

**1**      **NAME**

The Association shall be known as the 'English Volleyball Association', hereinafter referred to as 'the Association'.

**2**      **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Association shall be to promote and encourage in every way the game of volleyball; to interpret the rules and regulations; to act as the governing body for the sport in England and to represent the Association's interests nationally and internationally and as further set down in the Memorandum of Association of English Volleyball Association Limited.

**3**      **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 3.1.      The Association shall be responsible for all forms of volleyball and variants of volleyball.
- 3.2.      The Association shall bear due regard to the rules, regulations and requirements of the International Volleyball Federation (hereinafter referred to as F.I.V.B.) and, if not in conflict, of the European Volleyball Confederation (C.E.V.) and any other relevant body unless in conflict with the objects of the Association and insofar that it does not impinge on legal requirements and civil rights as established in England.

**4**      **MEMBERSHIP**

All members, whether as a group or an individual, must subscribe to the objects of the Association. The Association recognises the following membership categories: -

- 4.1.      Club:
- 4.1.1.     Any properly constituted group.
- 4.2      Affiliated Associations:
- 4.2.1     Regional Associations as defined in 11.1
- 4.2.2     Area Associations as defined in 11.5 and recognised by the Executive Board
- 4.2.3     Any national body with a recognised volleyball section and recognised by the Executive Board.
- 4.2.4     Any other properly constituted association or group which the Executive Board shall admit to membership.
- 4.3      Individual: Any person may register as an individual member as a:-
- 4.3.1     Player
- 4.3.2     Coach
- 4.3.3     Referee
- 4.3.4     Associate
- 4.4      Honorary Life member - subject to a maximum of ten persons in this category, nominated by the Board and approved in General Meeting.
- 4.5      The Executive Board shall have the power to refuse any application for membership.

**5**      **FEES**

- 5.1      The amount of subscription in the various classes of voting membership shall be due to the Association on 1st August each year.
- 5.2      The amount of subscription for members as defined in 4.1 shall be subject to an annual increase equal to the rate of inflation prevailing at 1st April rounded up to the nearest 50p. Increases over and above this level to be approved in General Meeting of the Association.
- 5.3      The amount of fee for other classes of membership, as defined in 4.2 and 4.3, shall be approved by the Executive Board.

**6**      **OFFICERS**

The elected officers of the Association, as defined below, will serve on the Executive Board or the Management Committee.

- 6.1      Officers elected to serve on the Executive Board shall be
- 6.1.1      Honorary President(s)
- 6.1.2      President
- 6.1.3      Vice President and
- 6.1.4      Five Directors, of whom two will be responsible for Finance and Marketing, the remaining three being in charge of Technical, Playing and Development matters or their agreed successors' or replacements' functions.
- 6.2      Officers elected to serve on the Management Committee shall be the Presidents of the following Commissions
- 6.2.1      Beach Commission
- 6.2.2      Coaches Commission
- 6.2.3      Competitions Commission
- 6.2.4      Performance Commission
- 6.2.5      Referees Commission
- 6.2.6      Regional Commission
- 6.2.7      Youth Development Commission
- 6.3      Honorary President(s) may be elected by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting to serve for whatever period is determined by the meeting but subsequently may be removed or have the term of office reduced by a simple majority.
- 6.3.1      The other Executive Board and Management Committee members shall retire biennially, or at the end of their term of office as defined in 6.3.2, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.3.2      Elections will take place at Annual General Meetings as follows:

- 6.3.2.1 In even years: Vice President, Marketing Director, Development Director, Technical Director, and Presidents of Beach, Competitions, Referees, Regional Commissions.
- 6.3.2.2 In odd years: President, Finance Director, Playing Director, and Presidents of Coaches, Performance, Youth Development Commissions
- 6.3.3 If an officer listed above should vacate that office prior to expiry of their full term the Executive Board shall be responsible for selecting and co-opting an Acting Officer in the case of the Board, and Acting President, in the case of the Management Committee, who will continue in that position until the next Annual General Meeting at which they, and others, may then stand for that position and serve for a period as determined by 6.3.2.
- 6.4 Only individuals who have been members of the Association for the two prior consecutive years may be candidates for election to the Executive Board and Management Committee. In this context 'member' means an individual member as defined in Clause 4.3 of this Constitution, as duly attested by the secretary of a recognised club, region, area association, Commission President or National Office.

