

## **BLUES SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED**

### **STANDING ORDERS FOR SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS**

#### 1.0 Introduction

This document is drafted in accordance with the existing Rules of Blues Supporters Society Limited, registered on 21 February 2012 and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Society Board conducts its meetings in an effective and professional way.

#### 2.0 Definitions

2.1 “Society Board Member(s)” means a Member(s) of the Society Board including any persons co-opted onto the Society Board in accordance with the Rules.

2.2 “Co-opted Member(s)” means a person(s) who is/are a Member(s) and has/have been elected to the Society Board by Society Board Directors but not elected by the Members.

2.3 “Rules” means the rules and regulations of the Society laid out in the separate Rules document

2.4 “Secretary” means the secretary of the Society.

2.5 “Society” means Blues Supporters Society Limited (also known as Blues Trust).

2.6 “Society Board” means the Society Board of the Society including any co-opted Society Board Members.

#### 3.0 Principles of Standing Orders

3.1 These Standing Orders supplement the provisions in the Society’s Rules relating to the operation of the Society Board (Rules 69 to 77). In the case of any inconsistency between the Rules and these Standing Orders then the terms of the Rules shall prevail.

3.2 The Society Board may alter, rescind or add to any part or element of these Standing Orders by a simple majority vote of those present. The Secretary is to consider, periodically, the need for amendments to Standing Orders and report on this matter to the Society Board.

3.3 The aim of these Standing Orders is to make each meeting as efficient and productive as possible and to ensure that it is conducted in a professional manner, allowing the Chair to keep order whilst permitting each member the opportunity to fully participate in the meeting. All these issues are key to the Society as its functional structure is based on the democratic process, of which meetings are a key part.

#### 4.0 Meetings of the Society Board

4.1 Meetings of the Society Board will normally be held according to the Schedule of Society Board Meetings as approved by the Society Board, with at least one Society Board Meeting per quarter.

4.2 All meetings of the Society Board shall normally last for 2 hours but meeting time may be extended if agreed by a majority.

#### 5.0. Quorum

5.1 The quorum for the Society Board shall be one-half of its membership or 3 Elected Directors, whichever is the greater.

5.2 The Society Board may agree that its members can participate in its meetings by telephone, video, computer link, or email. In order to facilitate the participation of board members not available during the meeting or living in different time zones, the time allowed for voting at a meeting may be extended by up to 24 hours after the end of a meeting. Participation in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to constitute presence at the meeting.

5.3 In the event of a quorum not being present within thirty minutes of the stated time of commencement, no meeting shall be held and the business of the Agenda shall be postponed until an alternative date is determined by the Chair and/or the Secretary.

5.4 If during the course of a meeting, the meeting becomes inquorate no further business may be transacted except for that of adjourning the meeting, calling an election for or appointing Society Board Members or calling a general meeting.

## 6.0 Business Agenda

6.1 All business to be considered shall be included on the Agenda and shall indicate whether the Society Board are being invited to note, discuss or consider the matter.

6.2 The agenda shall be circulated to Society Board Members not less than 5 days in advance of the meeting.

6.3 If there is a specific proposal, this shall be explicitly stated in advance. Items to be noted shall not normally be raised for discussion unless prior notice of this request is given to the Secretary as soon as possible after receiving the agenda.

6.4 All business should have a supporting paper which shall be circulated with the agenda unless a verbal report is to be given. Papers should be circulated at least 2 days before the meeting.

6.5 The Agenda shall be drawn up by the Chair and/or the Secretary.

6.6 The Chair will formally close the meeting when the business on the agenda has been transacted, or earlier if agreed by a majority. The time that the meeting closes will be noted in the Minutes. No business purported to be transacted after that time will be valid and will not form part of the formal record of the meeting. If for any reason the full business of the meeting cannot practically be completed the meeting may stand adjourned if a majority of the Society Board Members present so decide.

## 7.0 Rules for Discussion

7.1 Society Board Members wishing to speak shall address themselves to the Chair and only one Society Board Member shall speak at one time.

7.2 When the Chair speaks or intervenes during a debate any Society Board Member then speaking or offering to speak must immediately cease speaking.

7.3 No Society Board Member may interrupt another Society Board Member whilst that Society Board Member is speaking except on a point of order which must be approved and accepted by the Chair.

7.4 When two or more Society Board Members indicate their wish to speak the Chair shall call upon the Society Board Member he/she first observed.

## 8.0 Conduct

8.1 Society Board Members shall arrive prepared for meetings, having read the paperwork circulated in advance.

8.2 Society Board Members shall devote their full attention to the meeting. Mobile phones and other communication equipment shall not be used unless called upon by the Chair.

8.3 The Society Board or Committee meeting will be conducted in accordance with the agenda. Society Board Members will conduct themselves in a manner which shows respect for all participants and which does not obstruct the business of the meeting or calls into question the status of the Chair.

8.4 If any Society Board Member persistently disregards the ruling of the Chair or behaves in any way which obstructs the Society Board business, the Chair (or any Society Board Member) may move that the item under consideration be voted upon without further discussion.

8.5 If the same Society Board Member continues the misconduct after a decision has been taken the Chair may:

8.5.1; move that the Society Board Member shall leave the meeting and a vote can be taken on this without seconding or discussion; or

8.5.2 adjourn the meeting and determine where and when it will be reconvened.

8.6 The Chair will ensure that the meeting considers the decisions required under each item of business. In relation to the conduct of meetings the ruling of the Chair is final.

## 9.0 Voting

9.1 Voting shall normally be by a show of hands except if a ballot be agreed to by a majority of Society Board Members present and voting, in which event the Society Board Members there present shall decide the form the ballot should take.

9.2 For the avoidance of doubt, abstentions are not to be classed as votes for or against a motion. In the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

9.3 A written resolution, circulated to all Directors and agreed by a simple majority (51%) of Directors, shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a Society Board meeting duly convened and held. Any resolution decided in this way shall be noted in the minutes of the next meeting of the Society Board.

## 10.0 Chair and Duties of the Chair

10.1 The Chair of the Society Board shall, in the event of a tie in voting on any matter before the Society Board, have a casting vote in addition to their own vote which they shall be expected to cast.

10.2 A Vice Chair may be appointed, according to the procedure agreed by the Society Board for the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs, to deputise for the Chair when required. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair at Meetings of the Society Board, the Society Board Members present at such meetings shall appoint one of their number to act as Chair of the Meeting.

10.3 The ruling of the Chair on any point of order shall be final and shall not be open for discussion.

10.4 It shall be the Chair's duty to see that all the Standing Orders are adhered to, unless any of them is suspended, such suspension requiring the consent of a majority of Society Board Members present and voting.

## 11.0 Society Board Working Groups

11.1 The Society Board may delegate certain functions to Working Groups, led by one Society Board Member. The extent of this delegation is to be detailed in the Working Group's Terms of Reference.

11.2 All Working Groups must report back to the next Society Board meeting, where possible, following the exercise of any of their delegated functions.

11.3 The business of Working Group meetings will be conducted, in accordance with the provisions for the conduct of Society Board meetings detailed in these Standing Orders