



RULES of Exmouth Swimming and Life Saving Society as at 12th January 2012

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be: **Exmouth Swimming and Life Saving Society**

2. Objects

- 2.1 The objectives of the Club shall be the objectives of the Amateur Swimming Association and in particular the teaching, development and practice of swimming, open water swimming, personal survival skills and life saving for its members in the furtherance of these objects:

2.1.1 The Club is committed to treat everyone equally within the context of their activity, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, disability or political persuasion, on any grounds.

2.1.2 The Club shall implement the A.S.A. Equal Opportunities policy.

- 2.2 The Club shall be affiliated to South West Region ASA, Devon County ASA, British Long Distance Swimming Association, Royal Life Saving Society and have membership to such bodies as the Club may determine from time to time i.e. East Devon Swim Squad, and shall adopt and conform to the rules of such association.

2.2.1 The business and affairs of the Club shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the Laws and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association ("ASA Laws") and in particular:

2.2.2 All competing members shall be eligible competitors as defined in ASA Laws; and

2.2.3 The Club shall in accordance with ASA Laws adopt the ASA Child Safeguarding Procedures; and shall recognise that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm.

2.2.4 Members of the Club shall in accordance with ASA Laws comply with the ASA Child Safeguarding Procedures.

- 2.3 By virtue of the affiliation of the Club to South West Region ASA the Club and all members of the Club acknowledge that they are subject to the laws, rules and constitutions of:

2.3.1 South West Region, ASA and Devon County ASA; and

2.3.2 The Amateur Swimming Association; (to include the ASA/IOS Code of Ethics); and

2.3.3 British Swimming (in particular it's Doping Control Rules and Protocols and Disciplinary Code); and

2.3.4 FINA, the world governing body for the sport of swimming in all its disciplines (together the Governing Body Rules").

- 2.4 In the event that there shall be any conflict between any rule or by-law of the Club and any of the Governing Body Rules then the relevant Governing Body Rule shall prevail.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The total membership of the Club shall not normally be limited. If however the Committee considers that there is a good reason to impose any limit from time to time then the Committee shall put forward appropriate proposals for consideration at a General Meeting of the Club. The members shall have the right to impose (and remove) from time to time any limits on total membership (or any category of membership) of the Club.

All persons who assist in any way with the Club's activities shall become members of the Club, completing the relevant C.R.B., A.S.A. and Club documents, and hence of the A.S.A. and the relevant A.S.A. membership fee shall be paid. Assisting with the Club's activities shall include, but not be restricted to, administrators, associate members, voluntary instructors, teachers and coaches, Committee members, helpers, Honorary members, life members, officers, patrons, Presidents, technical and non-technical officials, temporary members, Vice Presidents and verifiers or tutors of the ASA's educational certificates.

- 3.2 Any person who wishes to become a member of the Club must submit a signed application to the Registration Secretary (and in the case of a junior swimmer the application must be signed by the swimmer's parent or guardian). Election to membership shall be determined by [the Membership Officer] but other person(s) authorised by the Committee may make recommendation as to the applicant's acceptability. The Membership Officer shall be required to give reasons or the refusal of any application for membership. Any person refused membership may seek a review of this decision before a review panel appointed by the Committee ("Review Panel") comprised of not less than three members (who may or may not be members of the Committee). The panel shall [wherever practicable] include one independent member nominated by the Western Counties ASA. The person refused membership shall be entitled to make representations to the Review Panel. The procedures for review shall be at the discretion of the Review Panel whose decision shall be final and binding.

The Club shall not refuse an application for membership on discriminatory grounds, whether in relation to ethnic origin, age, sex, religion, disability, political persuasion or sexual orientation.

- 3.3 Membership and ASA registration will be valid only when the ASA officials have issued a membership number.
- 3.4 Once the Annual Return has been declared and submitted to the ASA, no category 2 upgrades of current members will be permitted until the Club Registration Officer is in receipt of the certified copy of the database.
- 3.5 Definition of family membership fee: A family containing more than two children or two children and adult swimmers.