## **7 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 7.1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Board, who shall do all such acts and exercise all such powers of the Association as may be required to give effect to the objects as described in this Constitution and the provisions of the Memorandum of Association and which are not by statute or by the Articles of Association required expressly or implied to be done or exercised by the Association in General Meeting.
- 7.1.1 All members of the Executive Board shall be the Directors of the Association within the meaning of the Companies Acts 1985 or any other subsequent legislation and enactment.
- 7.1.2 The Executive Board shall consist of the following:-
- 7.1.2.1 Voting Members shall be the President, Vice President and the five Directors
- 7.1.2.2 Non-voting members shall be the Honorary President(s) and the Chief Executive Officer.
- 7.1.2.3 The Executive Board shall have the power to invite other delegates to its meetings in a non-voting capacity.
- 7.1.3 The Chairman referred to in Article 27 of the Memorandum and Articles shall be President of Executive Board and shall be entitled to preside at all meetings of the Executive Board when present; but if at any meeting the President not be present, the Vice-President will deputise as Chair. In case of both being absent a Chair for that meeting shall be elected from the voting Board members present.
- 7.1.4 The Quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Executive Board shall be four voting members.
- 7.1.5 Every decision of the Executive Board shall be by majority vote with the presiding Chair having a second and casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
- 7.1.6 Any item to be voted on at an Executive Board meeting must be presented to the members of the Executive Board in writing seven days prior to the meeting, or at the discretion of the President or Chair of the meeting.
- 7.1.7 There shall be at least 4 meetings of the Executive Board in each year between Annual General Meetings.

- 7.1.8 The Executive Board has the power to remove Directors who have been absent, without accepted apologies, from three consecutive Board meetings.
- 7.2 The administration of the Constitution of the Association and the Memorandum and Articles of Association shall be vested in the Executive Board who shall decide all questions of rules and other matters relating to the affairs of the Association.
- 7.2.1 The Executive Board shall be responsible for the financial affairs, strategic planning and management of the Association.
- 7.2.2 The Executive Board shall be authorised to employ or dispense with the services of paid employees. The Executive Board shall be authorised to make payment for services rendered by Management or Executive Committee members or their immediate families, who may conduct business with the EVA
- 7.2.3 The Executive Board will ratify matters relating to international representation at congresses and conferences, international representative matches involving national teams, and domestic competitions as affecting the Association.
- 7.2.4 The Executive Board will approve the Constitution of Regional Associations (11.3). The Executive Board will validate the Constitution of Area Associations (clause 11.5). The Executive Board will decide on any questions or matters arising not provided for in the Constitution of Regional and Area Associations and member clubs.

## 8 **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 8.1 The Management Committee shall consist of the following:
- 8.1.1 Voting members shall be the Presidents of the Commissions as defined in clause 9.
- 8.1.2 Non-voting members shall be the professional officers of the Association including Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Development Officer and Technical Officer.
- 8.1.3 The Management Committee shall have the power to invite other delegates to its meetings in a non-voting capacity.
- 8.1.1 The Management Committee shall be responsible for selecting one of their members to act as Chairman at the Management Committee meetings.
- 8.1.2 In the event that a President of a Commission is unable to attend, their vote may be exercised by a nominated representative, subject to written advice from the President of the Commission being lodged at the National Office prior to the meeting.
- 8.1.3 The Quorum necessary for the transaction of business at Management Committee meetings shall be four voting members.
- 8.1.4 Every decision of the Management Committee shall be by majority vote with the Chairman having a second and casting vote if necessary.
- 8.2 The Management Committee shall be responsible for co-ordination of the work of the Commissions in carrying out the day to day management of the strategies determined by the Executive Board

