



GLOUCESTER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS TRUST

Key Rules- Basic objects and regulations

The Trust was legally registered on 28/10/2004 as a Society. Registered Number 29853R. Governing legislation is now the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014. The Trust is **Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority**

These key rules are based on our constitution “MODEL RULES FOR A SUPPORTERS COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY” AS PUBLISHED BY THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION (The full document is available on request and takes precedence as the definitive version in the event of any uncertainty. Paragraph numbers in brackets refer to the equivalent Model Rules).

NAME AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS PURPOSE (paras 1-3)

Our legal name is **Gloucester City Supporters Ltd** but we are referred to as “The Trust” in this document. Gloucester City AFC is called “the FC”. The Trust’s **purpose** is to aim to bring about a healthy, balanced and constructive relationship with the FC and its communities.

TRUST’S OBJECTS (para 4)

To benefit the community by being the **democratic and representative voice of the supporters** of the FC and **strengthening the bonds** between the FC and the communities which it serves.

And, to achieve the greatest possible **supporter and community influence in the running and ownership** of the FC.

And, to **operate democratically, fairly, sustainably, transparently and with financial responsibility** and encouraging the FC to do the same: and being a positive, inclusive and representative organisation, open and accessible to all supporters of the FC regardless of their age, income, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality or religious or moral belief.

POWERS AND “ASSET LOCK” (paras 5-8)

The Trust may do anything necessary or expedient to achieve its objects, including **acquiring an interest in or ownership** of the FC; **securing representation** on the FC Board and **exercising the greatest possible influence** as regards the FC's ownership, governance and management.

The Trust's **financial surpluses may not be distributed among its members** but shall be applied for specific purposes including to maintain reserves.

MEMBERSHIP (paras 9-15)

The sum of £1 from a member's first payment shall be applied **to purchase an ordinary share in the Trust**. Membership will be cancelled if subscriptions are unpaid. Ordinary £1 shares are cancelled when membership is discontinued and the amount subscribed becomes the Trust's property. Current subscription rates are published on the Trusts's website. Every member aged 16 or over is entitled to one vote at general meetings.

Audit, etc (paras 83-93)

The Trust's annual financial accounts are subject to **audit/independent inspection** by a qualified person and it is obliged to submit an **annual return** to the Financial Conduct Authority.

The remainder of this document sets out specific policies in key areas.

Governance

The Trust will be run by an elected Committee consisting of not less than 6 and not more than 12 members. Vacancies permitting, any Trust member may apply to join the committee subject to obtaining a proposer and seconder who must also be current members. A Treasurer and Board Secretary will be appointed by the Board. Board members serve for a period not exceeding (2/3) years but may seek re-election at the end of their tenure. Up to 3 independent experts who may be non members may be appointed to assist the Board for a period not exceeding 12 months.

Board Meetings

At least 6 **board meetings** shall be held each year. Members may attend remotely by telephone or video link. A quorum is a minimum of half the current Board plus 1. The Board Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman is responsible for notifying members of the date and time of meetings, to provide an agenda and any background papers. The secretary shall take minutes of the meeting which shall be circulated amongst board members for approval at the following Board Meeting.

General Meetings

Procedures for general meetings will follow those set out in paragraphs 27-47 of the "model rules."