

Ruislip-Northwood Masters Swimming Club

CONSTITUTION

Notes:

This Constitution was approved by Swim England on 17th November 2020 and published on the RNSC's website.

Interpretation: throughout this Constitution words denoting the masculine gender should be read as including all genders/gender identities.

Annexes (available on the Club website):

A: The current list of Committee members, the independent examiner and any ceremonial, life and honorary members.

B: The current schedule of subscriptions

RULES of Ruislip Northwood Masters Swimming Club (“the Club”)

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be ***Ruislip Northwood Masters Swimming Club.***

2. Objects

- 2.1 The objects of the Club shall be the teaching, development and practice of masters swimming for its members (who will be have attained at least 18 years of age) and shall, where appropriate, be to compete. In the furtherance of these objects:
- 2.1.1 The Club is committed to treating everyone equally within the context of its activity and with due respect to the differences of individuals. It shall not apply nor endorse unlawful or unjustified discrimination, and shall act in compliance with the protections afforded by the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.1.2 The Club shall implement Swim England’s Equality Policy (as may be amended from time to time).
- 2.2 The Club shall be affiliated to Swim England London Region, and shall adopt and conform to the rules of this Association and to such other bodies as the Club may determine from time to time.
- 2.3 The business and affairs of the Club shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the Laws, Regulations and Technical Rules of Swim England and in particular all competing members shall be eligible competitors as defined in Swim England Laws.
- 2.4 By virtue of the affiliation of the Club to Swim England London Region, the Club and all members of the Club acknowledge that they are subject to the laws, regulations, rules and constitutions of:
- 2.4.1 Swim England London Region; and
- 2.4.2 Swim England (to include the SE/IOS Code of Ethics); and
- 2.4.3 British Swimming (in particular its Anti-Doping Rules and Judicial Code); and
- 2.4.4 FINA, the world governing body for the sport of swimming in all its disciplines (together “the Governing Body Rules”).
- 2.5 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 Membership is to be limited to competent swimmers (as determined by the Club Committee) aged 18 years and older. There shall be no upper age limit.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 All persons who assist in any way with the Club's activities shall become members of the Club and hence of Swim England and the relevant Swim England 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 Swim England's educational certificates.
- 3.4 Paid instructors, teachers and coaches who are not members of the Club must be members of a body which accepts that its members are bound by Swim England's Code of Ethics, the Laws and Regulations relating to Child Protection and those parts of the Judicial Laws, Judicial Regulations and procedures necessary for their implementation and whilst engaged in activities under the jurisdiction of Swim England shall be subject to all the constraints and privileges of the Judicial Laws and Regulations.
- 3.5 Any person who wishes to become a member of the Club must submit a signed application to the Membership Officer. Membership shall be determined by the Membership Officer and other person(s) authorised by the Committee (such as the Coach(es)) who may make recommendation as to the applicant's acceptability.
- 3.6 The Membership Officer shall be required to give reasons for 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 fewer than three members (who may or may not be members of the Committee). The Review Panel shall, wherever practicable, include one independent member nominated by Swim England London Region. 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.
- 3.7 In its consideration of applications for membership, the Club shall not act in a discriminatory manner and in particular, shall adhere to the Equality Act 2010 (as may be amended). Accordingly, the Club shall not refuse membership on the basis of a Protected Characteristic within the Act, such as disability; gender or gender identity; pregnancy; race; religion or belief; or sexual orientation. Neither may refusal be made on the grounds of political persuasion. However, refusal can be made on the grounds of the minimum age requirements and swimming ability.
- 3.8 The Club may refuse membership including annual renewal only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute, or, in the case of a swimmer, being unable to achieve the required minimum swimming ability, that being to maintain a swimming level at least consistent with Lane Six training standards as laid down and provided by the Club to the applicant for 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 so make special provision for different classes of membership as it 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 October each year. Periodic payments of subscription shall be due monthly as agreed between the member and the Membership Officer or Treasurer and must be paid on or by the due date for each period.
- 4.3 Any member whose subscription is unpaid by the date falling 30 days after the due date for payment 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 and shall, where the Club pays the individual Swim England Membership Fees to Swim England on behalf of members, be consequential upon an increase in individual Swim England membership fees. Any increase in subscriptions shall be advised to the members in writing with the reasons for any increase to be reported to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 4.5 The Committee shall have the power in special circumstances to remit the whole or part of the fees, including Swim England membership fees, to address issues of social inclusion.