**9 COMMISSIONS AND STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES**

9.1 The following shall be standing Commissions and Sub-Committees of the Association:

Commissions

Beach Commission  
Coaches Commission  
Competitions Commission  
Performance Commission  
Referee Commission  
Regional Commission  
Youth Development Commission

Sub-Committees

Staff Committee  
Finance Committee  
Judicial Panel

9.2 Each Commission shall have an elected President as defined in 6.2.

9.3 Each Sub-Committee shall have a Chair appointed by the Executive Board

9.4 The membership of Commissions shall be approved annually at the first Executive Board meeting following the Annual General Meeting and as required thereafter by the Executive Board. The membership of the Staff Sub-Committees shall be the Chair, the CEO and a representative selected by the staff. The membership of the remaining sub-committees shall be chosen by the Chair.

9.5 The Executive Board and Management Committee may each at their discretion create additional sub-committees and working groups. Any Sub Committee/Working group so formed shall, in the performance of the duties so delegated, conform to any regulations that may be imposed upon it by the body creating it and shall have a specific remit from its commissioning body.

9.6 The Management Committee may delegate any of its duties to Commissions or Sub-Committees/ Working groups it may create.

9.7 Any individual member of the Association shall be eligible for appointment to the membership of a Commission or Sub-Committee.

9.8 The President of a Commission may serve on only one Commission during a term of office. An elected member of the Executive Board may not be a President of a Commission.

9.9 Regional Commission shall consist of representatives from each Region as defined in 11.2. Only one such representative from any Regional Association may be voting.

**10 FINANCE**

10.1 The financial year of the Association shall end on 31st March and a financial statement, up to and including this date, shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

10.2 The funds of the Association shall be vested in the Finance Director and neither they nor any property of the Association shall be paid to or distributed amongst members of the Association, but shall be applied towards the furtherance of the Association's stated objects. The Funds of the Association shall be lodged at a Bank or similar financial institution approved under the Financial Services Act.

10.3 In the event of dissolution, the funds remaining shall be devoted to other organisations whose aims and objects are similar to those of the Association.

**11 ADMINISTRATION**

- 11.1 Regional administration shall be carried out by Regional Associations. Regional Associations shall represent the following regions of England as recognised by Sport England at the prevailing time.
- North East
  - North West
  - Yorkshire
  - East Midlands
  - West Midlands
  - East
  - South West
  - London
  - South East
- 11.2 Membership of a Regional Association is automatically accorded to all affiliated/ registered members within that region.
- 11.2.1 A club shall be deemed to be a member of the Association for the Region in which its home court is situated. A club with home playing facilities in two or more Regions shall be a member of one Regional Association only but may elect to which of those Regions it belongs. A club with no home playing facility shall be deemed to be a member of the Region for the address of the club's secretary.
- 11.2.2 Where a member is normally resident outside the above regions the Regional Commission shall determine to which EVA Region they shall belong taking into account proximity of that region. This shall also apply to member clubs in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Wales.
- 11.3 The constitution of each Regional Association must be approved by the Executive Board.
- 11.3.1 Any proposed addition to, or alteration of, or decision of the Constitution shall be submitted to the CEO of the Association before the Regional Annual General Meeting. In the event of any question or matter arising which is not provided for in the constitution of the Regional Association, such matter or question shall be dealt with by the Executive Board of the Association whose decision shall be final.
- 11.4 Each Regional Association and any body affiliating as a nationally recognised organisation shall hold an Annual General Meeting to which the EVA CEO, or a nominee from the Executive Board, shall be invited to observe. Each Regional Association and national organisation shall, within one calendar month of their respective AGM, submit an Annual Report and Balance Sheet to the Association's National Office. The financial year of each Regional Association shall end on 31st March.
- 11.5 Regional Associations may delegate the responsibility for specified duties and activities to Area Associations. The constitution of any bodies set up to establish or manage such duties and activities must be approved by the relevant Regional Association and validated by the Executive Board.
- 11.6 In the event of dissolution of a Regional Association, the funds remaining but not the liabilities in excess of the funds remaining, shall be passed to the Association to remain on deposit until such time as a new Regional Association is recognised by the Association.
- 11.7 In the event of dissolution of an Area Association, the funds shall be passed to the relevant Regional Association.

