



**Lancaster & District Canoe Club
Constitution**

1. Name of Club

The club will be called Lancaster & District Canoe Club (Hereinafter will be referred to as The Club), and may also be known as LDCC. LDCC will be affiliated to British Canoeing

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club will be:

- To offer coaching opportunities in paddle sports, organised to cater for all abilities
- To promote the Club within the local community for recreational paddle sports
- To provide and manage the Club facilities and equipment
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone

3. Membership

(a) Membership of the club is open to anyone interested in promoting, coaching, volunteering or participating in paddlesport, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

(b) The membership shall consist of the following categories:

Full member

Junior member (under 18)

Family membership

Social member

(c) All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.

(d) Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) Individuals shall be eligible to take part in the business of the Club and vote at general meetings unless the applicable subscription has not been paid by the due date.

4. Sports Equity

(a) This Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition

of sports equity: *Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.*

(b) The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, sex, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

(c) The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

(d) All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

(e) The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

5. Committee

(a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, Welfare Officer, Membership Secretary, Equipment Officer, Coaching Officer, Grants Officer, Youth Representative, Safety Officer, and non-officer members, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) All committee members must be members of the Club.

(c) If required, the committee shall elect a Vice Chair from among its number.

(d) The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall be eligible for re-election.

(e) If the post of any officer or ordinary committee member should fall vacant after such an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.

(f) The Committee will act for the members and be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the Club.

(g) The Committee will have powers to appoint and advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

(h) The Committee will approve all memberships. A decision not to allow membership will be in accordance with the non-discriminatory policy.

(i) The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action

of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

(j) The committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held no less than five times per year.

(k) Only the posts listed above will have the right to vote at committee meetings.

(l) The quorum required for business to be agreed at Management Committee meetings will be 40%.

(m) Major decision will require a majority vote in favour. In the event of an equality of votes, the chair will have the casting vote.

6. Finances

(a) The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.

(b) The financial year of the club will run from January 1st to December 31st

(c) All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club. All monies raised on behalf of the Club will be used only to further the objectives of the Club

(d) An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) Any cheque / payments / transfers drawn against club funds of amounts of £1000 or more, should hold the permissions of the treasurer plus up to two other Committee Members (who are not family related) i.e Treasurer and Secretary.

(f) All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club, providing that the Committee has acted in accordance with the Constitution in honesty and good faith.

7. Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

(a) General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.

(b) The Club shall hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of January to:

- Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
- Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary.
- Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts.
- Receive a report from those responsible for certifying the Club's accounts.
- Elect the officers on the committee.
- Agree the membership fees for the following year.
- Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.

- Deal with other relevant business.

(c) Notice of the AGM will be given by the club secretary with at least 14 days' notice to be given to all members.

(d) Nominations for officers of the committee will be sent to the secretary 14 days prior to the AGM or can be accepted from the floor.

(e) Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate at least 7 days before an AGM.

(f) All members have the right to vote at the AGM

(g) The quorum for AGMs will be 25% of the membership.

(h) The Chairman of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.

(i) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the members of the Club. The committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the committee members.

(j) All procedures shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

8. Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM. The Constitution should be reviewed on an annual basis.

9. Discipline and appeals

(a) All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children, young people and adults will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club's safeguarding policies and procedures. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members' concerns.

(b) All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary as soon as possible.

(c) The Management Committee or nominated sub committee will make the relevant party/s aware of the complaint made against them on a confidential basis. They have the right to submit their account of the dispute to the Secretary within 7 days.

(d) The Management Committee will meet to review both accounts of the matter within 10 days. The Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action, including the termination of membership.

(e) The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.

(f) There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The Committee should consider the appeal within 7 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

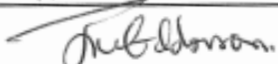
10. Dissolution

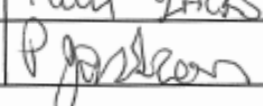
(a) A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.

(b) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared with any club funds. Any assets of The Club that remain following this will become the property of another club with similar objectives or British Canoeing.

11. Declaration

LDCC hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Name	JOHN GIBBISON	Position	Chair
Sign		Date 13/4/2023	

Name	Paul JACKSON	Position	Committee
Sign		Date 13-4-2023	