

**BATH CITY SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED**  
**STANDING ORDERS FOR DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**2020**

**1.0 Introduction**

This document is drafted in accordance with the existing rules of Bath City Supporters Society Limited and sets out the Standing Orders for Democracy and Accountability adopted pursuant to a resolution of the Society Board dated 25 June 2020.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Society meets the appropriate standards of democracy, accountability and governance as befits a majority community-owned football club.

**2.0 Definitions**

2.1 “AGM” means the annual general meeting of the Society.

2.2 “Member(s)” means a member(s) of the Society.

2.3 “Society Board Member(s)” means an elected or Co-opted Member(s) of the Society.

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

2.5 “Society” means Bath City Supporters Society Limited

2.6 “Society Board” means the elected Board of the Society including any co-opted Society Board Members (the Society Board is commonly known as the ‘Society Committee’).

2.7 “Society representative” means the directors of the Club board who have been appointed or elected by the Society or the Society board.

**3.0 Principles of Standing Orders**

3.1 These Standing Orders supplement the provisions in the Society’s Rules relating to General Meetings and other matters. 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 at a Society Board Meeting. The Secretary is to consider, periodically, the need for amendments to Standing Orders and report on this matter to the Board.

3.3 The aim of these Standing Orders is to promote better communication and accountability in all directions between the Club, the Society Board, Society members, supporters and other community members.

#### **4.0 Members' Meetings**

4.1 To promote accountability between the Society Board, its representatives on the Club board and Society members, the Society will hold at least three members' meetings per year; one AGM (see 4.2), one IGM (see 4.3) and at least one 'Bath City Family' event (see 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3).

4.2 The AGM will be held in May or June. Members will be able to propose and pass formal, binding motions at AGM. The AGM will be held in accordance with the Rules and the Standing Orders on General Meetings.

4.3 The interim general meeting (IGM) will be held in November or December. Members will be able to propose and pass formal, non-binding Members' Votes at the IGM, to which the Society board will be obliged to consider, debate and respond. The IGM will be held in accordance with the Standing Orders on General Meetings.

4.4 As per the Rules, members also have the power to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) to pass binding resolutions.

#### **5.0 Member Liaison**

5.1 The Society board will continue to appoint a Member Liaison officer responsible for sharing information and responding to members' queries, in close working relationship with the Supporters Liaison Officer, which will be a Club board position.

5.2 The Member Liaison officer is responsible for maintaining online and offline communication with members on news and issues affecting the Society.

5.3 During the season, the Society Committee will have a pre-match presence at Twerton Park at least once a month, allowing for face-to-face communication with members.

#### **6.0 Transparency in Club Board and Society Board meetings**

6.1 To promote transparency, both the Club board and the Society board will publish summary reports of all meetings, while making appropriate allowances for the non-disclosure of commercially and otherwise sensitive items

#### **7.0 Accountability between Society Representatives on Club Board and Society Board**

7.1 At least one Society representative on the Club board will attend the Society board and will continue to give reports on Club board activity to the Society board at its monthly

meetings. Similarly at least one Society Committee member will attend Club Board meetings. The Society representative shall be in addition to the Chair, who will attend ex officio and any member with dual membership of both Boards.

7.2 The Society board will convene a joint meeting between it and the Club Board at least twice a year. This will be in accordance with an agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the Supporters Society and the Club Board (see 7.3) and will focus on strategy and accountability rather than operational detail.

7.3 Respective roles and the relationship between the Supporters Society Board and the six Society representatives on the Club Board will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Supporters Society and Bath City FC, which will be reviewed on a regular basis. The MoU will also guide job descriptions for Society representatives on the Club board.

7.4 As per the Society's Board Conduct and Membership Policy and the agreed roles and responsibilities of the Society's representatives on the Club board, it is noted that:

7.4.1 Society representatives will use their individual judgement in taking decisions. However, in certain circumstances, as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, the Society board may instruct its representatives how to vote on specific issues.

7.4.2 Where a Society representative on the Club board is deemed by the Society board to be acting consistently against the values and objectives of the Society, the Society board may remove them from the Club board by a simple majority vote.

## **8.0 Communication and engagement between the Society, Club and the Community**

8.1 To promote better communication and engagement among the "Bath City family" and with the wider community, the Society will arrange at least one structured dialogue event each year. Invitations will be extended to the 'Bath City Family' (Supporters Society, Supporters Club, employees of the Club, playing squad, Bath City Youth and Bath City Community Sports Foundation) along with local Councillors and community leaders, community organisations, club sponsors and business partners.

8.2 The event should include sharing information, looking forward to the year ahead, identifying joint priorities and generating ideas on how to improve joint working. These meetings will also be open to the public.

8.3 The event should draw upon the best practices regarding structured dialogue developed by the Football Supporters Association and Supporters Direct Europe.

**ENDS**