**12      GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 12.1      A General Meeting of the Association shall be convened on a resolution of the Executive Board or within five weeks after receipt by the CEO -or the President of a request signed by any one of:-
- four members of the Executive Board or
- on passing of a resolution by a simple majority of all recognised Regions or
- on passing of a resolution by a simple majority of all recognised Areas or
- authorised resolutions of at least one-tenth of all clubs as defined in 4.1
- 12.1.1      The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held between 15th May and 15th August.
- 12.1.2      At least twenty-one days' notice, specifying the place, date and hour of the meeting, together with an agenda, shall be given to all affiliated members of the Association.
- 12.1.3      All resolutions, including resolutions to amend the Constitution shall be submitted to the National Office of the Association to arrive not less than five weeks before the date of the General Meeting.
- 12.1.4      All nominations for office on the Executive Board shall be submitted to the National Office of the Association not less than eight days before the date of the General Meeting.
- 12.1.5      All such Resolutions and nominations shall be proposed and seconded by a member as defined in Clause 4 of this Constitution.
- 12.1.6      The voting at a General Meeting shall be one vote for each group as defined in 4.1 and 4.2.
- 12.1.7      Any member group must authorise by letter an individual member of that group to be its representative. Such letter must be deposited with the Association officer responsible for arrangements at the meeting prior to participating in the meeting. Such authorised individuals may then act and vote on behalf of the member group. No individual may vote in more than one capacity with the exception of the President who, in the event of a tie, may exercise a second and casting vote.
- 12.1.8      All resolutions and elections for office shall be decided by a secret ballot or by a show of hands at the discretion of the President.
- 12.1.9      With the exception of resolutions to change the Constitution, all resolutions and elections for office shall be decided by a simple majority.
- 12.1.10      Alterations to the Constitution may only be effected by a two-thirds majority vote, and only in General Meeting.
- 12.1.11      At least twenty-one days before any General Meeting a Report shall be available to all affiliated members of the Association and after each Annual General Meeting a copy of the audited financial statements of the Association shall be made available.

**13 DISCIPLINE**

- 13.1 The Association and or its Commissions, Regional Associations and subscribing national bodies may institute disciplinary action against constituent members be they a group or an individual.
- 13.2 The juridical actions of the Association and/or its Commissions, Sub-Committees, Regional Associations and of national bodies must be in accord with the principle of "Natural Justice" and requirements of the Human Rights Act legislation and should be applied in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Association.
- 13.3 The Executive Board may take action against any registered participant, administrative group, commission, sub-committee, sponsor or affiliated organisation that it deems to have brought the Association into disrepute or have committed an act of misconduct as defined by the Anti-Doping Rules.
- 13.4 Where ratified by the Executive Board suspensions will apply throughout England.

**14 APPEALS**

- 14.1 The Judicial Panel shall hear appeals against a decision of any National, Commission or Regional Association hearing and shall be governed by its terms of reference as published and in force on the date of the alleged offence or matter in dispute. The Panel will also adjudicate on any cases referred by the Executive Board.
- 14.2 The Judicial Panel will be chosen by the Judicial Officer from a list of suitable people of standing to form an independent panel as defined in the relevant Disciplinary Code.
- 14.3 The decision of the Judicial Panel shall be final within the jurisdiction of the Association.

**15 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 15.1 The Association shall have an equity policy to ensure that that all members of the Association receive fair treatment and to ensure that there is open access for all those who wish to participate in the sport and that they are treated fairly within the limits demanded by the game. The Association supports the principle of equal opportunities for all participants, member, representatives and employees whilst working for, or on behalf of the Association. It opposes unlawful and unfair discrimination. The Association will through its Child Protection Policy ensure a safe environment for minors.
- 15.2 The Association shall have the right to publish in the Public Press or in any other manner it thinks fit, reports of its proceedings, acts and resolutions.
- 15.3 The Association shall take action, in accordance with its Anti-Doping Rules, against those of its membership found to have contravened the Anti-Doping Rules which comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and FIVB or their successors, in force at the time of the offence.