

IRISH COURSING CLUB

INTERNAL CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT (Part 7)

As revised and approved by the Club at a General Meeting of the Club and approved by Bord na gCon in accordance with the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958 in August, 1988, And including amendments passed in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012

PART 7 INTERNAL CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT

131-Adoption of Rules by Clubs.

A- These Rules shall be adopted by all clubs affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club, and shall be the Rules under which all affairs of such clubs shall be conducted.

B- The Rules shall also be adopted by and applied to associate clubs, or clubs accepted for affiliation for preservation purposes only, and that do not hold public meetings, and shall also apply to the conduct of the affairs of all such clubs.

132-Clubs Registered Name.

A coursing club shall be named and known by a specific name decided upon at its first general meeting and such name shall not be changed unless good and sufficient reasons exist, and unless such change in the name shall be approved by the Irish Coursing Club at an Annual General Meeting.

133-Appointment of Officers and Committee.

The officers and committee of a club shall be appointed annually by vote or ballot as the majority may decide.

134-Calling of Annual General Meeting.

The annual general meeting may be called by public notice or by circular letter or postcard which shall be sent to each member whose subscription has been paid for the previous season and to each member who is given the rights of membership as an owner of land on a clubs preserves.

135-Annual Meetings Report to Secretary I.C.C.

A report of the annual meeting and a list of the officers and committee appointed shall be sent to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club not later than May 1 each year,

136-Annual Membership Fee.

A- The annual membership fee shall be in accordance with Appendix B(12), but the club may at its discretion issue membership free to persons who in the opinion of the club should be so facilitated. Such members may be recognised as members of the club with similar rights to all other members, save and except in the matter of the election of officers and committee and matters of control and finance, unless full voting power is given to any or all such members admitted free, by two-thirds majority.

B-Members' subscriptions shall become due on or before the 1st of October in each year. Notice as to payment of subscription shall be sent to each member on or before September 1.

C-The secretary shall notify the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club if and when the membership falls below twenty-four members, which shall be the minimum number required for affiliation purposes.

137 -Entitlement to Membership.

Every owner of a greyhound registered in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book shall be entitled to become a member of a club, provided it is a club holding a public meeting which is located near his residence and provided also that he is known to be of good reputation and character as a sportsman. Should a club consider it advisable or necessary to refuse to accept a person as a member, the person whose membership is refused shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Committee.

138-Withdrawal of Membership-Warned Off Persons.

If any member of a club is warned off by the Board or the Executive Committee or is found guilty of fraudulent or discreditable conduct by any other Sporting Association recognised or having reciprocal agreement with the Irish Coursing Club, he shall cease to be a member.

139-Procedure for Expulsion or Resignation.

If a club or its committee consider that a member should be expelled or called on to resign, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee, who shall decide on what action is to be taken.

140-Rules Binding on Club Members,

The officers, committee and members of a club shall abide by and conform to the Rules of the Irish Coursing Club, and it shall be a condition of membership that they jointly and severally subject themselves to the Rules and Bye-laws of the Irish Coursing Club in all matters concerning the affairs of a club.

141-Procedure to deal with Committee and Inter-Club Disputes.

- A-All matters in dispute that may arise within a committee shall be referred to a special Meeting of a club to which all members shall be duly summoned and informed of the matter in dispute. A majority decision of the members, provided there is a quorum present, shall decide the question. Six members shall form a quorum of club's meeting and four shall form a quorum of the Committee.
- B-If a meeting so called, fails to settle or decide a matter at issue, the case shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final, and there shall be no right of appeal from such decision of the Executive Committee.
- C- The officers, members and committee shall undertake to refer all matters in dispute between members of a club, or with other clubs or members of other clubs to the Executive Committee.

142-Election of Officers.

The officers of a club shall be elected annually at the general meeting and shall hold office for twelve months from date of election or until a new election is held, provided that no more than one month over their term of office is allowed to expire before the general meeting of a club takes place. See Rules of Procedure, Appendix H.

143-Action if Annual General Meeting not held.

