



THE LONDON SOCIETY OF RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION REFEREES (L.S.R.F.U.R.)
Proposed minor changes for approval at April 2018 General Meeting

Per Section 15.1 of the current Constitution, proposals to add to, amend or alter the Constitution must be made at one of the two General Meetings of the Society and voted upon by the membership. The following amendments are considered to either formalise existing arrangements, clarify ambiguities in the Constitution, remove unnecessary duplication/repetitiveness, and to realign posts to better reflect how the Society has been developed. The following changes are therefore presented to Members for their approval at this General Meeting – a tracked changes version of the Constitution is included, and this short paper summarises the changes and their purpose.

The Management Committee

1. Removal of the RFRU Representative from the Management Committee, and to add the Immediate Past President as an ex-officio member

To delete section 4.1(x) and to add new section 4.2:

4.2. The Immediate Past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee for the two years immediately following his term in office.

Reason for change: Since the RFRU became a Constituent Body of the RFU, Societies have ceased appointing representatives to the RFRU. Consequently, the role no longer exists. Historically, the role has been fulfilled by the Immediate Past President to provide continuity and to enable their experience to be utilised – it is proposed therefore that the Immediate Past President become an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Committee for the two years in which there is no Deputy President so that they can continue to provide such experience in an advisory capacity to the extent it is felt beneficial, and to provide support as needed to the new President.

2. Division of the Exchanges Secretary role into Domestic and International, and the formalisation (and recognition of wider scope) of Secretary to the Assessment & Grading Committee role

To add to Section 6.1. of the Constitution as follows:

- (v) Assistant Secretary (International Exchanges)
- (xi) SEG Representatives
- (xii) Society Advisor Development Officer (SADO)
- (xiii) Discipline Secretary
- (xiv) Assistant Secretary (Assessment & Grading)

To amend Section 6.1. of the Constitution as follows (changes in bold):

- (iv) Assistant Secretary (**Domestic** Exchanges)

Reason for change: With an increasing number of International Exchanges (both outgoing and incoming), there is a greatly increased workload on the Assistant Secretary (Exchanges). The Domestic and International roles are somewhat distinct and require different management to deal with both administrative and practical aspects (which for Domestic Exchanges predominantly involves effective liaison with other Societies both in the off season, and during the exchanges programme, whereas for International Exchanges there is a greater demand on logistics, formal



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administration and coordination of overseas referees). The division of the role recognises the potential increased workload to allow this to be better spread across the Society.

The Society Advisor Development Officer works with the extended Training & Development team around the development of Match Observers. They have a key role in developing our observer population, and this role is distinct from the Assistant Secretary (Match Observers) role which is responsible for appointment of such individuals (though the role could be held by the same individual).

The SEG Representatives and Discipline Secretary are both important roles that are appointed by the Management Committee, but it is currently unclear as to where they sit within the Society. The amendment formalises their position as voting members of the A&G Committee. The formalisation of the Committee Secretary as an Assistant Secretary of the Society recognises their wider contribution to matters in relation to the administration of the Society.

3. Nominations and elections process

See proposed constitution, but in summary changes include the grouping together of relevant election provisions in respect of all Committees into one section and the formalisation of the procedures.

Reason for change: The Constitution has been, in places, unclear or somewhat contradictory, in part due to the sections in respect of elections for posts being in different parts of the Constitution (sections 4 to 6) but not fully acknowledging that certain roles fell within more than one of these sections. The proposed changes tidy this up by formalising everything into one section and providing a consistent process across all elected roles.

In addition, clarification is made regarding the conduct of elections and the process in respect of decisions in relation to the conduct of the election. Finally, a minor clarification is made in respect of a vacant position and the term for which the post shall be filled by the President/Regional Manager (as appropriate).

4. Minor changes (other than consequential amendments)

- The remit of A&G in relation to playing levels has been amended in line with current policy.
- The quorum for meetings has been clarified to align it to its intent (that more than half of the members should be present).
- The ability for Regional Manager elections to be conducted electronically (and not by post) has been added as a possibility into the Constitution (though this does not mean such elections have to be held in such manner).
- The process for filling posts that are vacant after the April General Meeting has been clarified, including the term for which such posts shall be filled. The process in respect of the Deputy President has also been clarified.
- The method by which clubs notify the Society of their fixtures has been amended to recognise the arrival of the 21st Century.