



United Canine Sports Club Constitution

1. Title

- a. The Club shall be known as U.C.S.C (hereinafter to be referred to as "the Club").

2. Objectives

- a. The objectives of the Club shall be:
 - b. To encourage the practice, promotion, development and participation of sled dog related sports activities, including the training and racing of all breeds/types of dogs capable of 'working in harness' within the United Kingdom.
 - c. To provide help & advice for its members and to encourage safe practices with the welfare of dogs taking precedent during all activities.
 - d. To organise training sessions and help new members familiarise themselves with sled dog sports, participate in race events and where possible encourage members to become sponsors, mentor new members and those interested in taking part in sled dog sports,
- e. The Club shall cater for the following canine sports disciplines;
 - a) Canicross – running with your dog/s attached to you in harness.
 - b) Bikejor – Up to 2 dogs in harness connected to your bike,
 - c) Scooter – Up to 2 dogs in harness, attached to a purpose built, 2 wheeled scooter.
 - d) Rig racing – 1 to 8 dogs in harness, attached to a purpose built 3 or 4 wheeled rig with or without a brush bow.
 - e) Sled racing – 1 to 8 in harness attached to a purpose built sled

3. Membership

- a. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone over the age of 8 years residing in the United Kingdom who wishes to take part in sled dog training activities and race within the United Kingdom, regardless of the types and breeds of dogs they use for racing, providing these dogs are deemed fit for the purposes of running in harness and in whichever sports discipline they decide to take part in. (Children under the age of 16 attending training or races must be accompanied by their parent or guardian who shall be entirely responsible for them. For young people age 16 or 17, a parent or guardian is to be entirely responsible for their attendance at all club activities.)
- b. Each membership application must be made by using the Club membership form sent by email or hard copy. Each candidate for membership must be approved by the Committee. Approval is agreed by way of a majority and decision can be made at any Club meeting or by postal/email discussion. The appropriate subscription must accompany the application for membership.

- c. Honorary life membership of the Club may be conferred upon any member by a majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in recognition of someone who has performed an outstanding service, or who has made an outstanding contribution to the Club.
- d. Any member wishing to leave Club can do so at any time, by advising the Club Secretary in writing or by email.
- e. Resignation shall be considered by the Committee within one calendar month of receipt and will be held as effective from the date of tendering.
- f. The Committee shall have the power to suspend or exclude any member for contravention of the Constitution or Rules that may exist at that time.

4. Subscriptions

- a. Annual subscriptions shall become due for payment on 1st October each year, with the amounts being determined by the AGM.
- b. The Club will endeavour to keep subscriptions at a level that will not pose a significant obstacle to people wishing to join.
- c. New members joining after the 30th August shall be deemed to have paid their subscription for the following year.
- d. Members joining after 1st October but before 30st August will not be entitled to a pro rata discount for the coming year's membership.
- e. Members will be reminded that their Subscriptions are due by email or post, approximately one month prior to the Renewal date. Although, it is the Members responsibility to pay their subscriptions before the renewal date of 1st October.
- f. Any member failing to make payment shall cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership and a single reminder will be sent to their last known email address (where applicable) to advise them that the membership will lapse after 30th November.

5. Management

- a. The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee that shall consist of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary who shall be Officers of the Club together with a maximum of three other members. All the foregoing were decided at the inception of the Club and shall remain in office indefinitely, or until they tender resignation. New Committee members should be voted onto Committee by majority vote.
- b. The Committee shall meet at least twice annually.
- c. Four Committee members are required for a quorum for a Committee meeting to take place providing the Chairman or Secretary is also present.
- d. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies if they arise and to co-opt members for particular projects, but co-opted members shall not have a Committee vote.
- e. The Committee shall also have the power to establish any sub Committee deemed appropriate to assist in meeting the objectives of the Club, and to delegate to these sub Committees such duties as may be considered appropriate.

f. The Committee shall have the power to appoint individuals to perform specific duties on behalf of the Committee, and to delegate to those individuals such duties as they consider appropriate.

g. If Committee members cannot be present at a meeting, then it is acceptable to use a form of communication technology such as video conference calls ETC

6. Annual General Meeting

- a. The AGM shall be held in the months of October – March as dictated by the practical circumstances applicable at that time.
- b. At the AGM the meeting will:
 - i. Receive the annual report of the Secretary.
 - ii. Receive the financial statements and the Treasurer's report.
 - iii. Elect the officers and the Committee for the ensuing year.
 - iv. Consider any amendment to the constitution of which due notice has been given to all members. Any proposed change to the constitution must be received by the Secretary at least 14 days preceding the meeting in order that all members shall have sufficient notice of the proposal.
 - v. Transact any other notified business.
 - vi. In the event that a Committee member is unable to attend an AGM, voting will be accepted by post or email.
- c. At least 14 days' notice shall be given to members of the date, venue and agenda items for the AGM.
- d. All registered members of the Club at the meeting who are aged 18 years or more shall have one vote on matters pertaining to the allocation of Charitable Funds.
- e. Charitable funds – By the 1st of November the Committee will accept nominations from Members on where they would like the charitable donation for that year to be allocated. The Committee will take a final vote on which Charity will receive the donation for that year.

7. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

- a. An EGM may be called by the Committee to discuss changes to the Constitution and Rules or any other Club business too urgent to wait for the AGM.
- b. An AGM must be called if 25% of voting members so petition the Secretary in writing.
- c. 14 days notice of an EGM must be given to the all members by email or in writing together with the motion/s to be discussed. No other business shall be conducted.
- d. Procedures for voting shall be as used for the AGM.

- e. In the event that a Committee member is unable to attend an EGM, voting will be accepted by post or email.

8. Finance

- a. The financial year of the Club shall end on 1st January.
- b. All funds belonging to the Club shall be deposited with a bank or building society in accounts that shall carry the Club title. All accounts shall operate on two signatories, one of whom will be the Treasurer and the other either the Chairman or Secretary.
- c. Expenditure above agreed budget levels may only be authorised at a Committee meeting.

9. Property and Funds

- a. 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 or distributed to an elected Charity as detailed in Section 6.E.
- b. The Club will provide Public Liability Insurance for members, only whilst training or racing.
- c. The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:
 - i. Sell and supply related sports clothing and equipment.
 - ii. Employ members and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee without the person concerned being present.
- d. The Committee will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and child protection.

10. Winding Up

- a. The members may vote to wind up the Club if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened general meeting.
- b. The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club's affairs.
- c. After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:
 - i To another Club with similar sports purposes and/or
 - ii To a Charity with similar sports purposes.

11. Alterations to the Constitution

The Constitution may be altered but only by a resolution passed by two-thirds of those present and voting at an AGM, EGM or by email/postal vote.

5. Priority

a. Interpretation of all the above 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).

6. Revision History

a. This Constitution was formerly adopted at the Clubs inception during October 2013.