

Summary of the Proposed Changes to the Rules.

In summary, the proposed changes to the Rules establish a Ladies section, amend the constitution and powers of the Management Committee, amend the terms of office for certain Club Officers and enable electronic meetings and voting (including proxy voting).

Under the New Rules, the Club will have four sections [Rule 3.1.3]:

- Men's (males over 18);
- Ladies (females over 11);
- Youth (males between 11 and 18); and
- Minis (males and females between 4 and 11).

Each section will have its own Section Chair. [Rule 22.1]

The Senior and Junior Management Committees will respectively administer players over 18 and player under 18. (So, females over 11 and under 18 will come under the Ladies' Section and the Ladies' Chair to help promote female rugby but will continue to be administered by the Junior Management Committee).

The Management Committee will consist of 11 individuals and the ability to co-opt has been removed so only elected members may serve (except in certain cases when a committee member resigns during their term of office and is then replaced by a Committee appointment [Rules 21.6 and 22.3]).

All the members of the Management Committee, including the Section Chairs, are elected by the whole Club at the AGM. [Rule 16.1.4] (The nominations for Section Chairs are approved by the relevant sections [Rule 16.2.3]).

The Committee will consist of [Rule 23.1]:

- Club Chair;
- Club Secretary;
- Club Treasurer;
- Four Sections Chairs; and
- Four other elected members.

In addition, the Club President and Club Captain will be allowed to attend and speak and not vote. [Rule 23.3].

This creates the role of a Club Chair to manage both the Committee and the Club [Rule 21.1], as currently happens in practice, and clarifies the role of President as being the more traditional ambassadorial role.

The terms of office for the Club Chair, the Club Secretary, the Club Treasurer and the four Section Chairs are increased to two years, with the ability to be re-elected twice, giving a maximum term of office of 6 years. [Rules 21.3 and 22.2]. They may resign before then and they can be removed from office by a vote of the members. [Rule 23.5]

The flow of authority from the Club Management Committee to the Senior and Junior Management Committees and other sub-committees is firmly established – recognising that the responsibility sits ultimately with those elected to the Management Committee. [Rule 19.1].

The ability of the Committee to authorise large items of expenditure is limited without members' approval. [Rule 19.1.3]

Meetings of members and of committees may be held electronically, with both on-line and proxy voting – recognising the impact of COVID-19. [Rules 8 to 15]

The date of the AGM is brought forward to no later than 31 July to enable the Committee to be in place before the start of the season. [Rule 16.1].