3.5.1 Adults within family membership could be Category 1, 2 or 3 and must pay the relevant ASA charges.

3.5.2 Only one person named on the Club membership form has a valid membership.

4. Subscription and Other Fees

- 4.1 The annual members' subscription and coaching and squad fees (as applicable) shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and the Committee shall in so doing make special provision for different classes of membership as the Annual General Meeting shall determine.
- 4.2 The annual subscription and entrance fee (if any) shall be due on joining the Club and thereafter on the 1st day of December each year.
- 4.3 Any member whose subscription is unpaid by the date falling 28 days after 1st December may be suspended by the Committee from some or all Club activities from a date to be determined by the Committee and until such payment is made.
- 4.4 The Committee shall, from time to time, have the power to determine the annual membership subscription and other fees. This shall include the power to make such increase in the subscription as shall, where the Club pays the individual ASA Membership Fees to the ASA on behalf of members, be consequential upon an increase in individual ASA membership fees. Any increase in subscriptions shall be advised to the members with a notice posted on the club's notice board with the reasons for any increase to be reported to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 4.5 Any member whose fees remain outstanding for two months may be suspended by the Committee from some or all Club activities from a date to be determined by the Committee and until such payment is made.

4.6 After an initial two week period a member with a current Doctors Certificate may claim discounted session fees for a period of sickness/injury for a maximum six month period. The discounted session fee will be 25%, in order for a place to be retained.

4.7 Competitive and Development and Master's section monthly fees are to be settled via standing order payment or BACS.

5. Resignation

5.1 A member wishing to resign membership of the Club must give to the Secretary written notice of his resignation. A member's resignation shall only take effect when this (Rule 5.1) has been complied with.

5.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 5.1 above a member whose subscription is more than two months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned. Where the membership of a member shall be terminated in this way he/she shall be informed in writing that he/she is no longer a member by notice handed to him or sent by post to his last known address.

6. Expulsion and other Disciplinary action

6.1 The Committee shall have power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for him/her to remain a member. The Club in exercising this power shall comply with the provisions of Rules 6.2 and 6.3 below.

6.2 The Club shall adopt and comply with the ASA Guidelines for handling Internal Club Disputes ("the Guidelines") as the same may be revised from time to time. The Guidelines are set out in the ASA technical rules Handbook. (A copy of the current Guidelines may be obtained from the ASA Legal Affairs Department.)

6.3 A member may not be expelled or (subject to Rule 6.4 below) be made the subject of any other penalty unless the panel hearing the complaint shall by a two-thirds majority vote in favour of the expulsion of (or other penalty imposed upon) the member.

6.4 The Officers of the Club and relevant sub-committee Chairman (minimum of 3 members) may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider club activities, when in their opinion such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the complaint will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the Guidelines.

7. Committee

7.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chairmanman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairmanmen of all sub-committees (together with such additional secretaries as required to manage specific activities of the Club) (together "the Officers of the Club") the President and 30 elected members all of whom must be members of the Club. The Club shall have a Welfare Officer. All Committee members must be 18 years of age, though the Committee may allow younger member(s) to attend their meetings as observers without the power to vote.

7.2 The Committee members shall be proposed, seconded and elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting each year and shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next Annual General Meeting. The Committee may fill any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

7.3 Committee meetings shall be held not less than once a month (save where the Committee itself shall by a simple majority resolve not to meet), and the quorum of that meeting shall be one officer and 6 committee members. The Chairman and the Secretary shall have discretion to call further meetings of the Committee if they consider it to be in the interests of the Club. The Secretary shall give all the members of the Committee not less than two day's oral notice of a meeting. A simple majority shall make decisions of the Committee and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman (or the acting Chairman of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote. The Secretary, or in his/her absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes.

