

Constitution for Lincolnshire Small-bore Rifle Association

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1 NAME

The organisation is called “The Lincolnshire Small-bore Rifle Association”. This may be abbreviated to “LSRA”, which is the form used in the rest of this document.

2 NATURE

The LSRA is a non-profit making association of clubs sharing a common purpose.

3 PURPOSE

The object of the LSRA is to promote and support skill and participation in the sport of target shooting with small-bore firearms, air guns and other devices which may be approved by the national governing body, in the county of Lincolnshire.

4 PARTICIPATION

Clubs which affiliate to the LSRA must:

1. Accept the LSRA constitution and bye-laws.
2. Have an acceptable constitution.
3. Have appropriate insurance.
4. Pay all affiliation fees.

5 ACTIVITIES

To further its objectives the LSRA may:

1. Arrange coaching and training for members of affiliated clubs.
2. Arrange financial support for affiliated clubs and their members.
3. Organise individual competition and competitions between clubs.
4. Field teams to represent the county in appropriate competitions.
5. Provide channels of communication between affiliated clubs and between those clubs and the LSRA.
6. Represent the views of the affiliated clubs and the LSRA to regional and national governing bodies.
7. Provide an arbitration and disciplinary service.
8. Engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of the association.

The detailed rules concerning the running of competitions and other activities of the association are contained in the bye-laws.

5.1. Restrictions

In pursuing these activities the association will not discriminate against any individual or organisation on the basis of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age and will not support or tolerate any such discrimination.

6 GOVERNMENT

The LSRA is governed by a council consisting of the principal officers of the association and representatives of the affiliated clubs.

An executive committee, in association with the trustees, manages the affairs of the association. All members of this committee are elected by the council.

Day-to day operations are handles by the principal officers, acting within the bye-laws and under the constitution.

6.1 The Principal Officers of the Association

The principal officers are:

The President Chairs all meetings of the council, unless he appoints a deputy, and is an *ex-officio* member of every committee of the association.

The Treasurer Is responsible for operating and reporting on the finances of the association.

The Secretary Is responsible for calling meetings, setting agendas, taking minutes and for communications produced and received by the association.

The Training Officer Is responsible for identifying and arranging training and coaching.

The Web Master Is responsible for operating and maintaining the LSRA Web Site in accordance with the wishes of the Executive Committee.

The Arbitrator Is responsible for all disciplinary matters and the resolution of differences.

The NSRA Representative Is responsible for representing the views of the association and each of its components, to the national governing body and reporting to the executive committee and to council the deliberations of that body.

Co-ordinators There is one co-ordinator for each discipline approved by the council:

- Precision Rifle.
- Sporting Rifle.
- Pistol
- Crossbow

6.1.1 Delegated Powers

In many cases there may be too much work for a single individual. When this is the case, the officer may choose to delegate. For example, the co-ordinator of sporting rifle shooting might choose to appoint a match secretary or a team captain to lighten the load in him. Similarly, the secretary might choose to delegate the function of webmaster.

The officer who delegates functions does not shed any responsibility and must still report on his area of responsibility.

6.2 The Executive Committee

6.2.1 Purpose

The committee establishes and implements policy, monitors activities and finances, and otherwise acts to achieve the association's objectives.

6.2.2 The Members

The principal officers are members of the executive committee. In addition there are nine independent members. Each must be a member of an affiliated club. Each independent member serves a three year term, three being elected at each annual meeting of council.

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The chairman of the committee is elected from the members at the first meeting after the annual meeting of council. The chairman may vote and also has a casting vote in the event of a deadlock.

6.2.3 Consultants

The executive committee may appoint a non-voting consultant to provide special skills.

6.2.4 Powers

The committee can authorise expenditure and can make amendments to the bye-laws; such amendments remain in force until the next meeting of council.

It can co-opt an individual to fill any position if a vacancy should arise before the next meeting of council.

It must also review any of the arbiter's decisions that involve disciplinary action against a club or individual.

6.2.5 Meetings

The executive committee meets at least four times a year.

