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SECTION A CONSTITUTION

1. Title

(1.1) The title of the Association shall be "The British Amateur Rugby League Association".

2. Aims and Objectives

(2.1) The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:

(2.2) To be the Governing body for Rugby League at Amateur level throughout Britain and Ireland.

(2.3) That the game be played and controlled by amateur players, clubs and officials.

(2.4) To foster, develop, extend and govern Amateur Rugby League Football throughout Britain and Ireland and to maintain a close liaison with all organisations relative to the development of Rugby League Football, both nationally and internationally.

(2.5) To be a body of Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC), and Leagues serving their local communities.

(2.5.1) In the event of dissolution, monies held in the accounts of the British Amateur Rugby League Association for distribution evenly amongst the Member Leagues, shall be conditional upon :

- All Debts outstanding having been recovered at source and liabilities paid in full.
- Liquidation of the premises and equipment therein owned by the Association

3. Constitution

(3.1) The Association shall be governed by the General Assembly comprising of an Open Age council and a Youth and Junior council. These councils are to be governed by four democratically elected Board members at the respective age groups. A chair for each council is to be nominated from the four elected Board members this appointment will be ratified by the Board of Management.

(3.2) The Open Age and Youth and Junior Councils shall meet bi-monthly or as the occasion demands.

(3.3) The Association shall consist of such National, Regional, or District Leagues playing or organising Community Amateur Rugby League and such other organisations concerned with Amateur Rugby League Football as are willing to abide by the Constitution and rules of the Association and as are approved by the "General Assembly".

(3.4) Such Leagues or Organisations as described above are in this constitution referred to as Full Members.

(3.5) At all meetings of the BARLA General Assembly each full member representative shall register on arrival and then receive their voting card, each full member shall be entitled to one vote.

(3.6.) All matters arising from minutes to be discussed at General Assembly meetings must be sent in writing to the BARLA Office no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

4. Membership

- (4.1) Membership, shall be one of the following classes:
 - (4.1.1) (Full Membership). Full Membership and voting rights shall be as described in the Constitution (section 3)
 - (4.1.2) (Associate Membership). Any league or organisation must be qualified for associate membership prior to the General Assembly being asked to approve their admission. Having being an Associate Member for a minimum probationary period of twelve months and having had their constitution approved by the Board of Management, application may be made for Full Membership. Associate Members have the right to attend General Assembly meetings, but not to vote.
 - (4.1.3) (Affiliated Membership). All clubs and such other organisations, which are active members of a BARLA League, are automatically Affiliated Members of the Association. All Clubs must be in membership of the District League in which they are geographically located prior to joining any fixture organising League unless dispensation has been granted by the Board of Management. District Leagues may ask new clubs or teams to participate in friendly fixtures only during their first season of operation. District Leagues must not admit into membership any new clubs or teams which will adversely affect existing members. All member clubs of District Leagues shall have equal voting rights within their League without discrimination.
 - (4.1.4) (Playing Membership). All players registered with clubs or teams who are affiliated members shall be regarded as playing members.
 - (4.1.5) (Life Membership). Life Members may be appointed by the General Assembly following recommendation from the Board of Management for outstanding services to the amateur game. Life Members are entitled to attend all General Assembly meetings but shall have no voting rights but are entitled to address the meeting.
- (4.2) Members shall not organise or play against any club, team or League that are not members of the Association without written permission of the Board of Management or its representatives and the appropriate Governing Bodies or Countries concerned.
- (4.3) Any Amateur Rugby League player, coach, official or referee is free to participate in any other sport of his choice without fear of discrimination by the Association.
- (4.4) All members of BARLA and their players, coaches, officials and members shall be bound by the Constitution bye-laws, rules and decisions of the Association and shall observe and enforce the same.
- (4.5) All Leagues shall submit to the Association within twenty-one days of production or on demand, a copy of their balance sheet.
- (4.6) All Leagues shall submit their rules and any subsequent amendments, and/or alterations, to the Association, so as to facilitate uniformity of administration throughout the Association. Leagues are responsible for all rules relative to their own competitions. BARLA competitions shall be played to the Association's Competition Rules.
- (4.7) The area of operation for each League shall be as defined by the Association.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (4.8) Each Member League and organisation is responsible for electing its own management and its appointed officials which should include a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, BARLA Representative, Coaching Co-ordinator, (Senior Coach, or the equivalent), Development Officer and Publicity Officer.
- (4.9) All clubs must be in membership of the District League within the boundaries of which they are geographically located. All teams must apply to and have written permission from their District League prior to joining any Regional League.
- (4.10) No Member shall be allowed to withdraw from the Association until that Member's liabilities have been discharged.
- (4.11) Rugby League Football is a multi-cultural sport. As such, the Association will not tolerate any racial abuse or any other discriminatory practice, in whatever form, within the sport. Members shall support, and incorporate into their rules, the Association's:
 - (4.11.1) Equal Opportunities Policy
 - (4.11.2) 10 Point Action Plan to Tackle Racism
 - (4.11.3) Women's and Girls Development Plan
 - (4.11.4) The Doping Control Policy
- (4.12) "Principle of fair play" means that everyone connected with the sport:
 - (4.12.1) Shows understanding of and respect of the Laws of the Game.
 - (4.12.2) Supports the belief that the game should be played in an entertaining and positive way.
 - (4.12.3) Behave on and off the field in a sporting manner towards all others involved, be they players, officials or spectators.

