Brighton Cougars Basketball Club

Constitution (updated October 2026)

Founded 1989

1. Name

The club will be called Brighton Cougars Basketball Club and will be affiliated to Basketball England.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Club is to promote and provide facilities for the amateur sport of basketball in the Brighton area and community participation in the same

3. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the club will be:

- To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in basketball
- To promote the club within the local community and basketball
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.

4. Membership

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of basketball regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

All present and future members receive fair and equal treatment

The Club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

The Club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.

All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted.

All members have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meetings; however, votes for members under the age of 18 at the time of a meeting must be made by the responsible adult, (parent or guardian) who has signed their membership form. Only one responsible/proxy vote per junior member is permitted.

5. Membership categories, fees & refunds

Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- Full member – adults who are registered with the club as players
- Social member – adults who are registered as non-playing members/supporters
- Junior members – all children and young people who are registered with the club require an adult to sign their membership form.

Membership fees will be set annually and agreed by the Executive/Management Committee or determined at the Annual General Meeting.

Fees are based on the annual playing season (a season follows Basketball England's structure as much as possible) and will be payable annually or by instalments, with payment arrangement advised at the start of each season or at the time of joining.

Late payments of fees may result in a member being unable to participate in training sessions, matches or other club activities until their fees are up to date. Any member with fees outstanding from a previous season will not be eligible for the future season registration and will loose all voting rights until all fees are paid in full.

Refunds of fees paid in advance are only considered in exceptional circumstances such as. if a member is unable to particpate due to injury or illness for more than one complete month. Where a member wishes to terminate his membership for any other reason, then one month's notice is required in writing and any refund due will be calculated on a pro rata basis, subject to the club's financial commitments and obligations.

All requests for membership refunds should be made in writing to hellobrightoncougars@gmail.com

6. Officers of the club

The officers of the club will be:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Club Secretary
- Treasurer
- Welfare Officer

Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Should a vacancy occur mid-year then the Management Committee reserves the right to call an EGM to appoint a replacement at any point throughout the year.

All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-appointment.

7. Committee

The club will be managed through the Management Committee consisting of: Only the posts listed above will have the right to vote at meetings of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee meetings will be convened by the Club Secretary and held no less than 4 times per year.

The quorum required for business to be agreed at Management Committee meetings will be: 4. In the event of a tie the Chair will have the deciding vote.

The Management Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.

The Management Committee will have powers to appoint subcommittees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Management Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

The Management Committee will be responsible for disciplinary Hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Management Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

8. Finance

All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.

The Club Treasurer will be responsible for accounting for and reporting on the finances of the club.

The financial year of the club will end on 31 July.

Online transactions and any cheques drawn against club funds will need the approval and/or signature from any two of the following committee officers: the Treasurer, the Chair, and the Club Secretary.

9. Property and Funds

The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members other than as reasonably allowed by the Rules and all surplus income or profits are reinvested in the club.

The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, away-match expenses, post-match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.

The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:

(a) sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment;

(b) employ members (though not for playing) and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee without the person concerned being present;

(c) pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests;

(d) indemnify the Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

(e) the Committee will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and child protection.

10. Annual General Meetings

Notice of Annual General Meetings (AGM) will be given by the Club Secretary. Not less than 21 clear days notice to be given to all members.

The AGM will receive a report from officers of the Management Committee and a statement of the inspected accounts.

Nominations for officers of the Management Committee will be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM.

Elections of officers are to take place at the AGM.

All members have the right to vote at the AGM. The parents or carers of junior members can vote in place of junior members if they wish (see Membership).

The Management Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

11. Discipline, appeals and safeguarding

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 safeguarding policy and procedures.

The club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any safeguarding concerns. All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Welfare Officer at cougars.welfare@gmail.com

A disciplinary sub-committee will meet to hear complaints within 14 days of a complaint being lodged. The sub-committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

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 14 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

12. Dissolution/Winding Up

A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.

The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club's affairs.

After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:

(a) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity and/or

(b) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or

(c) to the Club's governing body for use by them for related community sports.

13. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

14. Priority

Where there is any conflict between any of the above Rules, the CASC Key Rules will take priority (i.e. Rule 2, 4, 9 and 12). Interpretation of all the Rules must be consistent with the statutory requirements for CASCs (which means Community Amateur Sports Clubs as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002.)

15. Declaration

Brighton Cougars Basketball Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.