

Thanet Roadrunners Athletics Club Constitution

1 Name of Club

The club is called **Thanet Roadrunners Athletics Club** (hereinafter referred to as The Club), and may also be known as **Thanet Roadrunners AC** or **TRAC**. Thanet Roadrunners Athletics Club will be affiliated to UK Athletics (UKA), South of England Athletics Association (SEAA), Kent County Athletics Association (KCAA), the British Association of Road Races (BARR) and England Athletics (EA).

The registered colours of the Club are a sky-blue vest with a royal blue band and carry the words Thanet Roadrunners or Thanet Roadrunners AC in white lettering on the royal blue band.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of The Club are:

- To provide an association through which members can pursue a common interest in athletics
- To promote community participation in healthy recreational activities, encouraging runners of all abilities in line with the club ethos of being “a club for all”
- To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in athletics
- To promote the club within the local community and athletics
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club and participants in events
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone
- To uphold the principles of the GDPR

3 Membership

- (a) Membership of The Club is open to anyone interested in promoting, coaching, volunteering or participating in athletics, regardless of gender, gender fluidity, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, other beliefs or none. A minimum participating age of 9 years is set for safeguarding purposes.
- (b) The membership consists of the following categories:
 - Senior member
 - Senior member in receipt of State Pension
 - Life member
 - Junior member
- (c) All members are subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining and/or renewing membership of The Club confirm their agreement to accept all regulations and codes of practice, as approved by The Club in accordance with its constitution.

- (d) Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) Individuals are not eligible to take part in the business of the Club, vote at general meetings or be eligible for selection of any Club team unless the applicable subscription has been paid by the due date and/or membership has been agreed by the Club Committee.

4 Sports Equity

- (a) The Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

- (b) The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- (c) The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- (d) All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- (e) The Club will deal with any incident of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

5 Committee

- (a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee, known as the 'Executive Committee' (sometimes referred to as "The Committee" or "Committee") which shall consist of the President, Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Welfare Officer(s), Membership Secretary(ies), Mens Captain, Womens Captain and Publicity Manager (all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting).
- (b) The 'Executive Committee' will be supported from time-to-time as required by non-voting advisory members or officers which will include; Website Manager, Social Secretary, Junior Athletics Representative and may also include race directors and others persons the Committee feels will contribute to the effective running of the club.

- (c) All Committee members must be members of the Club.
- (d) The term of office for a Committee member shall be one year and members shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) If the post of any officer or ordinary Committee member should fall vacant after such an election, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.
- (f) The Committee is responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- (g) The Committee has powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- (h) The Committee has responsibility for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee is responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- (i) The Committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of The Club and be held no less than six times per year.
- (j) Only the 'Executive Committee' posts listed above have the right to vote at Committee meetings.
- (k) The quorum required for business to be agreed at Committee meetings will be 6 of the 11 voting members, or a majority number, if committee member numbers change.
- (l) The Committee will take notice of non-voting Committee members views.
- (m) The Committee may make and vary rules for competitions such as Club Championships and eligibility for club London Marathon places.

6 Finances

- (a) The Club Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the club.
- (b) The financial year of the club will run from 1st April and end on 31st March.
- (c) All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of The Club

- (d) A statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting and be subject to scrutiny by all members of The Club.
- (e) Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the treasurer plus up to two other officers. Payments not made by cheque will be made electronically by the Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Committee, where appropriate.
- (f) All members of the Club are jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

7 Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- (a) General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.
- (b) Unless circumstances outside of The Club's control dictate otherwise, The Club shall hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of May to:
 - Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
 - Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary.
 - Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts.
 - Receive a report from those responsible for certifying the Club's accounts.
 - Elect the officers on the Committee.
 - Agree the membership fees for the following year.
 - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
 - Deal with other relevant business.
- (c) Notice of the AGM will be given by the Club Secretary to members at least 14 days prior to the intended date of the AGM.
- (d) Nominations for officers of the Committee will be sent to the Club Secretary prior to the AGM.
- (e) Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the Club Secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them at least 7 days before an AGM.
- (f) All members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- (g) The quorum for AGMs will be 25 (or no less than 10% of members), which-ever is the smaller) of fully paid up First Claim or Life Members as at 28 days prior to the AGM, determined by the Club Membership Secretary.

- (h) The Chairman of the Club shall hold a casting vote, if needed to make a majority decision, in addition to their original vote, at General and Committee meetings.
- (i) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Club Secretary supported by at least 10% of the members of the Club. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members.
- (j) All procedures shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

8 Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM. Minor updates, which do not impact the principles of the constitution, may be authorised by the Committee, without requiring a vote at an AGM or EGM.

9 Club safeguarding code of conduct

- (a) The Club adopts the UKA and HCAF Child and Adult Safeguarding policies and procedures, documented in separate Safeguarding policy documents.
- (b) All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club's child protection policy and procedures. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child protection concerns.

10 Discipline and appeals

- (a) All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Club Secretary.
- (b) The Committee will meet to hear complaints within 21 days of a complaint being lodged. The Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.
- (c) The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.
- (d) There will be the right of appeal to The Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The Committee should consider the appeal within 21 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

11 Dissolution

- (a) A resolution to dissolve The Club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.
- (b) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared with any club funds. Any assets of the club that remain following this will be used for activities that have similar objectives to those set out in the constitution of the club, in particular the promotion of athletics in the Thanet and East Kent Areas. Assets will not be shared amongst the membership.

12 Declaration

Thanet Roadrunners Athletics Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.