5. Trustees

- (5.1) The Association shall appoint not more than 3 (three) Trustees. The Trustees shall be appointed by the General Assembly and any property of the Association requiring legal title shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minutes shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Association's property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the General Assembly, who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from office. If by reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the General Assembly that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or if the General Assembly deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or additional Trustees, the General Assembly shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Association within the meaning of section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the General Assembly as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Association and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

deed of appointment shall, in favour of a person dealing bona-fide and for value with the Association or General Assembly be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated

(5.2) "The Association Trustees shall be entitled to attend all Board Meetings and General Assembly Meetings".

6. Management

(6.1) The Management of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Management, who shall have the authority of the General Assembly to manage the Association on their behalf. The Board shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, President, Senior Vice-President, plus eight other persons, four of whom shall be specialists in Open-Age Rugby and four who shall be specialists in Youth-Junior Rugby. Each Board Member shall be elected for a two-year term of office on a rotation basis. Six Board Members (Chair, Senior Vice-President, 2 Open Age, 2 Youth) shall retire in the second year. All shall be eligible for re-election. The Secretary and the Community Board Representative shall attend all Board of Management meetings, which shall be convened as the occasion demands, but will not have the right to vote.

(6.2) The Board of Management shall be responsible to the General Assembly for the proper conduct of the Association's affairs and shall ensure that all statutory obligations and duties are met.

(6.3) The Board of Management may from time to time promulgate such rules as are appropriate for the proper administration of Amateur Rugby League subject to the consent of the General Assembly.

(6.4) An Honorary Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Management from suitably qualified professional personnel.

(6.5) A Board of Appeal shall be appointed by the Board of Management to deal with any issues not covered within the remit of the disciplinary and appeal committee structure.

(6.6) The Board of Management shall appoint such Committees and Chairpersons as are necessary to ensure the good management of the Association and who shall have power to co-opt the necessary persons to form such Committees subject to approval from the Board of Management.

(6.7) The Board of Management shall appoint the Association's delegates to the Rugby Football League Council. The BARLA Delegation shall consist of the Chairman of the Association plus one member of the Board representing youth and one member from the Board representing open age.

(6.8) The Board of Management shall appoint the delegate/s to the RFL Community Board.

7. Meetings

(7.1) Meetings of the General Assembly shall be held annually, (or when the occasion demands), and each Full Member and Associate Member may send two representatives to these meetings but only one vote per Full Member shall be allowed.

(7.2) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June each year and shall conduct the following business:

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (7.2.1) To receive the Secretary's annual report.
- (7.2.2) To receive and approve the audited accounts, copies of which shall be circulated at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- (7.2.3) To elect the auditors.
- (7.2.4) To elect as required by rotation or to fill vacancies for the Chair, Vice-Chair, President, Senior Vice President and other Board Members.
- (7.2.5) To elect Vice-presidents
- (7.2.6) To elect a Secretary
- (7.2.7) To deal with proposed amendments to the Constitution and Rules.
- (7.2.8) To transact any other business specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- (7.3) Notice of any proposed change to the Constitution or Rules at the Annual General Meeting may only be given by the Board of Management or by any four named Full Members, proposing and seconding the same, and must be sent in writing by the 10th April to the Secretary who shall then circulate such proposals to all Full Members by no later than 20th April. Any amendment to such proposals, duly proposed and seconded in writing by four Full Members, must be received by the Secretary by no later than 30th April. The Secretary shall, no later than 10th May, circulate to all Full Members notice of the date on which the Annual General Meeting is to be held together with all proposed amendments and alterations. A majority of two thirds (2/3) of the Members present and voting is required to carry the foregoing.
- (7.4) A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Board of Management or upon the receipt by the Secretary of a requisition signed by no less than four Full Members. Such requisition is to state clearly the purpose of the meeting and must include a specific resolution. Such a meeting must be held within 40 days of receipt of the signed requisition. The Secretary shall, within 10 days of receipt, circulate details of the requisition to all Full Members stating the date, time and venue of the meeting. Any amendments to the requisition must be received by the Secretary within 10 days of the date of the first notice, signed by four Full member Leagues. The Secretary will then circulate to all Full Members a second and final notice of the Special General Meeting together with all proposed amendments and alterations. Once due notice has been given to a properly convened Special General Meeting, it cannot be cancelled. Only items detailed on the notice convening the Meeting may be debated at the Meeting. A majority of two thirds (2/3) of the Members present and voting is required to carry the forgoing.
- (7.5) At all meetings of the Association or at any of its committees or sub committees 30 per cent of those qualified to attend and vote shall form a quorum.
- (7.6) All nominations for elected positions within the Association shall be proposed and seconded, in writing, by no less than four Full Members. Nominations, once submitted, can only be withdrawn with the written consent of the nominee.
- (7.7) The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at all General Assembly and Board of Management meetings. The Chairman of any meeting of the Association, except the Annual or any Special General Meeting, which are to be chaired by the President or Senior Vice President, shall have a second or casting vote.

