

# DURHAM COUNTY SOCIETY OF ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL REFEREES

County RA Rules



# Version: May 2025

## 1. Name

The Society shall be called the Durham County Society of Association Football Referees, hereinafter called the County Society.

## 2. Objects

Shall be to:

- (a) Improve the standard and status of refereeing;
- (b) Assist local Branch Societies in their educational and general work;
- (c) Protect Members from injustice and unfair treatment;
- (d) Promote a closer relationship between referees, the Football Association, and kindred bodies;
- (e) Make to appropriate football governing bodies such representation as may be thought necessary for the good of the game and the benefit of referees and refereeing; and
- (f) Support the general objects of the Referees' Association,

## 3. Constitution

The County Society shall consist of members of local Branches or Independent members of the National RA who shall be full members: that is, those who have been, or are, registered referees under the jurisdiction of the Football Association, and whose Branch Society is located within the Area administered by the Durham County Football Association. Those Independent members who are members of the National Referees Association, but not members of a local Branch Society, may affiliate with the County Society upon payment of the current membership fee.

## 4. Affiliation Fees

Branches shall submit to the County Treasurer, by the last day of each month (from June through to May) all affiliations fees collected from their members. These fees to be accompanied with the full name of each member. The said fees to comprise an amount determined by the County Society at the previous Annual General Meeting.

## 5. Officers of the County Society

- (a) Shall be President, vice President, Chairperson, vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer. Also, to include any Durham County Member who is also a member of the National RA Board, who shall be an ex-officio member of the County Society.
- (b) The Office of vice President shall be bestowed upon members who have made a substantial contribution to the Referees' Association at County level i.e. County Officers, Branch Representatives to County Society Meetings, or Auditors, with a minimum period of service of 10 years.

## 6. The County Society Executive Committee

- (a) Composition** – Shall consist of the Officers plus a Representative from each Branch.
- (b) Voting** – At County Society meetings, voting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot if so requested by one Branch or by an Officer of the County RA, and shall be confined to the Officers plus the representative from each Branch.
- (c) Expenses** – Reasonable travelling expenses of the County Society Officers, as defined in Rule 5, shall be borne by County Society Funds. Those of Branch Representatives shall be paid by the Branch.
- (d) Sub-Committees** – The County Society shall be empowered to establish such Subcommittees as are necessary and invite members of the sub-Committees to attend meetings of the County Society.
- (e) Finance** – The Treasurer will be required to correctly maintain Accounts of the County Society and they will provide a written report on the state of the Accounts at each arranged County Society meeting. They will close the annual Accounts on the 31 March, following which they will then prepare a set of audited accounts for presentation to the members at the Annual General Meeting. The Accounts to be audited by two Auditors appointed at the previous A.G.M., who will be required to make a Report thereon. The Auditors shall not be Officers or Members of the County Society Executive Committee. In the event of a deficit occurring in the Accounts, each Branch will be required to pay an equal amount of the deficit involved.

## 7. Meetings

One meeting to be held in February, or when business needs to be discussed. The Annual General Meeting will be held in May. The date, time and venue for all meetings to be decided by the County Society Executive Committee.

- (a) Attendance** – Each Branch must be represented at all County Society Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine of £10.00 (ten pounds) being imposed by the County Society Executive Committee. Such a fine to be paid within 14 (fourteen) days of the relevant meeting.
- (b) Attendance Register** –  
A record to be kept by the County Secretary, of all Officers and Branch Representatives attending County Society Executive meetings. Such a register to run from May to February inclusive. **Quorum** – At any duly summoned meeting of the County Society Executive, at least 2 (two) Officers plus the Representatives from at least 2 (two) different Branches shall form a quorum.
- (c) Expenses** – Reasonable travelling expenses of the County Society Officers, as defined in Rule 5, shall be borne by County Society Funds. Those of Branch Representatives shall be paid by the Branch.

## 8. Long Service Awards

Applications from Branch in respect of full member with at least 15 (fifteen), 30 (thirty) and 50 (fifty) years aggregated service with Branches shall be sent to the County Society Secretary by the first week in August. The recipient of each of the three Awards shall receive a suitable framed Certificate

## 9. Election of Officers

All County Society Officers shall retire annually.

- (a) Vice Presidents, shall be appointed by the County Executive Committee at the February Meeting.
- (b) All other Officers shall be nominated by Branches to be in the hands of the County Society Secretary by the last day of February. Branches must then record the total votes by Branch Ballot, for each nominee, to be received by the County Society Secretary, not later than 30 April. In each case, a prescribed form shall be issued by the County Society Secretary which must be used.

## 10. Alteration to Rules

All notices of motion and alteration to rule must be received by the County Society Secretary by the last day of February. The County Society Secretary shall then forward copies to the Officers and each Branch before the third Saturday in March.

Any amendments must be received by the County Society Secretary by the third Saturday in April, to enable such alteration/amendments to be included in the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

No alterations or additions shall be made to these Rules except at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting especially convened for that purpose.

## 11. Extraordinary – General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the resolution of the Officers, or by five percent of the membership, by giving at least 28 (twenty-eight) days' notice to the County Society Secretary. Five percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at any Extraordinary General Meeting. The County Society Secretary shall inform all Officers and Branches of the date, place and time, together with the business to be discussed, at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the meeting.

At any Annual General / Extraordinary Meeting, all fully paid-up members who are in attendance will be entitled to an individual vote.

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