- A-If the secretary or secretaries, or the officers or committee, fail to hold a meeting and proceed with the elections and business of a club, a requisition signed by six members of a club may be sent to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, who shall then direct the secretary, or the officers and committee, to call or summon a general meeting within a specified time.
- B-Should the secretary, officers or members of the club to whom instructions have been sent regarding this matter fail to hold a meeting, the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club shall then call a meeting of the club by notice in 'Sporting Press.' A member of the Executive Committee shall be named to preside at the meeting, and he shall see that the business of the meeting is conducted and disposed of in a proper manner, and necessary officers appointed,

144-Attendance of Officer or Member of the Executive Committee

An officer or member of the Executive Committee shall have the right to attend any meeting of a club in an advisory capacity, but shall not have the right to vote unless he is a member.

145-Officers to be Appointed.

- A- The following officers shall be appointed annually:-viz: President, Vice- President, Honorary Treasurer or Treasurers, Secretary or Honorary Secretary, (the treasurers or secretaries shall not exceed two in number for each office) and a committee of not less than ten members. Two- thirds of the committee shall be registered owners of greyhounds and consistent supporters of the sport of coursing The committee shall, after its election, appoint its own chairman for the ensuing year. The officers shall be ex officio members of the committee.
- B- Trustees of lands and preserves, and officers of a club, shall hold office for the term of their appointment, unless in case of default or breach of trust. A trustee or officer shall not be removed from office during the term of his appointment except by a two-thirds majority of a general meeting. If and when any officer or trustee retires from membership, he shall cease to hold office when his membership ceases, and the club, at a special or general meeting, shall appoint his successor

146-Chairman at Meetings.

The president or, in his absence, the vice-president, shall take the chair at meetings of a club and have a casting vote, and the chairman shall have a casting vote at meetings of the committee. In the event of the absence of the president, vice-president and chairman from a meeting of a club or committee, the members shall appoint a chairman, who shall have a casting vote at any meeting over which he presides.

147-Appointment and Duties of a Committee.

- A- The club may, at its general meeting, arrange regarding meetings, trials and other matters for the season, or may refer any or all such arrangements to the committee.
- B-A committee shall manage all the business affairs of a club, arrange meetings and the appointment of judge and slipper, in accordance with the ICC Rules, The selection, if not unanimous, shall be by ballot, save where the selection of the judge and slipper is by vote of the permanent nominators in a Cup event.

148.-Member of Club.

A representative of a club on the Irish Coursing Club shall be appointed at a general meeting of a club, subject to the provisions of Article 2 of the Club's Constitution. He is eligible for re-appointment when his term expires. An alternative representative may also be appointed, see Appendix L. *(Representatives and alternative Representatives appointed after 1 May will be considered as being appointed for meetings from then on).*

149-Refusal of Entries.

The secretary or secretaries shall be responsible for all entry fees, and shall be entitled to refuse any entry unless it is accompanied by the fee, and may, subject to the Rules of the Irish Coursing Club, and with the approval of the committee, decline or refuse to accept any entry.

150 Responsibility for Disbursement of Accounts.

The committee shall be jointly and severally responsible for the payment of all stakes, prizes and officials fees and other accounts for any coursing meeting held by a club during their term of office.

151-Submission of Accounts to Annual General Meeting.

A-A Statement of accounts and Balance Sheet in such form as may be specified by the I.C.C. shall be submitted to annual general meeting by the treasurer or treasurers, and secretary or secretaries-the accounts to be audited by two members other than the treasurer and secretaries, or by a qualified accountant. The accounts of the year, and any funds or other property held in trust by the treasurer or trustees and members, shall be also accounted for in the Annual Statement, Article 2 of the Clubs Constitution.

B- The meeting by majority, shall pass or decline to approve of the Accounts and Balance Sheet. If the Accounts are not passed, the matter shall be reported to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.

C-A copy of the Club's Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet shall be forwarded annually to the secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.

152-Use of Club's Funds.

The revenues of a club, and moneys received in any manner by and for a club, shall be devoted to coursing, and expended only on and for the benefit of the sport of coursing.

153-Rights to Course on Preserved Lands.

Members shall not course over the lands preserved by a club except by or with the permission of the committee, or whatever other person or persons a club may authorise to give permission for trials or courses.

