

Constitution of the Essex County Fencing Union

1. The UNION shall be known as the ESSEX COUNTY FENCING UNION and shall hereinafter in this Constitution be referred to as the ECFU.
2. The ECFU shall comprise the geographical and administrative County of ESSEX.
3. The objects of the ECFU shall be:
 - a) To organise County closed Individual Competitions at Senior, Novice and Schools (National Age Group) levels, Team Competitions at all weapons, and such Open Competitions as the ECFU may, from time to time, determine.
 - b) To organise coaching in the County.
 - c) To organise courses (Personal Performance, Refereeing etc) within the County.
 - d) To ensure proper administration and use of funds, and the submission of audited accounts annually to the ECFU Annual General Meeting, and to the British Fencing Association Eastern Region.
 - e) To keep proper administrative records including Minutes of Committee and General Meetings.
 - f) To provide one representative to serve on the B.F.A. Eastern Region Committee.
 - g) To publicise and promote fencing within Essex.
 - h) To undertake such other duties as the Eastern Region Committee may, from time to time, request.
 - i) To advise the British Fencing Association, the B.F.A. Eastern Region, or any other organisation, on any matter relating to fencing within Essex.
4. Membership of the ECFU shall be open to clubs and schools within Essex who are affiliated to the B.F.A., and to individuals resident in the County.
5. The Officers of the ECFU, hereinafter known as the Committee, shall consist of:

An Honorary Chairman, and Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Schools Secretary, a Team Captain, an Honorary Match Secretary and three Elected Members.
6. The Committee shall have the power to combine any of these offices except the office of Chairman if circumstances dictate this. The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt individuals, including professionals, onto the Committee on a temporary basis from time to time, and fill vacancies which arise between one Annual General Meeting and the next, if circumstances dictate this. Professionals shall serve on the Committee in accordance with conditions in the B.F.A. Bye-laws.
7. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a President and/or Vice-Presidents. Such persons shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings, but will not be entitled to exercise a vote. They may be fencers or non-fencers, amateurs or professionals. Such appointments shall be on an annual basis, or on such other basis as the Committee may decide.
8. No meeting of the Committee shall be deemed convened unless a quorum of at least four members is present. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled

- to exercise one vote on any matter. In event of equality of votes, the Honorary Chairman shall have a casting vote.
9. An Annual General Meeting of the ECFU shall normally be convened in November, to precede the Annual General Meeting of the B.F.A. Eastern Region. Twenty-one days written Notice of such a Meeting will be given to all affiliated Clubs in the ECFU by the Honorary Secretary. With this Notice and Agenda for the Meeting, the Honorary Secretary will circulate an unaudited copy of the Annual Report and Accounts. The Committee shall be entitled to alter the date of the Annual General Meeting as circumstances may, from time to time, dictate.
 10. A quorum of the Committee, or any FIVE affiliated clubs in the ECFU shall be entitled to call an Extraordinary General Meeting, to discuss, and vote upon, any matter, on written application to the Honorary Secretary. Such an application shall include a summary of the business to be discussed at the Meeting. Upon receipt of such an application, the Honorary Secretary will circulate a Notice of Meeting, together with an Agenda, not less than twenty-one days before such a Meeting is to be convened. No business other than that specified in the Agenda, will be conducted at any Extraordinary General Meeting.
 11. (a) Each affiliated Club within the ECFU will be entitled to send one or more representatives to attend Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings of the ECFU. Each affiliated Club will be entitled to TWO votes only on any matter. Each affiliated School Club will be entitled to ONE vote on any matter. In addition, each member of the Committee shall be entitled to exercise ONE vote. In event of equality of voting, the Honorary Chairman shall have a casting vote.
(b) Each affiliated Club within the ECFU will be entitled to send one voting delegate to the Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings of the Region.
 12. The ECFU shall hold a Bank Account, which will be administered by the Honorary Treasurer. Payments out of the Account will be sanctioned by TWO signatures from among the following members of the Committee who have been duly authorised by the Committee:
 - (a) Honorary Chairman
 - (b) Honorary Secretary
 - (c) Honorary TreasurerNo payment or withdrawal in excess of £100 shall be made unless approved by the Committee beforehand.
 13. The ECFU's Financial Year will run from 1 October to 30 September.
 14. The Committee shall have the power to offer financial assistance to any individual or team representing the ECFU in a competition, or otherwise participating in a competition which is considered likely to bring credit to the ECFU or it's members, at the Committee's discretion.
 15. The Committee shall have the power to award County Colours to persons for representative individual or team matches and competitions, upon the recommendation of the Team Captain.
 16. Representative individuals for matches and competitions shall be selected by the Team Captain, whose decision will be subject to ratification by the Committee.

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17. All property, financial, and other Assets of the ECFU shall be vested in the Committee, who shall acquire, dispose of, and have custody of them at all times in the best interests of the County's fencers and Clubs.
18. No alteration or addition shall be made to this Constitution except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the ECFU. Such alterations and additions will require approval by a majority of at least TWO-THIRDS of the voting delegates present. Any proposed alterations and/or additions shall be circulated in full, in writing, together with appropriate Notice of Meeting, by the Honorary Secretary.
19. A proposal to wind up the ECFU shall only be considered in a General Meeting. Approval of such a proposal shall require a majority of at least TWO-THIRDS of the voting delegates present.
20. In the event of the ECFU being wound-up, its affairs will be administered by the B.F.A. Eastern Region. All the Assets of the ECFU will be handed over to the B.F.A. Eastern Region Committee for safe custody. In the event of the B.F.A. Eastern Region Committee disposing of any of the ECFU's assets, any surplus money which is realised by such a disposal will be distributed equally to all existing, affiliated Clubs in Essex.