A meeting can only take place if at least third the members of the committee are present.

Any affiliated club may send an observer to a meeting. An observer does not have a right to vote or be heard.

6.2.6 Business

Meetings are conducted according to the bye-laws. The committee will discuss and agree on any action required by changes in circumstances that may be disclosed by the reports from the principal officers or by other sources.

6.3 The Council

6.3.1 The Members

The principal officers are members of the council. In addition, each affiliated club may send up to three representatives, each of whom has a single vote.

6.3.2 Powers

The council elects the principal officers of the association and other members of the executive committee.

It must review and approve any changes to the bye-laws and may amend this constitution.

6.3.3 Meetings

The council must meet at least once each year. The annual meeting must be held before the first of May.

An extraordinary meeting may be called at any time to deal with a particular issue. Such a meeting can only be called by a majority vote at a meeting of the executive or by the demand of one third of the affiliated clubs.

At least twenty one days notice of any meeting of council must be given.

A meeting can only take place if at least one third of the affiliated clubs are represented. Those who are members of more than one club must nominate one for the meeting. A principal officer can represent his club.

If there is no quorum, the members of the executive committee will continue in office until a properly constituted meeting can be held.

6.3.4 Business

At each annual meeting the council hears and adopts or rejects reports from the principal officers. It receives and reviews the year's accounts, which it may adopt or reject.

After the reports have been heard, all offices are declared vacant and open for re-election. The chairman continues to act, but officers do not vote as officers, until all the results of the election are available.

The meeting then adopts or rejects any changes to the constitution and adopts or rejects changes to the bye-laws. These changes take effect immediately after the closing of the meeting.

Other competent business is defined in the bye-laws.

An extraordinary meeting deals only with a single issue. It does not hear reports nor does it elect any officer, unless that is the issue at hand.

7 TRUSTEES

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The property of the LSRA is vested in three trustees. Trustees are elected by the council for a six year term of office, one being elected every two years.

In the event of a trustee resigning or otherwise becoming incapable of fulfilling his office, the council shall elect at the earliest opportunity another individual to complete his term.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the association's assets are used only in accordance with the objectives of the association. To this end, any expenditure greater than one thousand pounds must have the approval of a majority of the trustees.

Trustees can and should attend executive meetings. Although the office does not confer any voting rights there or in council, a trustee may propose and speak to any motion in either place.

8 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Only the council has the power to amend the constitution.

Section 1,2,3,7 and 8 can only be changed by a unanimous vote at a duly constituted meeting of council.

Other sections can be changed by a two-thirds majority at a duly constituted meeting of council.

9 ARBITRATION AND DISCIPLINE

9.1 Purpose

In order to foster the sport, the LSRA must try to ensure that individuals who take part in LSRA activities, as well as all affiliated clubs, adhere to the requirements of this constitution, the bye-laws and rules of competitions.

The arbiter is the officer charged with this task.

Also, individuals, other officers or clubs may ask for arbitration on a particular issue.

9.2 Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection

The association will conform to the child and vulnerable adult protection policy of the national governing body.

To this end, it will designate an individual as child protection officer, who will report to the arbiter and who will deal with referrals from clubs whenever this is necessary.

9.3 Powers

The executive committee can expel a club, on the recommendation of the arbiter, if the club no longer meets the requirements of section 3 or section 4 of this constitution.

An arbitration committee can disqualify an individual from a single competition or can prohibit his participation in LSRA competitions for a period.

An arbitration committee can adjust any results presented to it, giving the grounds for that adjustment.

9.4 Arbitration Committees

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An arbitration committee is set up by the LSRA arbiter. It must contain at least three voting members of the executive committee, none of whom has a direct interest in the outcome. The arbiter may be one of these.

It must investigate any matter brought before it in accordance with the constitution and any applicable bye-laws and any impose an immediate penalty.

9.5 Appeals

Any party who is not satisfied by the decision of an arbitration committee can appeal to the executive committee at its next meeting, whose decision is final and binding.

The executive committee can rescind or confirm an imposed penalty or it can impose one.