154-Rights of Owner on Own Lands.

An owner who resides on the preserves shall be entitled to have trials on his own land for his own greyhounds only, and shall not, without permission of a club, allow a member or non member to course on his land. Any person found poaching hares shall be reported to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, and the Executive Committee may take such action as they deem fit.

155-Limitation for Netting of Hares. (Amended 2002 & 2012)

A club shall respect the preserves of other clubs, and shall not purchase hares for any purpose whatever, except from an authorised source. A club shall not issue permits to any person or persons to net, catch or take hares except on their own preserves or on land adjoining same or on lands for which they have obtained the consent of the owner or occupier, to take, net or catch hares, provided this would not involve encroachment on another club's preserves. Nor shall a club take, catch or net hares on lands near to or adjoining other club's preserves. If any dispute arises between clubs in this matter, and if it is not settled by mutual agreement, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. See Appendix M for Wild Life Act extracts, Sanctions to be imposed on Clubs found netting hares on another Club's preserves shall include a fine.

156-Association or Amalgamation with Other Clubs.

A club shall have power to associate itself with other recognised coursing clubs for the purpose of holding public meetings, or to amalgamate with another club or clubs by consent of the majority of its members at a general meeting, subject to the approval of the Irish Coursing Club.

157-Betting at Trials Prohibited.

A club shall ensure that betting will not take place at any trial or trials held by it.

APPENDIX H

Rules Of Procedure-Rule 142.

1. The agenda must be dealt with before any extraneous matters shall be considered.
2. All Motions and Amendments must be seconded; and, except formal Motions, such as Motions for Adjournment or that the Chairman leave the Chair, etc, should be handed to the Chairman in writing.
3. Each Member who rises to speak must direct his speech to the Motion proposed as the question for discussion, or to a Motion or Amendment to be proposed by himself, or a question of order.
4. No Member may speak twice to a question, except in explanation or reply. N.B.- The proposing or seconding of an Amendment shall be deemed to be a speech on the main Motion.
5. A right of reply is allowed to the mover of a substantive motion, but not to the mover of an Amendment or of Motion for Adjournment moved during debate. After the mover has commenced his reply, no other Member shall speak to the question.
6. Upon a matter of order suddenly arising any Member may speak, if he does so immediately and commences by a statement that he rises to order. The Member who was addressing the Meeting must thereupon resume his seat, and so, also, must the Member who rose to order when he has concluded his appeal to the Chair. .
7. An Amendment may be proposed at any time after the proposer of the Motion has spoken,
8. While an Amendment is before the Meeting it shall be open to further amendment. Such Amendment upon an Amendment shall be treated as an Amendment upon an original Motion.
9. Each Amendment shall be taken in the order in which it was proposed. On the adoption or rejection of one Amendment the Meeting shall consider the next amendment and so on, until each Amendment has been dealt with.
10. When the Chairman rises to speak, any member then speaking or offering to speak, must resume his seat, and all must remain sitting in order that the Chairman's words may be heard without interruption.
11. The Chairman may call the attention of the Meeting to continued irrelevance or tedious repetition on the part of a Member, and may direct the Member to discontinue his speech.
12. At any time after a question has been proposed from the Chair, any Member may move 'That the question be now put.' The Chairman, unless he considers it an infringement of the right of reasonable debate, puts that question to a vote. If it is carried, the proposer of the original Motion has a right of reply before his Vote is put to the Meeting.
13. If grave disorder should arise, the Chairman, acting on his discretion as a matter of right, can suspend the offending Member for the rest of the Meeting, or declare the Meeting adjourned and quit the Chair; and by that declaration the Meeting is immediately adjourned, and no business subsequently transacted will be valid.
14. Any one or more of the Rules and regulations for the transaction of business, if a case of urgency arises, or upon Motion made on a Notice duly given, may be suspended at any Meeting, so far as regards any business at such Meeting, provided that three fourths of the Members of the Meeting present and voting, shall so decide.
15. The Order of Business shall be as set out in the Agenda.
16. Points of explanation.
 - A- All motions must be submitted bearing the signature of the president or hon. secretary of both proposing and seconding clubs and the date, An explanatory note should be appended if necessary.
 - B- Motions that have already been submitted and unfavourably voted upon at an Annual General Meeting cannot be accepted again for a period of two years.
 - C- Motions designed to alter the constitutions may be submitted to the Annual General Meeting by the Executive Committee, Provincial Committees or a member club seconded by another member club through the Executive Committee. Such motions thereto shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast.
 - D- All motions for the Annual General Meeting of the Club (excluding emergency motions) shall be sent in writing not later than three weeks before date of annual General Meeting.

