Handbell Ringers of Great Britain
Registered Charity Numbers 298945 (England and Wales) and SC038918 (Scotland)

Rules

Name and Object

1. ***Name***
The Society shall be called "Handbell Ringers of Great Britain".

2. ***Object***
The object of the Society shall be to advance, provide and encourage for the public benefit the art of handbell tune ringing in all its forms.

Membership

3. ***Ordinary Members***
Ordinary members shall consist of the following categories:

(a) life members: those members resident in the United Kingdom and registered with the Society on its formation or subsequently who paid the commuted membership fee of £1 for life membership under the then current rates of the Society;

(b) annual members: those members resident in the United Kingdom and admitted to membership under Rule 6 including;

- junior members (young people aged up to 18 years)
- student members (for those who have left school but are still in full time education at College or University up to age 24)
- joint members (two people residing at the same postal address)

(c) overseas members: those members not resident in the United Kingdom but otherwise qualifying for membership under paragraphs (a) or (b) above

(d) innominate members: those members resident in the United Kingdom and admitted to membership under Rule 6A.

4. ***Honorary Life Members***
For services to the Society or for meritorious activities at a national level in the field of handbell tune ringing and on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, an ordinary member may be elected an honorary life member of the Society at any general meeting of the Society; a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary at such election.

For the purposes of these Rules, an honorary life member shall continue to be entitled to all the privileges and benefits of membership enjoyed by ordinary members.

5. ***Registered Teams***

(a) Handbell teams whose membership contains at least one ordinary or honorary life member of the Society may register the team with the Society upon written application or online to the Society stating the name, postal and email address of the team's correspondent.

(b) The registration of any team whose membership ceases for any reason to contain at least one ordinary or honorary life member of the Society shall lapse.

(c) Only registered teams shall be able to play at any of the Society's national rallies or events and all members taking part in a performance by a registered team shall be ordinary or honorary members of the Society.

6. ***Admission of Ordinary Members***

Any Officer of the Society shall be empowered to accept application for ordinary membership as an annual or overseas member without prior reference to the Executive Committee provided that such application is accompanied by the relevant subscription fee. Such membership shall come into effect upon receipt and approval by the Membership Secretary and the application shall be deemed to be ratified by the next meeting of the Executive Committee unless a resolution is passed at such meeting that the application be refused. Every candidate for admission as an ordinary member shall apply in writing or online. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to a person who has been expelled under rule 38 and seeks re-admission. In such a case, a person shall require the assent of at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee present and voting in order to be re-admitted as a member. *(Revised April 2026)*

6A. ***Innominate Membership***

An adult annual or life member who is the correspondent of a registered team organised on behalf of a bona fide youth group (and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing these shall include teams of Guides, Scouts and Brownies and school teams) shall upon payment of the appropriate composite subscription have the right to ask the Membership Secretary to enrol as junior members of the Society a block of youths from that youth group.

The Society shall from time to time in general meeting set out the terms and conditions of innominate membership, including the number of blocks, the maximum and minimum number of members comprised in each block, and the composite subscription to be paid in respect of each such block, provided that:

(a) the decision of the Executive Committee as to whether a youth group is a bona fide youth group for the purposes of this Rule shall be final and binding;

(b) if the number of team members taking part in a national rally or event (not being annual or life members) does not exceed the number of innominate members accredited to that team in the records of the Society, the provisions of the last part of Rule 5 shall be deemed to be satisfied;

(c) innominate members shall not have the right to vote at meetings of the Society or its Regional Associations nor to stand for election to national or regional committees or sub-committees (but shall be eligible for co-option thereon) nor to move any resolution under Rule 41 or any equivalent thereof in the constitution of the member's Regional Association.

7. ***Membership***

Subject to the provisions of these Rules, when an ordinary member has paid the first year's annual subscription, that person shall be a member of the Society and entitled to all the privileges and benefits of membership and shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these Rules, except that overseas members shall not be qualified to be Officers of the Society or members of the Executive Committee or of any Regional Committee.

Management

8. ***Officers***

The Officers of the Society, each of whom shall be elected annually, shall be:

(a) a Chair who (subject as otherwise provided) shall take the chair at all general meetings of the Society;

(b) a Secretary, who shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and shall keep registers of members and teams, full and correct minutes of all proceedings, and such other records of the Society as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct;

(c) a Treasurer, who shall keep the books of account and financial records of the Society and shall make up an annual Statement of Financial Activities of the Society each year and shall keep the funds of the Society under the supervision of and in such place and manner as may be determined by the Executive Committee;

(d) a Membership Secretary, who shall keep a database of members and teams and shall be responsible to the Treasurer for the collection of annual subscriptions and team registration fees.