8. Subscriptions and Fees

- (8.1) The Annual subscriptions for all grades of membership shall be as recommended by the Board of Management and ratified by simple majority at the Annual General Meeting. Each season all members shall be notified of this decision. All new clubs shall pay 50 per cent of fees in their first year of membership.
- (8.2) All affiliated member clubs and teams will be covered for public liability and players' personal accident insurance through a group insurance policy, for such sums and premium payments, as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. The appropriate policies will be affected by the Association on behalf of all member clubs, teams and players.
- (8.3) All subscriptions and insurance premiums will be invoiced to the individual clubs direct from BARLA. All payments are to be paid by the 30th September of each season. Any monies outstanding after this date will render that League, club or player liable to suspension from all fixtures arranged by the Association or its Member Leagues.
- (8.4) Elected and co-opted officials of the Association, selectors and team managers shall receive no remuneration for any duties undertaken but may be repaid genuine expenses (including a modest mileage allowance as fixed by the Board of Management) necessarily incurred whilst carrying out their duties.
- (8.5) Players shall not receive payment from a member club, its sponsors or any auxiliary organisation of a member club, or any other person for playing Amateur Rugby League Football.
- (8.6) When so requested by the Board of Management a member club must make its accounting records available for inspection by an authorised representative.

SECTION B RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

9. Discipline

- (9.1) Disciplinary matters shall in the first Instance be dealt with by the Organisation under whose jurisdiction the matches are played be it national, regional or district.
- (9.2) Each Organisation will appoint its own discipline committee.
- (9.3) A BARLA Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Board of Management shall deal with disciplinary matters involving matches under the direct jurisdiction of BARLA.
- (9.4) In the case of decisions made by Leagues, any person or club found guilty of misconduct or other offences of a disciplinary nature shall have the right of appeal to a BARLA Disciplinary Appeals Committee appointed by the Board of Management, providing the relevant criteria as outlined in 10.3 has been met.
- (9.5) Disciplinary Committees shall have full power to adjudicate upon all leagues, clubs, players or persons reported by any match officials for any reason whatsoever arising from any game under their control. This also includes representative and international games.
- (9.6) The BARLA Disciplinary Committee shall have full power to deal with all leagues, clubs, players or persons without the need of a match official's report if they have committed an act or made any statement either verbally or in writing or been responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any matter which in the opinion of the Committee is considered to be unsporting, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute. Any act, statement, conduct or matter which is discriminatory by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability shall constitute behaviour in contravention of this clause. This also includes representative and international games.
- (9.7) Disciplinary Committees have full power to expel, suspend and/or fine any organisation, player, official or any other person found guilty of misconduct and/or any breach of the rules and order them to meet any costs incurred.
- (9.8) Disciplinary Committees shall deal with all reported offences without undue delay but no later than 31 days of the alleged offence. Except for cases falling within rule (9.6) which may be dealt with without time limit.
- (9.9) A match official's written report on the misconduct of any organisation, player, official or any person shall be sent to the Competition Secretary within five working days of the game's conclusion with a copy to the reported party.
- (9.10) Every organisation must ensure that the referee is given the full name of any dismissed player and give every assistance to any match official, to identify any official, spectator or other person about whom they have cause to enquire.
- (9.11) Every organisation is required to take all necessary precautions to prevent assaults or threats on players or officials, in connection with games.
- (9.12) A referee shall have the power to order the temporary suspension, for a period of ten minutes, of a player whose conduct does not warrant a full dismissal.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (9.13) Any organisation not in receipt of a dismissal report from a match official within 7 days of a game's conclusion must immediately contact the Competition Secretary.
- (9.14) Any organisation wishing to raise an objection to the result of any game in which they have partaken, must inform the Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the game's conclusion by telephone and confirm in writing within five working days, with a copy to the party against whom the objection is made.
- (9.15) All reported persons may request a personal hearing and bring witnesses in their own defence, send a written statement, or provide unedited video tape evidence providing application is received by the BARLA Secretary within seven days of the game's conclusion and be accompanied by a personal hearing deposit fee of £40.00 which is to be returned if the appellant attends the hearing
- (9.16) If, during the game, an assault on a match official, a brawl or abandonment occurs, the referee must report such occurrence to the Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the game's conclusion by telephone and confirm in writing within five working days with a copy to the reported party.
- (9.17) In all cases of Discipline or disputes, claims of non-receipt of any relevant correspondence shall not preclude any matter from being dealt with.
- (9.18) Decisions of a Disciplinary Committee shall be sent first class post within 48 hours of a meeting.
- (9.19) At all discipline hearings, three members, one who will act as Chair, and one who will act as Secretary shall form a quorum.
- (9.20) All affiliated Leagues shall adopt all of Section B into their own constitution, in order that Leagues are playing to a standardised set of rules.

10. Appeals

- (10.1) The Board of Management shall appoint a BARLA Discipline Appeals Committee and it shall be responsible for hearing all appeals against the decisions made by the BARLA Disciplinary Committee or decisions made by Organisations in membership of BARLA. No person who was at the original hearing, other than the Secretary or their representative, shall be eligible to participate as a member of the Committee.
- (10.2) Every organisation and player wishing to appeal against decisions by the BARLA Disciplinary Committee or other Organisations must do so in writing, to be received by the BARLA Secretary within seven days of the decision being made. The appeal fee of £40.00 must accompany each appeal application, which may be returned or forfeit as the Committee so decides. Unedited videotape evidence may be submitted.
- (10.3) No Appeal shall be heard, unless the appellant has made representation at the original hearing, either personally or by a representative or in writing.
- (10.4) In instances where a player has received a suspension, there shall be only two grounds for appeal. namely (a) severity of sentence or (b) the finding of guilt.
- (10.5) All appeals shall be heard, within fourteen days of the appeal being lodged.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

(10.6) At appeal hearings, three members, one who will act as Chair and one who will act as Secretary shall form a quorum.