5. Resignation

- 5.1 A member wishing to resign membership of the Club must give to the Membership Officer and 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 The member who resigns from the Club in accordance with Rule 5.1 above shall not normally be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee or any other fees returned.
- 5.3 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 shall be informed in writing that he is no longer a member by notice handed to him or sent by email or post to his last known email or postal address.
- 5.4 The Swim England Membership Department shall be informed should a member resign when still owing money or goods to the Club.

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 the individual to remain a member. The Club in exercising this power shall comply with the provisions of Rules 6.3 and 6.4 below.
- 6.2 Upon expulsion the former member shall not be entitled to a refund of any part of the annual membership fee and must return forthwith any Club or external body's trophy

or trophies held. Clubs in exercising this power are required to comply with the provision of Rules 6.3 and 6.4 below.

- 6.3 The Club shall comply with the relevant Judicial Regulations for handling Internal Club Disputes (“the Regulations”) as the same may be revised from time to time. (A copy of the current Regulations and procedures may be obtained from the Swim England website at [Swim England Judicial Regulations Guidance Note](#) or by contacting the Swim England Office of Judicial Administration).
- 6.4 A member may not be expelled or (subject to Rule 6.5 below) be made the subject of any other penalty unless the panel hearing the complaint shall unanimously vote in favour of the expulsion of (or other penalty imposed upon) the member.
- 6.5 The Committee may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider club activities when, in its opinion, such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the incident or matter will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate Judicial Regulations.

7. Committee

- 7.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer (together “the Executive Officers of the Club”) and up to ten elected members all of whom must be members of the Club.
- 7.2 All Committee members shall be proposed seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting each year and shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next Annual General Meeting and will take office when the Chairman has closed the meeting. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election although they will not normally remain in office for longer than three years.
- 7.3 Committee meetings shall be held not less than once every two months (save where the Committee itself shall by a simple majority resolve not to meet), and the quorum of that meeting shall be such number as shall represent not less than a simple majority of the Committee members (to include not less than one Executive Officer). The Chair 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 seven days’ notice of a meeting. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority (and in the event of equality of votes the Chair (or the acting Chair of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote.) The Secretary, or in his absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes.
- 7.4 In the event that a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the published start time, a meeting shall stand adjourned to the time and date falling seven days after the date of the meeting, or such other date and time as may be determined by the Chair. 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 up to three 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 of 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.
- 7.8 The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Club against all 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 Swim England Membership Department. The Club shall make an annual return to the Swim England Membership Department indicating whether or not an entry has been made in the prescribed form, which is to be found on the membership renewal form or online membership system.
- 7.10 The Committee shall have power to make regulations, create by-laws (see Rule 13.1) and to settle disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

8. Ceremonial positions and honorary members/life members

- 8.1 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 Club 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 Swim England.
- 8.2 The Committee may elect any person as an honorary member of the Club for such period as it thinks fit, or as a life member, and they shall be entitled to all 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 in addition their ordinary membership of the Club. Such honorary members and life members must be included in the Club's annual return as to membership.
- 8.3 Once created by the Committee, honorary and/or Life membership categories may only be removed (notwithstanding that persons may hold these categories of membership) at an Annual General Meeting of the Club, when it shall be properly proposed in accordance with these Rules.
- 8.4 A minimum of 21 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall write to all holders of honorary and/or life membership affected by the above

proposal drawing the proposal to their attention and inviting them to attend the Annual General Meeting.

- 8.5 Where the affected holder or holders of the honorary and/or life membership do not attend the Annual General Meeting, the Chair may allow the matter (in so far as it relates to the absent person(s)) to proceed directly to vote, which shall normally be by show of hands.

9. Annual general meeting

- 9.1 The Annual General Meeting ("the AGM") of the Club shall be held each year on a date in September or October. The date, time and venue for the AGM shall be fixed by the Committee.
- 9.2 The purpose of the AGM is to transact the following business:
- 9.2.1 to receive the Secretary or Chair's report of 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 any report on the accounts by 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 remain in office;
 - 9.2.4 to elect the Executive Officers of the Club and other members of the Committee;
 - 9.2.5 to decide on the dissolution of existing honorary and/or life membership categories;
 - 9.2.6 to decide on any resolution which 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 not normally later than 21 days prior to the AGM. The nominee shall be required to indicate in writing their willingness to stand for election. Notice of any resolution proposed to be moved at the AGM shall be given in writing to the Secretary not later than 28 days in advance of the meeting.

