

Renegades Softball Club Constitution

Definitions

For the sake of this document the following terms are to be referred to
“member” means a person who is a fully paid member of the Renegades Softball club
“Club” means the Renegades Softball Club organisation

1. Club Aims and Objectives

- To field the best team possible while allowing all members to get as much game time as possible based on the division in which they play.
- To encourage new players to join the club and to train and teach them the rules of the game so they can play to their highest standard
- To increase player retention, by listening to player’s concerns, complaints and offering as much softball and socialising opportunities as a member could want.
- To have our players treat umpires, opposing team members, league officials and our own club members with courtesy and respect, in person and on the internet and via social media.
- To try and enter as many softball tournaments (Blitzes) arranged by Softball Ireland, Softball Leinster and other clubs within the league in order to promote club unity.

2. Members:

- Membership to the Renegades Softball Club shall be open to all adults over the age of 18, or under 18 with parental consent as mandated by Softball Ireland and Softball Leinster.
- Players will not be discriminated against based on ethnicity, race, gender or sexual preference.
- Membership requires full payment of subs. Players who have not paid their full subs must make arrangements with their team captain or the club treasurer and keep to those arrangements. They then are entitled to everything that full membership entails unless they default on their promised payments.
- All members shall be bound by this constitution, as well as the constitution and byelaws of Softball Leinster and Softball Ireland.
- All members shall adhere to the Anti-Bullying policy. This document is to protect all members from any bullying issues. Please refer to the document for more information which can be found on our website.

3. Executive Committee and Team Managers/Captains:

- The Club shall have an Executive Committee whose responsibility is the day to day running of the club.
- The Executive Committee shall be made up of a Club chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer.
- The Executive Committee may form sub-committees or recruit volunteers to achieve whatever needs to be accomplished in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Club.
- The Term of Office shall begin immediately following the Club’s AGM and continue until the next AGM following one year. The Club Secretary at the time of the AGM will be responsible for producing the minutes from the AGM in which they were the presiding secretary.

- An Executive Committee member can hold additional roles such as Team Captain or Social Coordinator, but there must be three separate individuals holding the Executive positions.
- All club members are ordinary committee members as long as they have paid their subs or have made arrangements to do so. This allows them to vote on any issue that the Club Executive holds a full committee vote for.
- The Executive Committee will sit on disciplinary matters brought to them.
- Team Captains have to work together to ensure that all teams field the best available team for competition. They are considered to be Non-Executive members of the committee who represent their teams' interests to the Club.
- The position of Social Coordinator will be considered a non- executive member of the committee with special responsibilities and forming sub-committees as needed.
- When possible a Club Coach is nominated to help with the running of training sessions and help with the improvement of all players

4. The roles of the Executive Committee and Team Captains

- **The Chairperson** shall preside over the club AGM and all committee meetings. They are responsible for communicating to the public at large on behalf of the club the club's goals and ideals. In conjunction with the team captains and club coach they will be responsible for the recruitment of new players.
- **The Secretary** shall keep minutes at all committee meetings and the AGM and disseminate those minutes to the club within two weeks of a meeting. They shall send out notices to the entire club regarding the club's business, such as agendas for upcoming meetings and important news. The Secretary is also in charge of registration and keeping track of club membership.
- **The Treasurer** is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the clubs expenses and income. They will coordinate with captains and subcommittees ensuring that all payments are made and that players have paid their subs.
- **Team Captains** shall be responsible for the running of their team. They must designate a co-captain (a person who will help the captain organise the team throughout the season) if the captain is unable to fulfil their duties during the course of the season the co-captain will automatically take the captains position until a team can vote or decide to hold a vote them in officially. They are entitled to run the team as they see fit as long as it does not conflict with this constitution, Club byelaws, or the constitution or byelaws of Softball Ireland or Softball Leinster.

The captain will have final say in any decisions to do with the team.

- **Social coordinator** shall be responsible for organising and running social events and creating social sub committees if needed. They will communicate with the club about upcoming social events and organise teams for blitzes. ■
- **Club Coach** shall run training sessions and work together with team Captains to improve the skills of all players in the Club. This person can hold any other position in the club.
- The Executive Committee positions may have an assistant to help them in the tasks of these roles.