(10.7) Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

11. Suspensions and Fines

(11.1) A player's suspension will commence on the second Saturday, following the meeting at which the suspension was imposed, except in the case of suspensions of six or more matches or Sine Die suspensions, which will have immediate effect. Two or more suspensions must be served consecutively. A player is allowed to play pending appeal if the suspension is less than 6 matches.

(11.2) The following games shall count towards a player's suspensions:

(11.2.1) All registered team games, scheduled prior to the offence, representative games, in which the player has been selected to play and games awarded by default. Abandoned games shall only count if points are awarded or if the result is allowed to stand.

(11.3) No person under suspension by the Association, Amateur League or club shall participate in playing, coaching, officiating or administrating within Amateur Rugby League Football, without the Association's permission, until all suspensions are served.

(11.4) A suspended player is not allowed to play in any other game of Rugby League Football until their suspension has been completed and any club or league found guilty of violating this rule shall be fined not less than £100.00, forfeit the game and the offending player may be liable to a further suspension.

(11.5) Any suspensions, notified to the Association by other Sporting Authorities, shall be honoured unless special circumstances apply.

(11.6) A player who has been fined shall not play in any game until the fine is paid. Should the fine not be paid within 28 days of imposition it will automatically double. If the fine is still not paid, further action will be taken. The player's club or league or county in representative games, is responsible for the collection and forwarding of the money to the Association.

(11.7) If an organisation is fined, the fine must be paid within 28 days of imposition otherwise it will automatically double and if this is not paid within a further 14 days, all fixtures for that organisation shall be suspended.

(11.8) A Disciplinary Committee will, as and when necessary, issue guidelines to Member Leagues with regard to minimum recommended suspensions to be imposed in respect of certain offences. Member Leagues should, unless special circumstances apply, follow the guidelines.

(11.9) An automatic Sine Die suspension shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of assaulting a match official. No review of that suspension, after any initial appeal, may take place until 5 years have elapsed from the date that the suspension was imposed.

12. Representative Rugby

(12.1) In BARLA International, County, Regional and District representative games, the following criteria and rules will apply.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (12.1.1) Games shall be played at age levels as determined by the Board of Management.
- (12.1.2) Any player who has played Rugby League Football as a professional is not eligible for International or other representative honours within the Association. Only bona-fide amateur players are eligible for BARLA representative honours - i.e. players who have never received payment for playing rugby league football provided until 31 December 2002 a player who has received payment for playing rugby league football will be eligible for BARLA representative honours provided the following two conditions are applicable:
- (1) The payment was made before the players 20th birthday whilst only on a RFL Academy contract.
 - (2) The player has registered with a BARLA Club after the last payment was made and prior to the players 20th birthday.
- (12.1.3) Appointed coaches must hold at least a Senior Coach certificate or its equivalent
- (12.1.4) Any player selected for International duty must have played, been selected to play, trained or made themselves available to represent their local League in the current season.
- (12.1.5) A Player is eligible to play for the Country or County in which he was born or first played Rugby League Football. Having played for one he is not eligible to play for another, without permission of the Board of Management.
- (12.1.6) Any club with three or more players selected to play in a recognised Open Age representative match may, if they so desire, postpone their club fixture for that particular weekend. The weekend shall be deemed as Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Application must be made no later than 72 hours before the kick off of the game in question and they must also make their opponents aware of this at the same time.
- (12.1.7) Any Club with four or more players selected to play in a recognised Youth or Junior representative match on the day of a scheduled league or cup game may apply to the relevant league for postponement of their match. Application must be made no later than 72 hours before the kick-off of the game in question and the opponents must also be made aware at the same time.
- (12.1.8) At Youth and Junior matches, identity cards must be produced for all players; such cards should ideally be colour coded to the respective playing age groups.
- (12.2) The management and supervision of International teams shall be the overall responsibility of the Board of Management who shall approve the appointment of managers to be responsible for the control of operations at Open Age and Youth level.
- (12.2.1) Application for the post of International Manager shall be accepted from experienced persons, who must be actively involved in the relevant age group within the Association. They shall be appointed for a three-year term of office, on completion of which they shall be eligible for re-election.
- (12.2.2) Each manager shall appoint his own management and coaching team, which shall be approved by the Board of Management. Collectively, they will be responsible for squad and team selection and accountable for the overall performance of their team at International level. Appointed coaches must hold at least a Senior Coach certificate.
- (12.2.3) Applicants for the manager's position shall not take part in any committee or meeting, at which the appointment is being discussed.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

(12.2.4) The respective managers and their staff must have no County, Regional or District League team involvement whilst being part of the International unit.

(12.3) Players selected for an International game shall not play for their clubs 7 days prior to that game. Any player withdrawing from a representative game is not permitted to play for his own League or Club on the day or weekend on which the representative game is scheduled to be played.

13. County Championship

(13.1) The Board of Management shall approve the appointment of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for each County and they, together with their Committee, shall be responsible for selection, promotion and such other duties as may be deemed necessary for Inter-County Championship games.

(13.2) Each District League shall be entitled to nominate one representative with specialist knowledge, at each age level, who shall become a member of that age group's County Selection Committee.

