



The Rules of ESCNI (spring 2011)

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THE CLUB

1. The Club shall be called the *Everton Supporters Club Northern Ireland (ESCNI)*.
2. The object of the Club shall be to provide an association for persons (in accordance with Rule 14) wishing to give support to, or show favour towards Everton Football Club.
3. The Club shall be affiliated to *Everton Football Club* and all members will be registered with *Everton Football Club* as required.
4. Any banking accounts shall be opened in the name of *ESCNI* and all aspects of the financial business of the Club shall be recorded through these accounts. All payments made by cheque from the Club account shall be signed by the Treasurer and either the Chairman or the Secretary. Payments other than by cheque can be made by the Treasurer at the discretion of the Committee.

CLUB MEETINGS

5. The *Annual General Meeting (AGM)* shall be held at a venue and on a date determined by the Committee, at which meeting the Secretary and Treasurer shall each submit their reports.
6. An official notice convening the *AGM* shall be posted or emailed to each member at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
7. An *Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)* of members shall be convened by the Secretary when directed by the Committee or on receiving a requisition signed by at least 33% of the members. An official notice convening the meeting shall be posted to each member at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.
8. No business shall be transacted at the *AGM* or an *EGM* other than that specified in the notice convening the meeting.
9. Votes (postal, email or text) in respect of business to be transacted at the *AGM* or an *EGM* must be received by the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and must be submitted by the Secretary at the meeting to be valid.
10. A *Notice of Motion* is defined as a proposal that relates to any addition, deletion or change to Club

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rules. A *Resolution* is defined as a proposal that does not affect the Club Rules. Any *Notice of Motion* or *Resolution* (together with the names of the proposer and seconder) must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any *Notice of Motion* or *Resolution* must be included by the Secretary in the official notice convening the meeting and shall include the names of the proposer and the seconder.

A *Notice of Motion* or a *Resolution* can only be passed with the support of a majority of the total of votes cast by members present at the meeting and postal, email or text votes received. Any Decision of the AGM shall be by majority with the Chairman (or acting Chairman) having no vote except where a casting vote is required. A majority shall be determined in accordance with the Club's voting procedures...

For single option Club elections, the [First-Past-The-Post \(FPTP\)](#) system, held in accordance with the Rules of the Electoral Reform Society, shall be used. For Club elections where more than one option is on offer, the [Single Transferable Vote \(STV\)](#) system, held in accordance with the [Rules of the Electoral Reform Society](#), shall be used.

11. Two members of the Club, excluding principal office bearers, shall be elected during the AGM to act as auditors in respect of the financial report presented at the AGM.
12. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Club meetings and present these to the Committee for their approval. In due course, these shall be issued on the Club's website.

MEMBERSHIP

14. Membership of the Club is principally open to those persons who reside in Northern Ireland. Membership may also be open to those who were born or resided (for a minimum of one year) in Northern Ireland but now live elsewhere, or those who reside in the Republic of Ireland but who travel to games through Northern Ireland, or to those not meeting aforementioned but who consent to the ethos and principles of ESCNI.
15. Club membership shall be within the categories of *Adult*, *Junior* or *Senior*. A *Junior Member* shall be **under 16 years** and a *Senior* shall have **reached state retirement age** before **31st December** (of the current season).
16. The annual membership fee for each category of membership will be determined by the Committee.
17. Membership cards shall be issued after the receipt of the annual membership fee.
18. Existing members must renew their membership annually to continue to avail of the Club's facilities.
19. Only persons holding membership in the categories of *Adult* or *Senior Member* shall be entitled to vote at the AGM (or EGM).
20. Candidates for membership shall submit their details, together with the appropriate fee, to the Membership Secretary. In the event of a candidate's suitability being questioned, the Decision of the Committee shall be final.
21. A roll of the members, together with their addresses and other contact details, shall be kept by the Club. Members should notify the Membership Secretary of any change of address in writing and any communications sent to the last known address shall be deemed sufficient.

PRINCIPAL OFFICES OF THE CLUB: ESCNI COMMITTEE

22. The principal offices of the Club shall be those of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Match Ticket Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member.
23. The names of nominees for the principal offices shall be presented by a proposer and seconder by written submission to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the AGM, and shall be included by the Secretary in the official notice of the AGM. All nominees, proposers and seconders must be current members in good standing with the Club. Seven of the nominees shall be elected by a ballot of the

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Club membership during the *AGM* to serve in the principal offices of the Club for a period of one year. Elected nominees shall assume immediate office.