Matters and Business Terms Relating to Meeting.

- A- Adjournment- The Chairman, with the consent of those present, may adjourn a meeting to postpone further discussion or because of shortage of time. Adequate notice of the new time for the adjourned meeting must be given.
- B- Casting Vote- When there is an equal number of votes 'for' and 'against' a motion a second vote is granted, in accordance with the regulations of the organisation to the Chairman of the meeting.
- C- Closure- A formal motion submitted with the objective of ending the discussion on a particular subject. If this formal motion is seconded and carried, the matter in question must immediately

be put to the vote without further discussion. if the motion is defeated, the discussion may be continued.

D-"Lie on the Table"-A letter or report is said to 'lie on the table' when the meeting decides that no action should be taken on the business it contains.

E-No Confidence-A vote of no confidence may be passed by the members if they are at variance with the Chairman. If a substantial majority of members are in favour of the decision, the Chairman must vacate the Chair in favour of his deputy or some other person nominated by the meeting.

F-Out of Order-When a remark or statement involves a breach of the rules governing the meeting, it is said to be 'out of order'

G-Point of Order- This is a question raised by a member during the course of the meeting in respect of the procedure at the meetings, or alternatively, a query relating to the standing orders or constitution

H- The Resolution-No resolution can be rescinded at the meeting at which it is adopted.

J-Rider- This is an addition to a resolution after it has been passed. It adds to a resolution rather than altering it. Any rider must be proposed, seconded and put to the meeting in the same way as the motion.

APPENDIX L

Membership

1.- The members of the club shall comprise-

- (a) one representative member appointed by each affiliated coursing club entitled to hold coursing meetings authorised by the club and by each greyhound race track executive; and
- (b) co-opted members as hereinafter provided

2-Representative members shall be appointed for triennial periods (and shall be eligible for reappointment) except that of an affiliated coursing club or greyhound race track executive

- (a) whose representative member dies, resigns or ceases because of disqualification to be a member during any triennial period or
- (b) which becomes affiliated to the club during any triennial period may, except as hereinafter provided, appoint a representative member for the remainder of such triennial period

3-A person shall be disqualified from being a representative member of the club in any triennial period, and if he is already a representative member in that period shall cease to be such member, if

- (a) he is not a member of the affiliated coursing club or the greyhound race track executive concerned in the appointment; or
- (b) he is subject to any disability imposed on him in relation to participating in the greyhound industry for conduct inimical to the breeding or coursing of greyhounds, or for the contravention of rules made by the club relating to greyhound racing or the training of greyhounds for reward, or for any other irregularity committed in relation to the greyhound industry; or
- (c) the coursing club or greyhound race track executive concerned in the appointment has failed to hold at least one coursing meeting authorised by the club (either alone or jointly with a neighbouring coursing club entitled to hold such meetings) or greyhound race track meeting, and disqualification shall be effective twenty-seven months after the date of the last meeting held, in which case such club or greyhound race track executive shall thereby forfeit its right to appoint a representative member.
- (d) the coursing club or greyhound race track executive concerned in the appointment has ceased to be affiliated to the club; or
- (e) he is absent without an explanation, accepted by the Executive Committee, from three consecutive general meetings of the club.

4.-An affiliated coursing club or greyhound race track executive may appoint for any triennial period an alternative representative member to attend any meeting of the club in the unavoidable absence of its representative member; an alternate representative member so attending a meeting of the club shall have the same right to speak and vote thereat as a representative member. Notice shall be given before the meeting to the Secretary of the club of the proposed attendance thereat of an alternate representative member and the reason for the absence from the meeting of the representative member concerned.