

BRANSTON PICKLEBALL CLUB

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The unincorporated association shall be called Branston Pickleball Club (hereinafter called the 'Club').

2. Affiliation

The Club shall be affiliated to Pickleball England, the national governing body of the sport in England (hereinafter called the 'Governing Body').

3. Aims and Objectives

The Club is established to:

- a) positively promote Pickleball to its members and to newcomers who live in the vicinity of the Club; and
- b) offer coaching and competitive opportunities to all those members who wish to play, including participation in appropriate leagues.

4. Equality Statement

4.1 The Club is fully committed to the principles of the equality of opportunity. No participant or volunteer of the Club will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, age, colour, disability, ethnic origin, parental or marital status, religious belief, social class or sexual preference than any other. The Management Committee will make available its Equal Opportunities policy to its members.

4.2 The Club will ensure that there is open access for all those who wish to participate in the activities of the Club, in whatever capacity and that they are treated fairly. The Club recognises its legal obligations not to discriminate and will regard discrimination by any participant or volunteer as grounds for disciplinary action under the Club's Disciplinary policy and procedure in compliance with clause 12 below.

5. Welfare Statement

The Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who are in membership of the Club. The Club will aim to provide good quality Pickleball in a safe environment by adopting the procedures and working practices of the Governing Body's welfare policy, and adopt a local Welfare policy & procedure relevant to the running of the Club.

6. Membership

6.1 The Club shall consist of the Officers (of the Management Committee) and the members.

6.2 Membership of the Club is open to junior and senior individuals. A junior member is defined as a person under the age of eighteen.

6.3 In accepting membership, a person agrees to abide by the Constitution & policies of the Club (including the Club's Code of Conduct), the decisions of the Management Committee, and the regulations of the Governing Body.

6.4 The Management Committee shall be responsible for considering whether applications for membership should be accepted and may refuse an application on the grounds that membership would be prejudicial to the objectives of the Club set out in clause 3. This decision shall be made in accordance with the Club's Equal Opportunities policy.

6.5 All applications for membership shall be accompanied by the membership fees defined in clause 7.

6.6 All fully paid up members (whether they are junior or senior) shall be entitled to attend and vote at General Meetings.

6.7 Membership of the Club will be suspended where a member fails to pay their membership and session fees by the date required and will be unable to participate in any event organised by the Club, representing the Club in competitive match play, participating in Management Committees and attendance at any General Meeting. Membership will be terminated where a fee remains unpaid after a reasonable period of time (as defined by the Management Committee) following notice given to the member in writing.

7. Membership Fees

7.1 Annual membership fees shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 Annual membership fees shall be collected in the first month of each financial year (as defined in clause 9.3) and are payable to the Club in a manner to be defined by the Club Treasurer.

7.3 Session fees (including practice, coaching, and social play) will be set by the Management Committee.

8. Management Committee

8.1 The Management Committee will act for the members of the Club and shall be comprised of the following nominated Officers:

- i. Chairperson;
- ii. Secretary;
- iii. Treasurer;
- iv. Welfare & Equality Officer; and
- v. Other Officers as required by the Management Committee.

8.2 These Officers shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and hold their posts for a calendar year but may seek re-election at the following year's AGM.

8.3 The Management Committee may co-opt any member to the Management Committee until the next AGM where there are vacancies in the Management Committee, as long as the number of co-optees does not exceed the number of elected Officers.

8.4 Every Officer shall act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Club whilst exercising their powers and discharging their duties. The Officers will exercise due care, diligence and skill that a reasonable and prudent person would exercise in comparable

circumstances. Any liabilities incurred shall fall upon the membership of the Club providing the Management Committee acts in accordance with the Constitution and this clause.

8.5 The Management Committee shall meet bi-monthly (or when determined by the Chairperson) provided seven days notice has been given and the Secretary will convene all meetings.

8.6 The quorum necessary for Management Committee meetings shall be 3.

8.7 All Officers of the Management Committee will have 1 vote and votes will be determined by a simple majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

8.8 The Management Committee shall be responsible for interpreting the Club Constitution in relation to the operation of the club's affairs. Proposed amendments to the Constitution can only be agreed at the AGM.

8.9 The Management Committee may appoint any sub-committees it may deem necessary to deal with the matters of the Club, and proceedings of the sub-committees will be reported to the Management Committee by a representative of that sub-committee.

9. Finance

9.1 All monies raised by, or on behalf of the Club shall be applied to further the aims and objectives of the club and for no other purpose.