24. Members holding office may be considered for re-election.
25. The seven principal office bearers shall meet as a Committee when required to discuss any particular aspect of Club business; four to form a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall deputise; and in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, one of the other Committee members shall be nominated by those present to deputise. Any Decision of the Committee shall be by majority with the Chairman (or acting Chairman) having no vote except where a casting vote is required. No proxy votes shall be admissible.
26. Vacancies occurring within the Committee during the period of office shall be filled by the remaining Committee members co-opting (by election) a Club member to the vacant post.
27. The Committee shall have power to caution, suspend or expel any member in breach of the Club rules, or who has been guilty of discreditable conduct or has acted in a manner injurious to the character and interests of the Club. Any caution shall last for 12 months from the date that it is issued, in writing, by the Secretary. A further caution within that 12 month period shall result in an automatic suspension for a period at the discretion of the Committee. Should a member wish to appeal the Committee's Decision, the member will be invited to present their appeal in person to the Committee for reassessment.

TRAVEL: OFFICIAL CLUB TRIPS

28. All persons (members and non-members) travelling on Club Trips must pay the full cost of travel, accommodation, match ticket and any other related expenses to the Match Ticket Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary at least 14 days before departure. It is the sole responsibility of those travelling on a Club Trip to ensure that their money has reached the Match Ticket Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary at least 14 days before departure. If payment is not received before the due date, no travel or match ticket will be ordered.
29. Non-members travelling on a Club Trip shall be subject to a levy, the value of which shall be determined by the Committee in advance of the trip.
30. Non-members may travel on Club Trips if assurances are given by a Club member on the understanding that the Club member will guarantee the good behaviour of the non-member(s) on the trip.
31. If a non-member misbehaves, the Club member who provided the assurances will receive one caution from the Committee and the non-member will be barred from all future trips. If, on a future trip, that same Club member sponsors a different non-member who subsequently misbehaves, the Club member will have his/her membership terminated by the Committee with immediate effect and will not be allowed to rejoin the Club. Any appeal against the Committee's Decision will take place in accordance with Rule 27.
32. No sporting regalia other than Everton's shall be worn on any official club trip by members or non-members.
33. Drivers of private cars used on Club Trips shall be reimbursed a wear and tear allowance in a manner and at a level determined by the Committee.

MATCH TICKETS

34. Only club members shall be permitted to book match tickets. Junior members shall not be permitted to book match tickets; only their parents or guardians shall be permitted to book match tickets for juniors. Members shall normally be limited to booking two non-member match tickets, but that this number may be varied at the discretion of the Committee.
35. For over subscribed matches where the supply of match tickets received by the Club fails to meet the demand by Club members, the allocation of tickets shall be prioritised firstly to those members who have applied by the date that Everton FC commence selling tickets for the match, and then by

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the number of senior matches (home or away) attended by the member (using tickets obtained via ESCNI) within the twelve months preceding the date that the tickets go on sale to ESCNI. In the event of there being a tie (i.e. an equal number of qualifying games), preference will be given to those who have travelled to games from Northern Ireland and thereafter, if necessary, a ballot shall be held amongst those particular members in order to allocate the remaining tickets.

In order to acknowledge the hard work incumbent with both posts, the *Match Ticket Secretary* and the *Secretary* are automatically placed at the top of the attendance record list.

Only those members in good standing and who propose to attend the game shall be eligible for inclusion in the process. Should any successful member subsequently be unable to attend the game, the match ticket must first be offered back to the Club before being disposed of in some manner by the member in question. The Club shall not be liable for any loss incurred.

36. Members ordering match tickets for games other than official Club Trips should ensure that payment (cash or cheque) is with the Treasurer or Match Ticket Secretary at least three weeks before the date of the match. This is to allow sufficient time to clear any cheques and pay for the match tickets. Match tickets will only be handed over to members after the full payment has been received.
37. Where *ESCNI* obtains tickets for non-members who are not travelling on a Club Trip, there will be a surcharge set at the discretion of the Committee.

OTHER MATTERS

38. It is expressly understood that all members are strictly bound by the provisions of these rules. Should any matter arise which is not provided for in these rules, then it should be dealt with by the Committee until such time as it can reasonably be addressed in accordance with Rule 10.

The above rules were approved and adopted by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Club on 24th February 2011.

John Welsh
ESCNI Chairman

Peter Cross
ESCNI Secretary

ESCNI

**Everton Supporters Club
Northern Ireland**



Publication Designed and Produced by Peter Cross (ESCNI)