business to be brought before such a meeting.

Subscription

Membership fees will be fixed at the AGM .The subscription period shall cover the 12 months from 1st April- 31st March on which date subscriptions are immediately due. Athlete registrations will be paid to Athletics Northern Ireland within 30 days of the due date (1st April) and as new members join thereafter.

The Committee shall ensure that the subscription fees are set on a non-discriminatory basis and do not preclude open membership.

Members who are over 6 weeks in arrears with fees shall have their membership automatically terminated and shall not be able to participate in the affairs or the activities of the club. Payment of a full subscription at a later date will enable the former member to be readmitted by the committee.

The subscriptions of members joining the Club on or after 1st April shall be valid for the whole of the following year.

No refund of subscription is payable to any member leaving the club before the end of the subscription year, whatever the reason.

Coaching

Any member who is supported financially by the club to engage in any Leadership in Running Fitness (LiRF) or coaching courses has an obligation to remain loyal to the club for 2 years after receiving their award (3 years for CiRF) and provide necessary support as club training sessions as and when required

Resignation

Any member intending to resign from the club shall give notice in writing to the Club Secretary. Their membership shall terminate on the date of that notice unless they are financially indebted to the Club in which case the Committee may withhold acceptance of the resignation until they have discharged their liability.

Finance

All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.

The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.

A statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the Treasurer plus one other member of the Management Committee.

The Club prohibits the distribution of surplus funds to members and / or third parties. Any surplus funds will be reinvested back into the club.

Dissolution of the club

Upon dissolution of the Club any remaining assets shall be given to or transferred to another registered CASC, a registered charity or sport's governing body for use by the in related community sports

Alterations to the Constitution

The Constitution shall be altered only at an AGM by a two-third majority of members present and voting.

Dale H
Chairperson
May 2024

Rhiannon C
Secretary
May 2024