10. Special general meeting

- 10.1 A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called at any time by the Committee. An SGM shall be called by the Club within 28 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than seven members entitled to attend and vote at an AGM or, if greater, such number as represents one-tenth in number of such members, stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and the resolutions proposed.

11. Procedure at the annual and special general meetings

- 11.1 The Secretary shall personally be responsible for the handing out or sending to each member at his last known postal address a written agenda giving notice of the date, time and place of the meeting together with the resolutions to be proposed thereat normally at least fourteen days before the meeting and in the case of the Annual General Meeting a list of the nominees for the Committee posts and a copy of the examined accounts. The Secretary may, alternatively, distribute these materials by e-mail or similar form of communication. The notice of meeting shall in addition wherever possible be displayed on the Club notice board or internet site where one exists.
- 11.2 The quorum for the annual and special general meetings shall be seven members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting or, if greater, such number as represents one-tenth in number of such members.
- 11.3 The Chair, or in the Chair's absence a member appointed by the Committee, shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. For the procedures for submitting resolutions to be considered at a meeting, members are referred to Rule 9.3. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting or additional vote. Only paid up members shall be entitled to be heard and to vote on all matters.
- 11.4 The Secretary, or in their absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes at the annual and special general meetings.
- 11.5 The Chair shall at all meetings have unlimited authority upon every question of order and shall be, for the purpose of such meeting, 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 AGM or SGM provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least (two-thirds) of members present and entitled to vote at the meeting. No amendment(s) to the rules shall become effective until such amendment(s) shall have been submitted to and validated by such person as is authorised to do so by Swim England London Region.
- 12.2 Any member shall be entitled to put any proposal for consideration at any meeting provided the proposal in writing shall have been handed to or emailed to the Secretary of the Club so as to be received by him 28 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 an AGM or SGM.

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 greater than £500.00 shall be drawn from that account except with the approval of two of the three Executive Officers. Any monies not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in its discretion think 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 thinks fit.
- 14.5 The financial year of the Club shall be the period commencing on 1 October and ending on 30 September. Any change to the financial year shall require the approval of the members in an AGM or SGM.
- 14.6 The Committee shall retain all financial records relating to the Club and copies of minutes of all meetings for a minimum period of six years.

15. Borrowing

- 15.1 The Committee may only borrow money on behalf of the Club for the purposes of the Club with the prior approval of an AGM or SGM for expenditure, additions or improvements to the Club.
- 15.2 When so borrowing the Committee shall have power to raise 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.
- 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 an AGM or SGM of the Club and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at an AGM or SGM.
- 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 an AGM or SGM and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote. A specific date for the dissolution shall be included in the resolution.
- 17.2 The dissolution shall take effect from the date specified in 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 ideally having objectives similar to those of the Club for the furtherance of such objectives) nominated by the last Committee.

18. Acknowledgement

- 18.1 Members acknowledge that these rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.
- 18.2 The following statement should be agreed to by each Club member:

“I acknowledge receipt of the rules of Ruislip-Northwood Masters Swimming Club 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.”

Annex A

Committee members for 2023-24

Officers

Chairman	Paul Catherall
General Secretary	Christine Rowley
Membership Secretary	Jill Kirner
Treasurer	Judith Charman

Committee Members

- Martin Appleby
- Roger Bown
- Karen O’Dea
- Clair Waltho-Smith

Independent financial examiner

Chetan Shah

Ceremonial, Life and Honorary Members

- Mike Goddard
- Joe O’Dea

Annex B

Subscription rates for 2023-24

Annual full member	£396.00 (£372.20 if paid by 31 October)
Monthly full member	£33.00pcm
One session a week	£264.00 (£250.80 if paid by 31 October)
Monthly OAW	£22pcm
Student rate (four months)	£132.00 (or £11pcm)
Joining/re-joining fee	£10

In addition, Club members must pay the relevant Swim England fees for the calendar year (see Club website for details, link [here](#)).

As at 30 September 2023, the Club comprised 53 members.