8A. ***Election of Officers***

(a) Nominations for the Election of Officers shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing no later than 60 clear days before the Annual General Meeting and shall be sponsored by 2 members and a declaration that the nominee is willing to serve if elected;

(b) In the event of no nomination being received for any post, the present incumbent of that post (being willing to stand)
shall be declared to be re-elected, but if that person is not willing to stand then nominations will be requested from the Annual General Meeting and such election shall be made at the Annual General Meeting notwithstanding any regulations made under paragraph (d) below;

(c) In the event that only one nomination is received for any post, that person shall be duly elected without the need for a vote;

(d) The Executive Committee shall make regulations relating to the conduct and timescales of any voting that may be necessary where two or more candidates are nominated for any post. Such regulations shall determine, amongst other things, whether voting shall be by proxy, post, electronic or in person or any combination of the foregoing. Furthermore, such regulations shall cover the procedure for electing Officers where existing Officers have been removed from office in accordance with rule 42 (b).

9. ***Committee and Trustees***

The governance and management of the Society shall be entrusted to an Executive

Committee consisting of the four Officers and such other members of the Society as are nominated by the Regional Associations under Rule 32(d). These are the Trustees of the Society.

The members of the Executive Committee shall, subject to the termination of office by resignation or otherwise and to the provisions of Rule 42(b), remain in office from the conclusion of the annual general meeting (either national or regional) at which they are declared elected until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting (either national or regional) when they shall retire. They shall be eligible for re-election from year to year

10. ***Procedure***

Subject as hereinafter provided the Executive Committee shall regulate its own procedure.

11. ***Chair***

The Chair of the Society shall take the chair at all meetings of the Executive Committee when present; if the elected Chair is absent the Executive Committee shall choose its own chair for that meeting.

12. ***Meetings***

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Secretary at any time and shall be called within one month if requested in writing by the Chair or any two members of the Executive Committee.

13. ***Quorum***

Six members or one third of the membership, whichever is the greater, (at least two of whom shall be Officers) shall be a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

14. ***Voting***

Every member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote on every question and in case of equality the Chair or other member presiding at that meeting shall have a second or casting vote. No proxies or postal voting shall be counted at meetings of the Executive Committee.

15. ***Minutes***

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Executive Committee which shall be read and confirmed at the next meeting.

16. ***Sub-Committees***

The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint such sub-committees as they may deem necessary or expedient and may depute or refer to them such of the powers and duties of the Executive Committee as the Executive Committee may determine. At their discretion the Executive Committee may constitute a sub committee in any way they may determine including a power for the sub committee to co-opt additional members in such numbers as the Executive Committee shall consider appropriate. Such sub-committees shall report their proceedings to the Executive Committee as soon as possible and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee. Other than the powers granted to the disciplinary panel as a special sub-committee under rule 38, no sub committee shall have power to suspend or expel a member. *(Revised April 2026)*

17. ***Casual Vacancies***

The Executive Committee shall have power at any time and from time to time to fill

any casual vacancy in the Officers on the Executive Committee. Save that a vacancy occurring amongst the regional representatives shall only be filled by a person from the same Regional Association, the filling of any such vacancies shall be by resolution of the relevant Regional Committee. Any member of the Executive Committee so appointed shall hold office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting (either national or regional as appropriate) but shall then be eligible for re-election.

18. ***Co-opted Members***

The Executive Committee shall have power at any time and from time to time to co-opt any ordinary or honorary life member of the Society provided that the number of co-opted members shall not exceed one-third of the elected members of the Executive Committee. Co-opted members shall have the same rights and be subject to the same duties as elected members of the Executive Committee and shall be regarded as members of the Executive Committee for the purposes of these Rules unless otherwise specifically stated.

19. ***Validity of Actions***

The Executive Committee may act for all purposes notwithstanding any vacancy in their number and all proceedings at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be valid and effectual notwithstanding that a defect in the election or qualifications of any members may be subsequently discovered.

20. ***Expenses***

No Officer or member of the Executive Committee shall receive any remuneration for services carried out in the capacity of Officer or Committee Member, but nothing herein contained shall be deemed to prohibit the payment by the Society of any sum to an Officer or Committee Member by way of reimbursement for reasonable travelling expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Executive Committee and for other legitimate out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

20A. ***Audit***

If the Executive Committee considers that the accounts for the current year are likely to be required by law to be audited rather than examined, it shall have power to appoint an Auditor in place of the elected Examiner or Examiners and if necessary to require each Regional Association to appoint an Auditor in place of its elected Examiner.