(13.3) Each County shall at its Annual General Meeting appoint Managers and Coaches, at each age level, for the forthcoming season.

(13.4) Players selected for a County game shall not play for their clubs 72 hours prior to that game. Any player withdrawing from a representative game is not permitted to play for his own Club on the day or weekend on which the representative game is scheduled to be played.

14. Inter League Competitions

(14.1) The entry fee for these competitions shall be no more than £10 per team.

(14.2) The competitions shall be played on dates and to a fixture format as decided by the Board of Management. If scores are level at the end of normal time in a knock out competition, then only one period of extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played. Should the scores remain level the teams will change ends, the winner will then be determined by a 'golden score' i.e. a "sudden death first score".

(14.3) Any team that fails to fulfill any fixture shall be disqualified immediately from the competition and shall pay all expenses incurred. The disqualified team will also be fined no less than £100.00 and will be reported to the Discipline Committee.

(14.4) A player may only represent the League in which his club is domiciled. Should a player move to another club in another League, he is eligible to represent that League but not in the same season.

(14.5) Each Member League shall be responsible for the selection and management of its own representative teams and coaches.

15. National and County Cups

(15.1) BARLA Competitions shall take precedence over all scheduled fixtures.

(15.2) These competitions shall be played at age levels decided upon by the Board of Management.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (15.3) Permit players are not allowed to participate.
- (15.4) Only three current ex-professional players per team are allowed to participate.
- (15.5) Certain National Conference and Regional League teams may be exempt from the early rounds, which will be played on dates set down by the Board of Management. If the scores are level at the end of normal time, then only one period of extra time of ten minutes each way shall be played. Should the scores remain level, the winner will then be determined by a "golden score", i.e. a "sudden death first score".
- (15.6) The closing date for entries will be determined by the Board of Management each season. The entry fee will be £10.00 per competition.
- (15.7) At Youth and Junior matches, identity cards must be produced for all players. Should a team not produce their identity cards then the game will be awarded to the non-offending team. For ease of reference, identity cards should ideally be colour coded for the respective playing age groups.
- (15.8) Any team, which fails to fulfill its obligations, will be deemed to be guilty of bringing the game in disrepute. They shall be fined a minimum of £100.00 and/or suspended and will be responsible for any costs incurred.
- (15.9) No player may play for more than one team in any cup competition in one season. Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be fined a minimum of £100 and forfeit the match. The offending player shall be liable to be suspended for six matches.
- (15.10) All players must play in at least two league or cup games to be eligible to play in any semi-final or final.
- (15.11) The home team must provide ground directions to their opponents and match officials at least 72 hours prior to kick off. The home team is responsible for the match officials fees and expenses and for the provision of post-match refreshments. All players must play in at least two league or cup games to be eligible to play for a club in any semi-final.
- (15.12) Where possible playing areas must be properly enclosed, or roped off, so as to keep spectators from entering the field of play.
- (15.13) If the home club considers its ground to be unfit, confirmation must be readily sought from a bona-fide representative of a local referee society, the local parks or education authority whose decision is final. If so confirmed the home club after advising the competition Administrator must notify both the match officials and opponents prior to them travelling. If however the visiting team travels without due notice then 50% of its expenditure incurred shall be levied upon the home club. If the clubs cannot agree on the state of the ground then the referee shall, mindful of players safety and without the constraint of or undue pressure from either party concerned, shall decide upon its fitness. The decision to play or otherwise shall be accepted without question by both clubs.
- (15.14) Postponed cup games must normally be re-arranged for the following weekend. Should the ground look likely to be unfit for a second time, the Competition Secretary will have the discretion to determine an alternative venue, which may mean the game will be transferred to their opponents ground.

Constitution as appears in the 2006/2007 BARLA Handbook.

- (15.15) The Association shall decide the venues for all semi-finals and finals. These games will be controlled by leading amateur graded officials, who shall be selected and appointed by the Board of Management or its representative. Proceeds from all finals shall go to the Association funds.
- (15.16) The winners of all BARLA Competitions shall return their trophy to the Association at least four weeks before the final in the following season. Those in default will be fined £50.
- (15.17) There will be no cup competitions or league structures at the Mini and Modified age groups.
- (15.18) No player may play for more than one team in any knock out competition in a season.

16. BARLA Rules For District, Regional & National Leagues

- (16.1) Any team failing to play a fixture on the scheduled day shall be fined no less than £10.00, and shall be responsible for any expenses. The match will be awarded, to their opponents. Only in exceptional circumstances shall a League rule otherwise.
- (16.2) If the home club considers their ground unfit, they must obtain confirmation from a member of a referee's society or the local parks or education authority. If so confirmed the home club must notify the match officials and their opponents prior to them travelling and also the Competition Secretary. If the visiting team travels, the home club is liable for half the visitors travelling expenses. If the clubs can not agree on the state of the ground, the referee shall decide upon its fitness and both clubs shall accept that decision.
- (16.3) Any team due to play in a match organised by the Rugby Football League may apply to the Association, with a copy of the application to their opponents, to postpone any scheduled fixtures due to be played up to five days prior to or after the match.
- (16.4) The kick-off time for all scheduled Saturday games shall be 2.30pm unless the Association or the relevant League notifies otherwise. Referees must report teams responsible for late kick-offs.
- (16.5) Each team must register its colours with its District and Playing Leagues and in the event of a colour clash the away team must change. It is the home club's duty to contact their opponents and the appointed match officials, at least five days prior to the match, with details of the ground location and club colours.
- (16.6) It is mandatory for standardised team sheets to be exchanged and completed by both sides who must display on the document the full names of each player including substitutes. The team sheet once completed and duly signed by both parties and Referee must be returned by the latter for receipt by the Competition Secretary or the designated person, within 72 hours of the games completion.
- (16.7) Youth and Junior teams only – After each game both teams shall complete a referee's assessment form and forward it to the Competitions Secretary failure to return an assessment form will render a team liable to a £10.00 fine.
- (16.8) Grounds for semi-finals and finals of all competitions should be properly roped off or enclosed, so as to keep spectators from entering the field of play.