5. Election of the Executive Committee and Captains

- The Executive Committee members shall be democratically elected in a direct election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

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- To seek election to the committee, each candidate must be nominated and seconded by a member of the club.
- Captains and the Social Coordinator can volunteer for the position and do not need to be nominated. If two or more members volunteer to hold the position then they too will be democratically elected in a direct election.
- Elections shall be held by secret ballot and will be counted by the Club Secretary and a designated club member who is not running for election. If the Secretary is running for election then a second substitute club member will help count the ballots.
 - The secretary shall ask for nominations 10 days prior to the AGM or an EGM and then notify the club of these nominations via email 5 days prior to the meeting to ensure adequate time for the club members to make decisions.
 - If members would like to vote but cannot make the AGM or EGM they can send votes to the Secretary via email up to 48 hours before the scheduled meeting. These vote are not anonymous as they will have their email address attached to them.

6. Disciplinary actions for members, captains and executive committee members

- No member of the Executive Committee shall be dismissed from office unless a written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by at least 25% of the members of the club is received 4 working days prior to a committee meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.
- Team captains should be the first point of contact for all complaints directed at other club members. If the complaint is directed at a captain or the club member feels the complaint has not been addressed then they can bring it to the attention of one of the Executive Committee members.
- An Executive Committee member or team captain wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing/email declaring that intention to resign to the Secretary, who will immediately inform the Executive Committee and Team Captains. The responsibilities of that person shall be delegated to other committee members until a casual replacement can be made. A casual replacement is a person who can fill the role until a vote can be held at an AGM or EGM.
- Any club member or representative of one of the governing bodies – Softball Ireland and Softball Leinster, can submit a formal complaint to the Club's Executive Committee which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and can result in a punishment. These punishments include a formal warning, restricted play, game suspension, expulsion from the club and life ban from the club.
- Any complaint should only be considered if it has brought the club into disrepute, has violated the club constitution and/or Anti-Bullying policy, club bye-laws, or the governing bodies, Softball Ireland or Softball Leinster, constitution or bye-laws and Anti-Bullying policies.
- Disciplined players can appeal the Executive Committee's decision within 7 days of receipt of the decision. At that point five non-involved club members will be appointed by the Executive Committee to determine the validity of the Executive Committee's decision.

7. Meetings:

- There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year.
- The AGM shall be held in Autumn as long as it occurs before the softball Leinster AGM.

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- A minimum of 4 full committee meetings shall be held throughout the year and no more than 6.
- This constitution can only be changed at an AGM or EGM
- The business of the AGM shall include but is not limited to the election of Executive Committee and Team Captains as well as annual reports from the Club Chairperson, the Club Treasurer's report on the finances of the club, and reports from the Team Captains and Social Coordinator
- An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if 20% of the ordinary membership of the Club request such a meeting in writing or if Executive Committee members need to be replaced or if there is an immediate need to change a constitution.
- If any of the Executive Committee positions decide to have an assistant to help with the work of these positions the assistants do not get a vote in Executive Committee votes. If they are representing the position at a meeting they can then vote but there is only 3 votes available in any Executive Committee

8. Player Selection

- The final decision on all player selection shall be made by the team captain.
- The basis for player selection shall be made by the team captain and shall be based on the three criteria: the player's desire to play on that team; the player's ability to play at that level and lastly the captain's belief that that player is the best player for the team.
- No player shall be penalised for deciding to play on another team that the player feels best suits them.
- During the course of the season, players may be asked to play on another team within the club permanently or temporally. The decision to play with that team is solely at the discretion of the player being asked, as long as it conforms to the exemption rules of the league's governing body. It should be considered standard policy and common courtesy for the requesting captain to ask the requested player's captain prior to the game if a player agrees to play.
- No other player besides the team captain or the co-captain should contact players from any other team about playing.
- Any player found to be interfering with the captains responsibilities will be given a written warning and if any interference continues they will be referred to the Executive Committee for disciplinary action if needed.

9. Training

- Club training shall be held as many times as possible and cover as many skills from the game as possible.
- The Club Coach and Team Captains can work together to decide if certain skills need to be worked on
- Training will be held if there is enough participants willing to take part
- When Blitz' coincide with the normal training time a decision will be made if to hold training or not.
- It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to inform their team about training details.
- In the absence of a club coach the team captains will work together to decide on skills and training.

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