

WESTCOUNTRY BLUES

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. **Name** The name of the organisation shall be “Westcountry Blues” hereinafter referred to as “The Club”. The Club shall be affiliated to Everton Football Club hereinafter referred to as “Everton” and shall be bound by any Articles of Affiliation imposed by Everton.
2. **Purpose** The purpose of the Club shall be:
 - a. To promote interest in Everton throughout South West England
 - b. To organise excursions to Everton matches for Club members
 - c. To keep Club members updated of club activities by means of a club newsletter
3. **Membership**

Membership of the Club shall be open to all Everton supporters in the area.

Acceptance of membership shall be confirmed by the Committee of the Club hereinafter referred to as “The Committee”.

Every member, upon acceptance and payment of subscription in full, shall be bound in every respect by the Club rules. All renewal subscriptions shall be payable by 1st September each year.

The name, address and contact number of each member must be kept by the Secretary and must be accessible to the Committee. Every member shall within 14 days give notice to the Secretary of any change of address.

It is intended to maintain a computer database of all member details. This is governed by the current Data Protection Act. Any member who objects to this information being held on computer is to annotate their membership application accordingly.

Every member shall at all times conduct him/herself in a responsible manner and shall not at any time behave in a manner that is sexist, racist, violent, sectarian, homophobic or otherwise discriminatory whilst attending or travelling to/from football fixtures or other events involving Everton.

No member shall resell or attempt to resell match tickets purchased from Everton or any other club. Members are reminded that the Football Association terms and conditions relating to the sale of tickets specifically prohibit resale.

Members are reminded that the consumption of alcohol on football coaches is illegal. The Club therefore adopts a strict no alcohol policy on all organised coach trips. This applies to both the outward and return journeys.

Any member who in the opinion of the Committee brings the name of the Club into disrepute will be liable to have their membership cancelled or suspended and in the event of cancellation will forfeit any membership fee.

Cancellation or suspension of membership must be agreed by a majority of a Committee meeting, and the member advised in writing by the Chairman to that effect. Such a member has the right to either personal or written appeal, and written notice of such an appeal must be in the Secretary's hands not later than 14 days after the date of the letter informing the member of the Committee's decision. The Committee's final decision on all matters will be binding and it will not be obliged to give any reason for its decisions.

Tickets and travel permitting, members may invite guests on Club organised trips. Tickets will be sold to guests at face value while travel will invoke a surcharge as published from time to time by the Committee.

Members will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests at all times. Any misconduct by their guest may result in the member responsible having their membership reviewed by the Committee.

4. **Ticket and Travel Allocation**

The Club aims to obtain tickets and organise travel to every home match and selected away matches each season.

In order to keep travel costs to a minimum, the Club prefers that members order tickets and travel as a package for all matches attended. However, on occasions where members are travelling to Merseyside to visit family, attend social functions etc, the Club will order tickets without travel as an exception. The Club will also purchase tickets for members who wish to travel to away matches not deemed as club selected trips. The club will not purchase tickets for members who do not use the organised travel as their regular means of transport.

There will be times (especially for premium games) when demand for tickets exceeds the number supplied by Everton. On these occasions priority will be given to members who have traveled with the Club on the most occasions during the current season.

Everton have a no return policy on unused tickets. As the Club is not in a position to absorb any such costs, members who after ordering travel and/or tickets subsequently cancel without good reason will be liable for the full cost if they cannot be resold by the Club.

5. **Organisation**

The Club shall be run by a Committee consisting of a minimum:

- a. Chairman
- b. Treasurer
- c. Secretary

- d. Ticket Secretary
- e. Website Coordinator
- f. Marketing and Newsletter Coordinator

All Committee members shall be elected annually by members of the Club eligible to vote. No one member may hold more than one post. The Committee will have the power, if it sees fit, to co-opt extra Committee members. A Committee member may be removed from his post by a majority vote of the other Committee members present at a meeting of the Committee.

Committee Meetings Committee Meetings shall be held as a minimum of one every three months. The quorum for a meeting of the Committee is 3. If the Chairman is not present then those present shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting. The Chairman shall not vote, but shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Seven days notice shall be given of a Committee meeting. However, if all members of the Committee are present and agree then the notice period may be waived.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) An AGM of the Club shall be held in the month of June or July each year on a date to be agreed by the Committee of which not less than 21 days prior notice shall be given to all members. The following business as a minimum shall be conducted at any such meeting:

- a. The presentation, and if accepted, the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year ended on 31st May prior to the meeting.
- b. Election of the Committee.
- c. Such other business that has been notified to the Secretary in writing prior to 1st June in each year, which is seconded by another member of the Club and shall be included in the agenda of the meeting sent to Club members.
- d. If time allows, and at the discretion of the Chairman, such other business as members present may wish to discuss, and which has not been included in the notice of the meeting.

Election of Committee Members Every candidate for election to the Committee shall be nominated and seconded by members of the Club. Such nominations shall be in writing and be sent to the Secretary no later than 1st June each year prior to the meeting. Any candidate for election must give his consent in writing that he is willing to be a candidate and such written consent must be sent to the Secretary no later than 1st June of each year prior to the meeting.

Committee members seeking re-election need not be nominated and seconded and need not give their consent in writing.

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) An EGM may be convened at any time by the Committee. Not less than 21 days prior notice shall be given to all members of an Extraordinary General Meeting.

If within 30 minutes of the time appointed for an AGM or an EGM a quorum of 10 members are not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

Voting at an AGM or an EGM shall be by show of hands. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

6. Finances

The Club financial year shall end on 31st May in each year. Any member still owing monies at this point will be liable to have their membership cancelled or suspended and in the event of cancellation will forfeit any membership fee.

The property and income of the Club howsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Club, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to members.

The Committee shall, at its discretion, set aside out of any surplus funds that may arise in any year; such sums as it thinks fit to meet expenses or contingencies or to create reserves. The Committee shall be empowered to use the balance, if any, for providing social benefits and amenities for members, or for charitable or deserving purposes.

All monies of the Club shall be banked in the name of “Westcountry Blues” with a bank or building society as the Committee may from time to time decide. The Treasurer shall be authorised to endorse and sign cheques on the account or accounts of the Club.

The accounts of the Club should meet general accounting practice and be put forward for independent audit on an annual basis.

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any surplus assets whatsoever, they shall be given or transferred to a local South West charity organisation that shall be determined by the Committee at or after such dissolution.

7. **Liability** There is no requirement for Club to hold a Third Party Liability Insurance Policy and it does not do so. The Club cannot be held responsible to any injury sustained by members or their guests and any loss or damage to personal property whilst travelling on Club excursions.