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- (16.9) If a club, running two or more teams, is unable to raise a team on any particular day, then the first team fixture must be played.
- (16.10) Any organisation wishing to raise an objection to the result of a match must do so by telephoning within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game, to the Competition Secretary and confirm in writing, within five working days, accompanied by the deposit of £50.00. A copy of the objection must be sent to the party against whom the objection has been raised.
- (16.11) It is the duty of the home club to inform the Results Officer of the match result immediately after the game. Clubs in default shall be fined not less than £10.00.
- (16.12) In all matches four substitutes may be used with unlimited substitutions. All shirts are to be numbered 1-17.
- (16.13) Match officials' allowances and expenses shall be as agreed annually. Wherever possible officials should endeavour to travel in one vehicle, in order to minimise expenses.
- (16.14) If circumstances prevent full duration of the playing time, then the clubs may agree to a shorter playing time. This must be confirmed with the referee prior to kick-off.
- (16.15) If less than three quarters of the laid down playing time has elapsed when a game is abandoned, then the game may be ordered to be replayed. If more than three-quarters of the game has elapsed before the game is abandoned then the result will stand, however if a match is abandoned for misconduct the Discipline Committee will decide whether the result of the game stands or otherwise.
- (16.16) The duration of play and the one period only of extra time to be played if necessary, followed by a sudden death "golden score" shall be as follows:
- Open Age - 40 Minutes each half (10 minute each way extra time)
 - Under 18 - 35 Minutes each half (10 minute each way extra time)
 - Under 16 - 30 Minutes each half (7½ minute each way extra time)
 - Under 14 - 25 Minutes each half (5 minute each way extra time)
 - Under 12 - 20 Minutes each half (5 minute each way extra time)

Mod League will be played at age group 10-11 years and Mini League at age group 6-9 years. These games will be played in accordance with the Modified Games Programme contained in the current edition of the Association's handbook.

- (16.17) In Youth/Junior games a person from the age of 6 playing in the age groups Under 7 through to age group Under 16 must not play and shall not be permitted to play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more than that person. At Youth and Junior Matches, identity cards must be produced for all players. Should a team not produce their identity cards then the game will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- (16.18) Under 18s will register as per International rules e.g. registration as at present however players reaching their 18th birthday between 1 January and 31 August will be eligible to remain registered as Under 18s for the following season.
- (16.19) Persons who have attained the age of 16 can play Open Age Rugby provided he/she meets one of the following criteria:
- A) That they are not currently registered for a Youth team

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B) That the Club they wish to play Open Age Rugby for does not run Youth teams at the players relevant age.

C) In any case no person aged 16 can play Open Age Rugby if he does not meet the criteria for registering with an under 18 youth team.

(16.20) It is mandatory for all coaches to be registered with the Coach Education Programme and to be qualified at the appropriate level as prescribed by the CEP. The Board of Management in conjunction with the CEP will lay down a time scale for the implementation of the programme.

17. Player Registration Rules and Procedures Open Age

(17.1) All Open Age players' registrations shall be binding for one season only and shall expire on the 30th June each year. A player may transfer from one club to another, subject to the deadline of 28 February each year and the permission of the clubs and leagues concerned. No player can register for more than one club in a season, without an official transfer, unless he is a member of the Student Rugby League, the British Police, the Civil Service, the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Army, Prison Service or any other body recognised by the Association. Only bona-fide amateur players, that is players who have not played Rugby League Football as a professional, who have not played for any other club that season or who have played for a club or team that has disbanded can sign on for a club after the 28th February deadline.

(17.2) All players must fulfill all financial obligations to their current club or team prior to any transfer to another club being permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different club in future seasons.

(17.3) All overseas players must sign a declaration that they are not registered with any other club. The declaration shall then be forwarded to the Association for approval. No overseas player may partake in any match until clearance has been given.

(17.4) A permit for contracted professional players to participate in games under the control of the Association and its Member Leagues shall be issued by the Board of Management or its appointed representative. Each team is allowed two permit players, who once registered with a team, may not play for any other team without the permission of their District League and Regional League. No permits will be issued after 28 February each season, unless that player was previously registered as an Amateur with that club in that season. Applications from a professional player currently under contract with a RFL club will only be considered if the prior written permission of the RFL has been obtained.

(17.5) A permit player must have played more games for his amateur club than his professional club to be eligible for cup games in that season. A permit player is a player currently registered with the Rugby Football League as a professional to whom the Association has given permission to register with a member club.