Fees and Subscriptions

21. ***Teams***

A non-refundable fee of such an amount as shall be fixed by the Society from time to time in general meeting shall be paid upon the registration of a team under Rule 5.

22. ***Ordinary Members***

Every ordinary member shall pay a subscription at the rate or rates fixed by the Society from time to time in general meeting.

23. ***Honorary Life Members***

Honorary life members shall not be required to pay an annual subscription.

24. ***Due Date and Payment***

All annual subscriptions shall be payable on the first day of January in each year. All fees and subscriptions shall be deemed to be debt due to the Treasurer of the Society for the

time being. The Membership Secretary, or other such person appointed for the purpose by the Executive Committee, shall collect fees and subscriptions from members

25. ***Members in Arrear***

If a member shall fail to pay the required annual subscription within one month after it has become due, that person shall automatically cease to be a member from that date without further notice.

Regionalisation

26. ***Regions***

The better to promote the objects of the Society, the activities of the Society on a local level in the United Kingdom shall be organised and conducted by Regional Associations of the Society. The number of such Regional Associations and their boundaries shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee from time to time and any change or changes recommended by it shall be put before the Society by way of formal motion at its next general meeting.

27. ***Team Membership***

The Membership Secretary shall assign each registered team to the Regional Association specified by that team. In the absence of any such specification, the Membership Secretary shall assign a registered team to the Regional Association responsible for the area in which that team habitually operates or with which it seems to have the closest connection either geographically or otherwise. A registered team may at any time request that it be assigned to a different Regional Association and with the approval of the Membership Secretary. The assignment or re- assignment of a registered team to a Regional Association shall operate to make each member of the Society belonging to that team a member of that Regional Association.

28. ***Individual Membership***

A member of the Society, not being a member of a registered team, shall be assigned by the Membership Secretary to the Regional Association specified by that member. In the absence of any such specification, the Membership Secretary shall assign such a member to the Regional Association responsible for the area in which such member is normally resident. Any such member may at any time request assignment to a different Regional Association and with the approval of the Membership Secretary immediate effect shall be given to such request.

29. ***Voting***

No member shall belong to more than one Regional Association at the same time and shall be entitled to vote only at meetings of the Regional Association to which they or the registered team to which they belong is currently assigned. Voting at meetings of the Regional Association shall be in person and no proxies or postal votes shall be counted.

30. ***Regional Organisation***

Out of the subscriptions paid to the Society under Rule 22 the Treasurer shall every year account to the treasurer of each Regional Association for such proportion thereof as shall be determined by the Society from time to time in general meeting and is attributable to members currently belonging or assigned to that region whether individuals or members of a registered team.

31. ***Regional Committees***

Duly elected Regional Committees shall be deemed to be special sub- committees of the Executive Committee and members of the Executive Committee shall be *ex-officio* members of the Regional Committee of the Regional Association to which they belong. So far as Rule 16 is inconsistent with any Rule specifically applicable to such special sub- committees, the specific Rule shall prevail. The Membership Secretary shall notify the relevant Regional Committee of all new members assigned to that Region and of all new registered teams assigned to it.

32. ***Constitution***

Each Regional Association shall adopt its own constitution in general meeting and the following entrenched provisions shall be deemed to be included therein (whether actually included or not) and any purported alteration to or variation of any such provision by a Regional Association shall be void to the extent that it conflicts therewith:

(a) the management is to be entrusted to a Regional Committee;

(b) the Regional Committee is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the Regional Association each year and is to hold office only until the next annual general meeting although then being eligible for re-election;

(c) the Regional Committee shall consist of not less than two members (namely, a Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) nor more than twelve members of the Regional Association (excluding co-opted and *ex-officio* members);

(d) the Regional Association shall each year elect two of its members to serve on the Executive Committee as regional representatives; such regional representatives, if not also elected members of the Regional Committee, shall be *ex- officio* members of the Regional Committee;

(e) the Officers of the Society, if not also elected members of the Committee of the Regional Association of which they are members shall be *ex-officio* members of that Regional Committee;

(f) co-opted members of the Regional Committee shall not exceed one-third of the elected members;

(g) the members of the Regional Association shall be entitled to not less than a two week notice of all meetings of the Regional Association (notice to the correspondent of a registered team to be good notice to all the members of that team)