7.4 In the event that a quorum is not present within thirty minutes of the published start time, a meeting shall stand adjourned to such other date and time as may be determined by the Chairman. If a quorum is not

present at the adjourned meeting then those Committee members attending may act for the purpose of calling a Special General Meeting of the members, to which the provisions as to minimum notice contained in Rule 11.1 shall not apply.

- 7.5 In addition to the members so elected the Committee may co-opt further members of the Club who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee and shall be counted in establishing whether a quorum is present.
- 7.6 The Committee may from time to time appoint from among their number, such sub-committees as they may consider necessary (And to remove (in whole or in part) or vary the terms of reference of such sub-committees) and may delegate to them such of the powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee may determine. All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee.
- 7.7 The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Club and shall have the sole right or appointing and determining the terms and conditions of service of employees of the Club. The Committee shall have power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the Club on behalf of all the members of the Club. The Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the accounts of the Club for each financial year be examined by an independent examiner to be appointed by the members in General Meeting. The Committee shall also have the power to make regulations and to settle disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.
- 7.8 The members of the Committee shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Club.
- 7.9 The Committee shall maintain an Accident Book in which all accidents to Club members at swimming related activities shall be recorded. Details of such accidents shall be reported to the A.S.A. Office. The Club shall make an annual return to the A.S.A. in the prescribed form.

8. Officers and Honorary/Life Members

- 8.1 The Officers and Committee of the Club shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire. The Committee may fill any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 8.2 The Annual General Meeting of the Club, if it thinks fit, may elect a President and Vice-Presidents. A President or Vice-President need not be a member of the association and on election shall, ex-officio, be an honorary member of the Club and must be included in the Club's Annual Return of Members to the ASA.
- 8.3 The Committee may elect any person as an Honorary Life Member. Such persons will be automatically entitled to membership of the Committee, subject to below. In addition Honorary Members will be entitled to serve as Officers of the Club. They shall be entitled to all of the privileges of membership except that they shall not be entitled to vote at meetings and serve as Officers or on the Committee unless any such person shall have retained his/her ordinary membership of the Club. Such Honorary Life members must be included in the Club's annual return as to membership.
- 8.4 Serving Main Committee Members must attend a minimum of five meetings annually, or forfeit their right to their position held, unless personal circumstances have been conveyed to the Chairman,

9. Annual General Meeting

- 9.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year on a date falling within the period 1st January ("the Opening Date") and 31st January ("the Closing Date"). The Committee shall fix the date for the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.2 The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to transact the following business:
 - 9.2.1 To receive the Chairman's report on the activities of the Club during the previous year;

- 9.2.2 To receive and consider the accounts of the Club for the previous year and the report on the accounts of the independent examiner and the Treasurer's report as to the financial position of the Club.
 - 9.2.3 To remove and elect the independent examiner (who must not be a member of the Committee or a member of the family of a member of the Committee) or confirm that he/she remain in office;
 - 9.2.4 To elect the Officers and other members of the Committee;
 - 9.2.5 To decide on any resolution, this may be duly submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3.
- 9.3 Nominations for election of members to any office or for membership of the Committee shall be made in writing by the proposer and seconder to the Secretary no later than the date specified in December for the pre-AGM meeting. The nominee shall be required to indicate in writing on the nomination form his/her willingness to stand for election. Notice of any resolution proposed to be moved at the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to the Secretary not later than the date of the Pre-AGM meeting.

10. Special General Meeting

- 10.1 A Special General Meeting may be called, at any time by the Committee. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary within 28 days of receipt by him/her. Of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 6 members entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and the resolutions proposed.