(17.6) Each team may register an unlimited number of ex-professional players but no more than three may play in any one team. Any ex-professional re-registering with the last BARLA club for which he played prior to signing as a professional, shall not be counted as an ex-professional whilst playing for that club. A contract expired professional who is under the age of 21 years returning to play with any amateur club shall not be counted as an ex-professional.

(17.7) The maximum number of players registered with each team shall be 30. Clubs with "A" or "B" teams are allowed to register multiples of 25 extra. Clubs with an "A" team may play not more than four first team players in any match without its playing league's approval, regardless of whether the teams are in the same league or not. A recognised first team player is a player

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who has played six or more games with the first team during the current season. Clubs with "B" teams may not play more than four recognised first or "A" team players.

- (17.8) Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be fined not less than £100.00 and the match shall be awarded to their opponents. The offending player should be liable to be suspended for no less than six matches.
- (17.9) The Board of Management is empowered to agree with the Rugby Football League any Player Development compensation that becomes payable when a BARLA player signs for the first time, as a contract player with a professional club.
- (17.10) Player Development compensation is payable only once per player. Compensation will be apportioned, 80% to the club and 20% to the District League. If a player has played with more than one amateur club then appropriate District Leagues may have to adjudicate with recipients of compensation payments through BARLA.
- (17.11) A Player duly recognised on the official register of a BARLA Regional League Club and wishing to participate in a summer based competition organised by and falling under the auspices of the Rugby Football League must as a pre-requisite of doing so fulfil his BARLA League obligations before being allowed to register with a summer based club.
- (17.12) Suspended players having completed their BARLA Regional League commitments must, if they wish to compete in a summer based competition organised by and under the auspices of the Rugby Football League, serve the remaining period of their suspension at the club with whom they are registered.
- (17.13) A player shall always be considered registered with the team he is registered with on the BARLA database.

18. Player Registration Rules and Procedures Youth and Junior

- (18.1) All new Youth/Junior players must sign for a club in membership of the District League in which they are domiciled.
- (18.2) All Youth/Junior teams must play in the Regional League in which they are geographically located.
- (18.3) No Youth/Junior player may register for more than one club in a season unless he is registered with an Open Age club which has no team at that age group of Youth/Junior rugby, or is a member of the Student Rugby League, the British Police, the Civil Service, the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Army, Prison Service and the Rugby League Conference or any other body recognised by the Association.
Any Player/Club has the right of appeal to the Association Youth/Junior Transfers Committee, whose decision will be binding. Clubs are permitted to field mixed gender sides and to play tag rugby up to and including school year 6 (U11's).
- (18.4) At Youth/Junior games identity cards must be produced for all players. Should a team not produce their identity cards then the game will be awarded to the non-offending team who will also be entitled to claim for any expenses incurred. For ease of reference, identity cards should be colour coded for the respective playing age groups.

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- (18.5) All players must fulfill all financial obligations to their current club or team prior to any transfer to another club being permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different club in future seasons.
- (18.6) Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be fined not less than £100.00 and the match shall be awarded to their opponents. The offending player should be liable to be suspended for no less than six matches.
- (18.7) The Board of Management is empowered to agree with the Rugby Football League any Player Development compensation that becomes payable when a BARLA player signs for the first time, as a contract player with a professional club.
- (18.8) Player Development compensation is payable only once per player. Compensation will be apportioned, 80% to the club and 20% to the District League. If a player has played with more than one amateur club then appropriate District Leagues may have to adjudicate with recipients of compensation payments through BARLA.
- (18.9) A Player duly recognised on the official register of a BARLA Regional League Club and wishing to participate in a summer based competition organised by and falling under the auspices of the Rugby Football League must as a pre-requisite of doing so fulfil his BARLA League obligations before being allowed to register with a summer based club.
- (18.10) Suspended players having completed their BARLA Regional League commitments must, if they wish to compete in a summer based competition organised by and under the auspices of the Rugby Football League, serve the remaining period of their suspension at the club with whom they are registered.
- (18.11) A player shall always be considered registered with the team he is registered with on the BARLA database.
- (18.12) A Permit for contracted professional players to participate in games under the control of the Association and its Member Leagues shall be issued by the Board of Management or its appointed representative. Each team is allowed **three** permit players, who once registered with a team, may not play for any other team with out the permission of their District League or Regional League. No permits will be issued after 28 February each season, unless that player was previously registered as an Amateur with that club in that season. Applications from a professional player currently under contract with a RFL club will only be considered if the player has written permission of the RFL. has been obtained.

19. Transfers

- (19.1) As a deterrent and means of combating super team building, in particular, transfer rules have been devised to offer an effective control against the movement of representative players. The Transfers Committee should at all times take an eclectic vie, thus by so doing teams do not fold because of the players transferring to others seeking a higher profile at the expense of the vulnerable clubs. The Transfers Committee should continue the promotion of development strategies across the country.
- (19.2) In the first instance all transfers to be dealt with by the District or Fixture organising League. In the event of any Appeal this to be heard by the BARLA Transfers Appeals committee
- (19.3) A youth team and junior team may register on transfer each season two players only, from different clubs. Additional player transfers may be sanctioned providing mutual agreement

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between the clubs is confirmed in writing to the relevant Transfers Committee that the personnel concerned are not "Representative" players. The playing season for this purpose shall be from the Monday following the Spring Bank Holiday. Transfers will not be allowed after the last day in February each year.

