

CONSTITUTION FOR THE DORSET AND WILTS SOCIETY OF R.F.U. REFEREES

1. Constitution

The Society shall be known as the Dorset and Wilts Society of RFU Referees, hereafter called the Society. The Society is a member of the Wessex Federation of Referee Societies and through the Federation it is also a member of the Rugby Football Referees Union and is subject to the jurisdiction of that Union. In addition the Society is affiliated to the Dorset & Wilts R.F.U.

2. Aim

The aim of the Society is to appoint referees to all matches under the direct jurisdiction of the Dorset and Wilts R.F.U. and to be responsible for all matters relating to referees in the two Counties, including instruction, training, assessing and grading.

3. Membership and Affiliation

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in furthering the Aims of this Society. The classes of membership shall be as follows:

- (a) Referees who have passed such examination as decided by the Executive Committee.
- (b) Any person whose application to join is accepted by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Any club or school playing under the laws of R.F.U. and affiliated to the Dorset & Wilts R.F.U. shall be eligible to apply for affiliated membership.
- (d) Life members who have been elected by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to refuse or withdraw membership without disclosing reasons.

4. Management

- (a) The affairs of this Society shall be managed by the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Executive Committee may, by the issuing of Bye Laws, manage this Society's affairs to any extent and degree which is not inconsistent with these Rules.

5. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be a Chairman (for not normally more than 3 years), Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Appointments Secretary, Society Adviser Development and Grading Secretary, an Exchange Secretary, a Training Officer and a Recruitment and Retention Officer. These posts shall be elected annually at the A.G.M. A representative from the Dorset & Wilts. R.F.U. Committee shall also be invited to attend. Other Society members may be co-opted to the Executive Committee as required.

6. Subscriptions

All members shall pay an annual subscription of £10.

Club and school fees become due when billed.

Members' dues will be balanced against their expenses.

7. Grading

The Society Adviser Development and Grading Secretary shall be responsible for , appointing advisers, collating reports, and, with the Grading Committee, making recommendations on grading to the Executive Committee who shall have the sole power to confirm gradings.

8. Appointment of Referees

All affiliated clubs and schools requiring referees must use the following procedure:

- (a) Fixture Lists. Clubs and schools shall forward two copies of draft or final fixture lists to the Society Honorary Secretary not later than 3 weeks before the start of the season.
- (b) Additional Fixtures. Application for referees for all matches, not listed in the current season's fixture list, including competition fixtures, shall be made to the Appointments Secretary at least 14 days before the match.

Referees will be appointed by the Appointments Secretary, and clubs shall not seek to engage a referee from any other source without specific approval from the Appointments Secretary. In the event of a shortage of referees, it becomes the sole responsibility of the Appointments Secretary to reallocate referees.

The Appointments Secretary will notify the clubs of the referees who are appointed to their games using the 'Who's the Ref' IT system. It is the responsibility of the clubs to confirm the arrangements for the game directly with the referee at least 48 hours before the kick-off. In the event of a match cancellation, the home club will pay the appropriate match fee if the Appointments Secretary or the referee concerned has not been notified by 6 p.m. on the day prior to the match. When a decision is made later than this, if the referee travels, a match fee will be levied.

9. Match Fees

The current match fee will be decided by the Executive Committee and notified to the Dorset & Wilts R.F.U. Changes to the current fee will be advised immediately. The Society shall be responsible for defraying the referee's out-of-pocket expenses. Should visiting/exchange referees request expenses this should not be paid by the Club but should be referred to the Honorary Secretary.

10. Rules

Notice of any proposal or any amendment in these Rules, together with the terms of such proposal or amendment and the names of the proposer and seconder shall be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary six weeks before the date of the A.G.M. or at the same time as the request for a special general meeting is made. A two thirds majority of the voters present at a

general meeting is required to alter or amend these Rules.

11. General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held by the end of June annually when the Committee shall present their reports and the Balance Sheet for the past season. At this meeting, the Committee for the coming season shall be elected by the members present.

At a general meeting, all members of the Society shall be eligible to vote, and one representative from affiliated clubs and schools may attend, but may not vote. Notice of the A.G.M. and all General Meetings, with the Agenda, shall be sent to all members at least 14 days before the date of that meeting

A special meeting shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary on receipt of instruction from the Committee, or a request in writing signed by not less than 8 members. At all meetings the Chairman shall not vote except as a casting vote.

12. Dissolution

If the Executive Committee decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, they shall call a meeting of all members of the Society giving not less than 21 days' notice and stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other body or institution having objects similar to the object of the Society as the members of the Society may determine, or, if that cannot be done, shall be applied for some other suitable purpose.