11. Procedure at the Annual and Special General Meeting

- 11.1 The Secretary shall personally be responsible for the advertising by notice on the Club notice board the date, time and place of the General Meeting together with the resolutions to be proposed thereat at least 21 days before the meeting and in the case of the Annual General Meeting a list of the nominees for the Committee posts.
- 11.2 The quorum for the Annual and Special General Meetings shall be 7 members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- 11.3 The Chairmanman, or in his/her absence a member selected by the Committee, shall take the Chairman. Each member present shall have one vote and a simple majority shall pass resolutions. For the procedures for submitting resolutions to be considered at a General Meeting members are referred to Rule 9.3. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairmanman shall have a casting or additional vote. Paid up members who have reached their 18th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and to vote on all matters. Members who have not reached their 18th birthday shall be entitled to be heard and vote only on those matters determined by the Chairman as matters concerning juniors such as the election of Club captains.
- 11.4 The Secretary, or in his absence a member of the Committee shall take minutes at the Annual and Special General Meetings.
- 11.5 The Chairmanman shall at all General Meetings have unlimited authority upon every question of order and shall be for the purpose of such meetings, the sole interpreter of the Rules of the Club.

12. Alteration of the Rules and other Resolutions

- 12.1 The rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual or Special General Meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of members present and entitled to vote at the General Meeting. No amendment to the rules shall become effective until such amendment shall have been submitted to and validated by Devon County ASA/Western Counties ASA.
- 12.2 Any member shall be entitled to put any proposal for consideration at any General Meeting provided the proposal in writing shall have been handed to or posted to the Secretary of the Club so as to be received by him/her not later than the date specified in December for the Pre-AGM meeting. In the case of the Annual General Meeting or (in the case of a Special General Meeting) 14 days before the date of the meeting and thereafter the Secretary shall supply a copy of the proposal or resolution to the members in the manner provided in Rule 11.1.

13. By-Laws

- 13.1 The Committee shall have power to make, repeal and amend such by-laws as they may from time to time consider necessary for the well being of the Club which by-laws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Committee or at a General Meeting.

14. Finance

- 14.1 All moneys payable to the Club shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the Club. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by cheque signed by two of the three signatories who shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, for these purposes, the counter signatory shall not be a member of the same family. Any moneys not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in its discretion thinks fit.
- 14.2 The income and property of the Club shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Club and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Club, (save as set out in Rule 17.3).
- 14.3 The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any officer, member or employee of the Club and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Club.
- 14.4 The financial transactions of the Club shall be recorded by the Treasurer in such manner, as the Committee think fit.
- 14.5 The financial year of the Club shall be the period commencing on 1st October and ending on 30th September. Any change to the financial year shall require the approval of the members in a General Meeting.
- 14.6 The Committee shall retain for a minimum period of six years all financial records relating to the Club and copies of Minutes of all meetings.

15. Borrowing

- 15.1 The Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Club for the purposes of the Club from time to time at their own discretion up to such limits on borrowing as may be laid down from time to time by the General Meeting for the general upkeep of the Club or with the prior approval of a General meeting for any other expenditure, additions or improvements.
- 15.2 When so borrowing the Committee shall have power to review in any way any sum or sums of money and to raise and secure the repayment of any sums or sums of money in such manner or on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, and in particular by mortgage of or charge upon or by the issues of debentures charged upon all or any part of the property of the Club.
- 15.3 The Committee shall have no power to pledge the personal liability of any member of the Club for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.

16. Property

- 16.1 The property of the Club, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not more than four Custodians. They shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.
- 16.2 The Custodians shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Club and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at a General Meeting.
- 16.3 The Custodians shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the property of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the discharge of their duties.

17. Dissolution

- 17.1 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 and entitled to vote.

- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be given to a charity or charities (or other non-profit making organisation having objects similar to those of the Club for the furtherance of such objects) nominated by the last Committee.

18. Acknowledgement

- 18.1 The Members acknowledge that these Rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.

The following statement should appear on Club membership forms and should be signed by the member and must also be countersigned by parent of members under 18 years of age:

I acknowledge receipt of the rules of Exmouth Swimming and Life Saving Society and confirm my understanding and acceptance that such rules (as amended from time to time) shall govern my membership of the Club. I further acknowledge and accept the responsibilities of membership upon members as set out in these rules.