9.6 Procedures

No interested party may vote in any disciplinary hearing.

Before any penalty, other than the adjustment of a result, can be imposed, the person or club must be given a timely warning of the investigation and must be allowed to attend the meeting at which the problem will be discussed.

At this meeting, any interested party or an advocate must be permitted to present a complaint, defence or explanation, in person or in writing. If attending in person, the individual may be accompanied by a supporter.

All proceedings at a disciplinary hearing must be properly documented.

9.7 Notification

In the event of a serious offence being proved, the LSRA has a duty to notify the appropriate authorities as soon as they can.

10 WINDING UP THE ASSOCIATION

10.1 Conditions of Termination

The association will be wound up if:

- There are fewer than five affiliated clubs, or
- Four-fifths of the affiliated clubs notify the executive committee within one calendar year of their desire for the termination of the association, or
- There is no quorum for three successive annual meetings of council.

10.2 Action on Termination

When the association is wound up, the executive committee will oversee the following actions:

- The national governing bodies and all other interested parties will be informed.
- All the assets of the association will be realised by the trustees and the treasurer.
- The resulting sum will be made over to the regional or national body that, as decided by the trustees, has aims that most closely match the purpose set out in section 3.

11 APPENDICES

A Definitions

Lincolnshire For the purposes of this document, Lincolnshire refers to the area within the county boundary shown on the four miles to the inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1969

Pronouns Throughout this document “he”, “him” and “his” are used as impersonal pronouns without any intended implication of gender.

Fractions Throughout this document fractions are to be rounded down to the nearest integer. Thus, a quarter of twelve is three, as is a quarter of thirteen or fifteen.

Improper Not conforming to the rules in force.

Interested Party Anyone who may be directly affected by the outcome of some action or who cannot be expected to be impartial. Thus, if Alice’s score is called into question her spouse, her competitors and her immediate relatives are all interested parties.

Small-bore Small-bore rifles and pistols are those which fire only .22 rimfire ammunition.

Air Rifles and Pistols Air rifles and pistols are those which propel a pellet by the expansion of mechanically compressed gas. Permissible calibres and types of pellet are specified in competition rules.

Crossbow A shooting device which uses a bow fixed across a stock with a lock to hold and release the bowstring.

Precision Rifle Precision rifle competitions are those where, traditionally, comfort convenience and practicality are subordinated to extreme accuracy. Examples are: Prone Rifle, Three Position Rifle and Benchrest.

Sporting Rifle Sporting rifle competitions are those which derive from pistol competitions or from hunting. Examples are: Hunter Field Target and Turning Target.

B Areas of Responsibility

The bye-laws define precisely the duties and powers of the principal officers. They may be amended at any time by the executive committee, but amendments have to be approved by council.

B.1 Guidelines

An amendment may abolish an area of responsibility, add a new one, or transfer a responsibility to a different officer.

The following guidelines should be borne in mind:

- Keep the total amount of work to a minimum.
- Avoid duplication of effort.
- Avoid abolishing a responsibility if two or more clubs benefit significantly from the service
- Avoid creating a new responsibility unless two or more clubs will benefit significantly from the service.
- If it is unclear which officer should be responsible for a particular area, those concerned should try to negotiate a settlement.

B.2 Examples

Although competitions involve communications, if only for entries, their running should be entirely within the co-ordinator's area of responsibility, in order to avoid creating unnecessary work for the secretary.

If only one club in the county supports three-position shooting, then the co-ordinator of precision shooting need not arrange any county competitions for this discipline. The same would be true if only three individuals were shooting it, even if they were members of different clubs, because the benefit would not be significant. Of course, the co-ordinator should keep himself aware of any developments and may try to encourage the growth of interest.

Running Deer could be regarded as either a precision or a sporting competition. Similarly, *Crossbow Pistol* could be the responsibility of either the Pistol or the Crossbow co-ordinator. Negotiations will be needed.

THIS CONSTITUTION INVALIDATES AND SUPERCEDES ALL PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS

Lincolnshire Small-bore Rifle Association

..... (President)

..... (Secretary)