- (19.4) If a team at youth and junior level contains 5 or more representative players, that team shall not be allowed to admit any transfers of other representative players.
- (19.5) Players who have attained the age of 18 will not be subject to the transfer rules if their involvement is with Open Age rugby only. The transfer rules will apply whilst they are registered and play with a Youth team.
- (19.6) No youth or junior representative player i.e. one who has played BARLA International, County, regional, district or scholarship rugby in the last two seasons shall be allowed to transfer without the permission of the Association's Youth and Junior Transfers Committee.
- (19.7) Any player/club at youth and junior level has the right of appeal to the Association's Youth and Junior Transfer Committee, whose decision will be binding.
- (19.8) All players at open age, youth and junior age levels must fulfil all financial obligations to their current club or team before any transfer to another club including professional clubs will be permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different club in future seasons.
- (19.9) Only one transfer at youth and junior level per player per season will be allowed.
- (19.10) Players from a disbanded team at open age, youth and junior age groups will be deemed to be free agents. Written notice of a disbandment must be in writing from the club secretary.
- (19.11) Players must not have been registered with a team for two (2) calendar years before they are deemed to be "free agents".
- (19.12) All Youth/Junior players once registered with a club may only transfer to another club in their domiciled area after it has been established that the player does not owe any money or equipment to the club s/he wishes to leave.
- (19.13) Should club personnel from the leaving club refuse to sign the transfer form, the appropriate registration secretary should communicate with the leaving club's secretary in order to ascertain accurate details. The form may then be processed within four weeks by the registration secretary, acting as surrogate and thereby validating the transaction.
- (19.14) Under the Gemini Rule, twins are allowed to transfer as one.
- (19.15) Transfers will not be allowed for Representative Players involved in the scholarship scheme during the season in which they are active participants.

20. Child Protection

- (20.1) The Association, including all constituent members, will adopt the Rugby League Child Protection Policy and Implementation procedures.
- (20.2) Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

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- (20.3) In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes the Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
- (20.4) Upon receipt by the Association of:
- (20.4.1) Notification that an individual has been charged with an offence; or
- (20.4.2) Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
- (20.4.3) Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific Rugby League activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- (20.5) In reaching its determination as to whether an order under regulation 4 should be made, the Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
- (20.5.1) Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm
- (20.5.2) Whether the matters are of a serious nature;
- (20.5.3) Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
- (20.6) The period of an order referred to in 4 above, the Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (20.7) Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 4 above, the Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (20.8) Where a person convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of the Association and the Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific Rugby League activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- (20.9) For the purpose of these Regulations, the Association shall act through the Rugby League Child Protection Disciplinary Panels.
- (20.10) Notification in writing or an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he/she is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

21. Doping Control Regulations

- (21.1) Doping in or out of competition is strictly forbidden and is an offence. Any player found guilty of a drug offence in accordance with current practices and guidelines of the International Olympic Committee and Sport England, or any person who assists or incites others to use prohibited substances or techniques, will be liable to disciplinary action.
- (21.2) The offence of doping takes place when: A prohibited substance and/or metabolites of a prohibited substance is found to be present within a player's body tissues or fluids, or when:

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- A player uses or takes advantage of a prohibited technique: or
- A player admits to having used or taken advantage of a prohibited substance or a prohibited technique: or
- A player fails to report to the doping control Sampling Officer: or
- A player fails to provide a specimen of urine: or
- A player fails to provide a specimen of urine of the required quantity: or
- A person assists or incites others, or admits having assisted or incited others, to use prohibited substances or prohibited techniques.

(21.3) There is a maximum suspension of four years for the first offence and a maximum suspension of a life ban for a second offence.

(21.4) A player or other person found guilty of a doping offence shall be entitled to appeal to the Board of Appeal: three members of which shall hear and determine the said appeal. The notice of appeal must be in writing and must be received by the Secretary within 14 days of the decision of the Board of Management being received in the ordinary course of post.

22. Equal Opportunities

(22.1) BARLA will act in accordance with the Association's equal opportunities policy.

(22.2) All Leagues will enclose the following statement in their constitution:

BARLA and (name of League) are committed to eradicating all forms of racial discrimination and racism, a commitment that will enhance equality of opportunity in all aspects of the game. Racist language or behaviour has no part to play within the game and as a result will not be tolerated. Anyone that engages in racist behaviour will be dealt with promptly through the relevant procedures. We must all be responsible for tackling racism and ensure that Rugby League is a game that can be enjoyed by everyone.

(22.3) If a club or an individual associated with a club is found to be guilty of a racially based offence arising from a disciplinary hearing then BARLA reserves the right to report the club or the individual concerned to the appropriate Local Authority.

23. Media

(23.1) The Board of Management has the sole and exclusive right to enter into any contracts for broadcasting and/or televising of any matches organised by or on behalf of the Association or by any Member League or club.

(23.2) The Board of Management shall be entitled to publish in the media reports of its proceedings, acts or resolutions.

24. Interpretation

(24.1) In this Constitution and Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

- Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine;
- Words importing the feminine gender include the masculine;
- Words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.
- The term "organisation" means "County, League and Club"

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- (24.2) The Board of Management shall decide on the interpretation of these rules and shall have the power to deal with any matter that may arise in connection with the Association which is not provided for in these rules.
- (24.3) Any notice or other communication or document sent by first class post to a Member of the association shall be treated as having been given twenty four hours after the time when it was posted. Faxed documents will be treated as being received on the day of transmission.