9.2 The Club Treasurer is responsible for collecting membership subscriptions and maintaining the financial accounts of the Club detailing all income received and expenditure made.

9.3 The financial year of the club starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

9.4 The funds of the club shall be lodged at a bank or building society in an account in the name of the Club. All payments drawn on the account shall be approved by either the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer, and transacted on the bank account by a different Officer to the approver.

10. Annual General Meeting and other meetings

10.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club shall be held at such time and place as determined by the Management Committee within three months of the end of the Club's financial year. At this meeting, the following business shall be conducted:

- i. Present the annual report of the Management Committee;
- ii. Present the financial statement of accounts up to the end of the financial year;
- iii. Election of members to the Management Committee; and
- iv. Setting of all fees payable by the members; and
- v. Any other business deemed relevant by the Management Committee or submitted to the Secretary seven days prior to the notice of the AGM being issued.

10.2 The Secretary shall give no less than 21 days notice of the date of the AGM to all members.

10.3 All elections of Officers shall be confirmed at the AGM. The Secretary should receive all nominations for Officer's posts not less than seven days prior to the notice of the AGM being

issued. Nominations shall require two supporting signatures from members of the Club eligible to vote. No nominations can be accepted from the floor of the meeting.

10.4 The quorum for general meetings shall be the higher of 5 members or 20% of the total number of fully paid up members present who are eligible to vote.

10.5 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary signed by not less than the higher of 7 members or 25% of the total number of fully paid up members. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to call an EGM by decision of 2/3 majority of its Officers. The Secretary will give notice to members within 7 days of receipt of application for the EGM and give 14 days notice of the EGM to all members.

11. Voting Procedures for all General meetings

11.1 All fully paid up members are entitled to vote at all general meetings and shall have equal voting rights.

11.2 A resolution shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and voting, except when the motion is a Constitutional amendment, which shall require a two-thirds majority.

11.3 In the event of equal votes being cast, the Chair shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberate vote.

11.4 Where there are more Officer vacancies in the Management Committee than nominations, then the positions will be filled uncontested at the AGM.

12. Discipline and Appeals

12.1 The Management Committee shall have the authority as defined in the Club's Disciplinary policy to take appropriate disciplinary action against any member of the Club, and the discretion to terminate membership or refuse renewal of membership if any person is found to have not adhered to the Club's Code of Conduct.

12.2 Where a disciplinary issue involves the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult then the Governing Body will be informed prior to the disciplinary hearing, and the outcome of the hearing and any appeal.

12.3 All individuals have the right to be heard by the Club Management Committee prior to any final decision being made, and will have the right to appeal any disciplinary decision made by the Management Committee.

12.4 Any request made for an appeal hearing should be made to either the Secretary or Chairperson within 14 days of the Disciplinary decision.

12.5 An appeal hearing should be convened within 14 days of the request for an appeal being submitted.

12.6 An appeal hearing should be convened by a member of the Management Committee and no more than four additional Club members who are independent of the original disciplinary hearing and subsequent decision.

13. Dissolution procedures

13.1 In the event of the Club ceasing to exist and following the discharge of all debts and liabilities, any assets at the time of dissolution shall become the property of the Governing Body. No member shall obtain any asset from the Club.

13.2 The Club may be wound up upon a motion proposed and seconded by Club members and passed by a two-thirds majority at a special meeting convened for that purpose following a written request signed by the higher of 7 members or 25% of the total number of fully paid up members.

14. Review of the Constitution

14.1 This Constitution should be reviewed a minimum of once every two years by the Management Committee. Any amendments to the Constitution can only be agreed ordinarily at the Club's AGM.

14.2 However, where the activities of the Club are proposed to change, then the Management Committee must proactively review if changes are required to the legal form of the Club and seek any amendments at an EGM for the change in legal form. This may include establishing a trade for profit, employment, owning assets, and/or signing a lease agreement.

14.3 Proposed additions to, or alterations of the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary not less than 28 days before the date of the next AGM. All suggested amendments should be signed and seconded. No motion involving an amendment to the Constitution may be proposed from the floor of a meeting.

14.4 In the event of a proposal for amending the Constitution being submitted, the Secretary shall inform the membership of the proposed motion not less than 21 days prior to the AGM.

14.6 Any alteration to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of members voting and present.

14.7 All matters arising that are not provided for by the Constitution will be dealt with by the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.



M BUNTING, CHAIR



A BARNES, TREASURER



V LAVIN, SECRETARY