

29 September 2017

Dear Council Member,

### **NFYFC Draft Rules & Bye Laws**

For nearly 4 years, the Governance Review Group has been looking the way NFYFC runs and what its legal status should be.

The Group has recommended that the legal status should be a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity and a motion was passed at this years' AGM to lay the groundwork for that to happen.

Moving to a limited company, will need 2 governing documents; the Articles of Association and the Rules and Bye Laws. The Articles of Association mostly deal with the running of the Company, and the Rules & Bye Laws mostly deal with the running of the Federation. These documents will work in partnership so we can't have one without the other.

The Rules & Bye Laws Working Party was formed following the last Council meeting and has worked with the Governance Review Group to write the draft of the new Rules & Bye Laws for you to look at ready for discussion at Council.

There are still two parts to write following your discussions at Council:

- An appendix of meeting rules (some parts of the standing orders).
- An appendix to explain what happens when the rules are first adopted. The principle will be that nobody who was elected under the current constitution will be affected by the Rules and Bye Laws.

This is a completely new document, not just a rewrite of the constitution we have now, so we would like you to read through it and let us have your thoughts and feedback on the Saturday morning of Council weekend.

If possible we would like you to read the document before looking at the points below.

Here are a few key points:

- Any sort of action against a member, officer, club or county would need a 75% majority vote at a special Council Meeting. If action needed to be taken quickly, it might take too long to call a Special Meeting of Council to have a vote. How should this work?
- The rules do not mention School Clubs, so all clubs will become open clubs which will pay the levy.
- Life members, life vice presidents and annual subscribers would be abolished and combined into honorary life members.
- These rules change the make up of Council and Steering Groups and how they are elected.
- The rules would let someone nominated for Chair or Vice Chair of Council speak before the vote.
- Everyone elected as an officer would have to agree to a DBS check and sign up to and follow some specific policies. Area Chairs would also have to do this.
- The rules are designed to make sure that at least 51% of the Board is made up of members both for the membership of the Board and for the quorum. The rest of the Board, apart from the Chair, will be independent – so not members or associate members.

- Area Chairs would not have a vote in Council, but can go to Council meetings, speak if invited to, and go to any Steering Group meetings.
- The AGM is split into two, one for the company and one for the Federation and the rules say what business can be done at the federation meeting, including motions from Clubs and Counties.
- There are new parts about changing the levy, dealing with disputes and changing the rules.

We look forward to discussing the Rules and Bye Laws over the next few weeks at Area meetings and at Council. If you have any questions or if you want to talk through any points or if you are unable to go to your Area meeting or Council, then please get in touch – our email addresses are below.

Yours sincerely

The Rules & Byelaws Working Party

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