

Goole Viking Striders – Club Constitution

1. Club name

The club will be called GOOLE VIKING STRIDERS and will be affiliated to UK Athletics.

Within this constitution, Goole Viking Striders will be referred to as “the club”.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the club will be:

- To promote the sport of running to the local community.
- To offer competitive running opportunities, formal and informal coaching and regular training events.
- Provide fairness and duty of care for all members.

3. Membership and fees

The club offers all members, old and new, fair and equal treatment. Membership is annual, running from 1 April to 31 March the following year.

Priced at £39, full membership of the club is open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation or beliefs. The club welcomes members with disabilities, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of the sport.

A social, non-affiliated membership is available for £20.

Membership application is available to anyone, though the club reserves the right to refuse or expel from membership if it is deemed the applicant or member could cause, or has caused, damage to the reputation of the sport and the club. All decisions are subject to appeal, which would be a vote of club members.

Club committee members will be selected from current existing members.

Membership fees will be reviewed and agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). For existing members, renewals are due by 1 April. New members are welcome at any time during the year and are entitled to a trial period of four weeks. For anyone who joins as a member in the last six months of the membership year, the price will be set at £20 for full membership (does not include club vest, which is an additional £10) and £10 for social membership.

Runners may join the club as a ‘second claim club’ for £20, but the following conditions apply:

- Club records will only count if run while wearing a Goole Viking Striders vest and having entered the race as a Goole Viking Striders member.
- No eligibility for the club’s London Marathon place.

Upon joining the club, members automatically agree to the Club Code of Conduct.

No refunds are offered to members.

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4. Officers of the club

At any given time, the club will have in office:

- Chair
- Club Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Welfare Officer
- DBS Verifier

All committee members will be elected at the AGM, but the committee will accept ad-hoc applications from individuals.

5. Committee meetings

Committee meetings will be held at regular intervals with a minimum of six per year. Minutes will be taken and distributed to club members.

The minimum number of present committee members needed to approve decisions is five. The committee is responsible for the policy, running and management of the club, including the upholding of this constitution.

The committee is therefore responsible for the disciplinary hearings of anyone who contravenes the club's constitution.

7. Finance

All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club. The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances and be able to answer financial questions at committee meetings (when they can attend) and at the AGM when, if they cannot attend, another member will represent them.

As a not-for-profit club, all monies made will be reinvested. Third-party donations, such as race sponsorship, will be documented, recorded by the treasurer, and used for its intended purpose.

All of this will be accounted for in the treasurer's report.

8. Annual General Meetings

Notice of the holding of an AGM will be communicated by a member of the committee, with no fewer than 21 days of notice.

The AGM will receive an update from all committee members on their respective areas. If a member cannot be present, they will give a briefing for another member to read out.

All the current committee will be stood down at each AGM and re-elected individually.

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9. Welfare

The club has adopted UK Athletics' Welfare Policies and Procedures which incorporate Child Protection procedures. Copies of these procedures can be downloaded from the welfare section on the England Athletics website: <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/club-supportservices/club-welfare/>

The club promotes safeguarding, well-being, and inclusivity when it comes to its members. All members should show the utmost respect relating to these areas, and any member experiencing anything other is encouraged to speak to a committee member in confidence.

The club expects its members to adhere to the below:

- All members to respect the rights (encompassing belief, orientation, gender, race, culture, background) of other members.
- Members must behave responsibly while representing the club, including but not exclusive to not being under the influence of drink or drugs.

10. Disciplinary

Any allegation of misconduct should be reported to a committee member, in the strictest confidence, as soon as possible. Complaints will then be recorded in writing ahead of investigation.

The committee will hear complaints within 21 days of receiving it. All options are open, including ending memberships. Those involved in any complaint will be notified of the outcome inside seven days, which is also the length of time available for any appeal to be made.

11. Club colours

The club's colours are currently blue and yellow. It is recommended club colours should be worn by any member representing the club at a race booked under the club's name.

Entries to club league events and qualification for club records, with the exception of the parkrun Championship and 5K records, is dependent on wearing club colours, except for the proof of exceptional circumstances.

12. Race Number Transfers

In line with UKA rules, members can legitimately transfer their race number. However, unofficially running under someone else's number has implications for the runners involved and for our club.

UKA Rule 143, Section 2 dictates that "athletes who receive transferred numbers without permission will be disqualified from the race. Both runners will be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate National Association."

As a club, we do not condone unauthorised number swapping; anyone found running under someone else's number in a UKA-affiliated race, will be disqualified from our leagues for the year.

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13. London Marathon Ballot place

The club receives a London Marathon ballot place(s) based on the number of members it has.

Anyone interested and who meets the following criteria can put their name in the hat for the annual random draw:

- You must have been a full member of Goole Viking Striders for at least 18 months, as of the start of the current membership year (1 April).
- You must not have participated in any capacity in any of the last three London Marathons prior to the draw.
- You must not have been awarded the club's marathon place in any of the last five London Marathon draws.
- You must provide proof of rejection letter/email from London Marathon organisers for the marathon you are entering the draw for.
- You must be an active and contributing member of Goole Viking Striders.

14. Dissolution

In the event of the closing of the club, remaining assets will be given or transferred to UK Athletics for use in the community.

15. Constitution amendments

The constitution is set by the committee and all members must be notified of any changes made from the original publication. Changes can be suggested at the AGM or in writing to the committee.

16. Declaration

Goole Viking Striders accepts this constitution as a current operating guide for the club and its members.