**CONSTITUTION OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**PREAMBLE**

1. **NAME.**

The name of the organisation shall be “Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Association”.

1. **OBJECTIVES**
2. To manage, organise or co-ordinate all chess activity within the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland.
3. To act as the organisation recognised by the English Chess Federation (ECF) and the Midlands Counties Chess Union (MCCU) as the governing body for chess in Leicestershire and Rutland, and to be affiliated to those bodies.
4. To encourage the establishment of chess clubs in Leicestershire and Rutland, and to foster and support chess playing in general.
5. **DEFINITIONS**
6. “LRCA” shall mean “Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Association”.
7. “Club” shall mean a club admitted to membership of the LRCA.
8. The term “in writing” shall include correspondence by e-mail.
9. “Year” to mean April 1st to March 31st.
10. “GC” shall mean “General Committee”.
11. “Principal Officers” shall mean the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the LRCA.
12. **MEMBERSHIP**
13. All Clubs entering any of the league or cup competitions organised by the LRCA shall be deemed to have applied for full membership of the LRCA.
14. All applications for membership will be subject to approval by the LRCA and payment of a membership fee, as determined by the LRCA.
15. Any member accepts that sanctions up to and including expulsion from the LRCA may be imposed for breaches of the rules of the LRCA or its competitions.
16. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership shall give notice in writing to the LRCA Secretary. The GC shall determine any outstanding obligations with regards to the member.
17. For the purposes of this constitution, correspondence with “Members” shall mean the Club secretaries.
18. **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**
19. May participate in all team competitions organised by the LRCA.
20. Will have all individual games played in competitions organised by the LRCA rated and submitted to the ECF for inclusion in national rating lists produced by the ECF.
21. Members of Clubs which are members of the LRCA shall be eligible to hold office within the LRCA.
22. Members of Clubs which are members of the LRCA may participate in all non-team events organised by the LRCA.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

1. **Structure**
2. The LRCA will be run by a General Committee (“GC”).
3. The GC can create ‘active’ officer roles to ensure the smooth running of the LRCA. All officers with ‘active’ roles in the LRCA are entitled to attend GC meetings and receive emails regarding GC business.
4. The GC can create sub-committees to deal with specific areas such as congresses or juniors. Sub-committees will report on their activities at GC meetings.
5. The GC can remove ‘active’ officer roles and sub-committees that it no longer deems necessary.
6. In addition to the LRCA officers, clubs with LRCA membership (“Clubs”) may nominate one representative (if no standing LRCA Officer is a member of that Club) to attend GC meetings and receive emails regarding GC business.
7. In exceptional circumstances where a club does not wish an officer in an active role in LRCA to represent his/her club, the club may apply to the GC to nominate a different representative***.***
8. **Format of Meetings**
9. Meetings can be called by the LRCA President or Secretary. The meeting will be chaired by the LRCA President. In the absence of the President, the Secretary will preside over the meeting. Meetings can be either online or in person, but decisions and discussions can also be made by email.
10. The GC will meet online or in person at least once a year.
11. There will be an annual meeting of the GC in May to:
12. Receive the report of the Treasurer.
13. Consider and vote upon the proposed fees and subscription rates for the current year.
14. Elect the principal officers and the other officers of the LRCA.
15. Consider and vote upon any motions proposed by members of the GC.
16. The Constitution of the LRCA may be altered only at an annual meeting. The precise wording of any proposed alterations must be notified to all members. Changes to the Constitution require a two thirds majority vote.
17. All GC members shall be given 14 days’ notice of any meeting by the LRCA President or Secretary.
18. All meetings require a quorum of 5 GC members and 10 votes.
19. **Voting at Meetings**
20. GC decisions will be made by voting by the club representatives on the GC. Each club will receive a number of votes commensurate with the number of teams it enters in the league competition as follows:

1-2 teams: 1 vote

3-4 teams: 2 votes

5-6 teams: 3 votes

7-8 teams: 4 votes

1. If a Club has more than one person in an ‘active’ role then each shall have a vote, unless the number exceeds the Club’s vote allocation, in which case the Club shall decide which of its ‘active’ officers shall have a vote.
2. If voting is tied the GC Chair should have the casting vote.

**FINANCE**

9. The annual fees and subscription rates for Clubs shall be fixed at the AGM. The exact sums owed by each club will be determined and invoiced when the number of teams to be entered into the League is agreed. The GC may take action against a Club that does not pay its invoice in a reasonable timeframe.

10. The Treasurer shall keep books of account which shall be submitted to the independent examiner to examine. The accounts of the LRCA, together with comments from the independent, shall be presented to the GC no later than 31st May.

**SCHEDULE OFFICERS OF THE LRCA**

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Term of office - 1 year.

SECRETARY Term of office - 1 year. The Secretary serves as the LRCA’s ECF representative and MCCU delegate unless he/she chooses to delegate the responsibility to another GC member.

TREASURER Term of office - 1 year.

**OTHER OFFICERS – ‘Active’ Roles**

All officers and committee members listed below are elected annually, at the annual meeting.

1. Rating Officer.
2. Webmaster.
3. League Fixtures Secretary.
4. Summer Cup Controller.
5. Individual Competitions Officer.
6. Junior Officer.
7. Safeguarding Officer.

The GC can remove these roles or add others as it deems necessary.

The GC will also appoint an independent examiner.