(h) the members of the Regional Association shall be entitled to not less than two weeks' notice of any nomination of a member to serve on the Regional Committee and of any resolutions to be moved at a general meeting of the Regional Association;

(i).the Treasurer of the Regional Committee shall make up an annual Statement of Financial Activities of the Regional Association each year and shall have the same independently examined by some competent person (whether or not professionally qualified) who is not a member of the Regional Committee and shall forward a copy of such examined Accounts to the Executive Committee

within two weeks of the general meeting at which they are adopted or passed;

(j) the Secretary of the Regional Committee shall forward a draft copy of the minutes of each general meeting of the Regional Association to the Executive Committee within one month of such meeting;

(k) regional committees may make regulations which provide for proxy, postal, electronic or in person voting or any combination of the foregoing in respect of Elections to be held at a Regional General Meeting or any Motion being moved at a general meeting of the Regional Association and such regulations may apply only to Elections or Motions or both as the Regional Committee shall determine. In the absence of such regulations, voting shall take place by members in person at the General Meeting;

(l) the Regional Association is a division of the Society and in the case of any dispute the decision of the Executive Committee as to the interpretation of the constitution of the Regional Association (whether alone or in conjunction with the Rules of the Society) shall be final and binding on the members of the Regional Association.

Subject as aforesaid each Regional Association may in general meeting amend its constitution at any time and from time to time and may make its own regulations thereunder and shall regulate its own procedure. The Rules of the Society shall apply to any matters not dealt with in the constitution of a Regional Association; but so far as there is any inconsistency between the Society's Rules and a specific provision in a Regional Association's constitution (not being one of the entrenched provisions hereinbefore mentioned) the specific provision in the constitution shall prevail.

33. ***Ratification***

Any constitution adopted by a Regional Association under the foregoing provisions and any subsequent amendments to such constitution shall be subject to ratification by the Executive Committee, such ratification not to be unreasonably withheld by them. A copy of the constitution and of all subsequent amendments thereto signed by the Secretary or other proper Officer of the Regional Committee shall be given to the Executive Committee within two weeks of the Regional Association meeting at which such constitution or amendment was adopted.

34. ***Finance***

Each Regional Association shall be self-financing. As well as raising money by the staging of regional rallies and other events, it shall have power, subject to the approval of its members in general meeting, to levy a regional subscription from its members. Notwithstanding the above, any Regional Association shall be entitled at any time to make application to the Executive Committee for a loan or an *ex-gratia* payment from national funds for any particular purpose and the Executive Committee may in its absolute discretion grant or refuse such application or may grant it in part only or upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

35. ***Executive Committee***

The Executive Committee shall not be concerned to see that the Regional Committee is

properly appointed or as to the regularity of its meetings or proceedings and may act on any writing purporting to be a copy of a resolution passed by the Regional Committee and entered in the Regional Committee's minute book signed by the Secretary or Chair for the time being of the Regional Committee or the person for the time being professing to act as such secretary or Chair nor shall the Executive Committee incur any liability or responsibility for acting on such writing.

36. ***Dissolution***

In the event of any Regional Association being dissolved (whether formally or not) or becoming defunct, the assets of that Regional Association shall be realised and paid over to the Society to be applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Society as a whole provided that if a new Regional Association is thereafter duly constituted in the same area the committee of such new Regional Association may make application to the Executive Committee for payment to it from the Society's funds of a sum equal to the amount received by the Society from the said defunct Regional Association and the Executive Committee may at its discretion make such a payment in whole or in part and upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit.

Cessation of Membership

37. ***Resignation of Members***

Any member may resign their membership by giving to the Executive Committee notice in writing to that effect. Every such notice, unless otherwise expressed, shall be deemed to take effect as from the first day of January next following the receipt thereof.

38. ***Expulsion of Members***

The Executive Committee shall have power to suspend or expel any member who shall offend against the rules of the Society or whose conduct is such as shall in their opinion be injurious to the character and reputation of the Society or the interests of the members.

There shall be a special sub committee appointed by the Executive Committee in accordance with rule 16 which shall be known as the disciplinary panel and whose role shall be to consider whether a member should be suspended and/or expelled. Before a member is suspended, the Secretary shall by letter invite such member to meet with the disciplinary panel. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to inform the member in question individually of the time and place of the meeting and of the nature of the complaints against the said member in sufficient time to afford a proper opportunity of offering an explanation. At such a meeting the member shall be allowed to offer a justification or explanation of the conduct in question, verbally or in writing; if after hearing the defence, the disciplinary panel consider that suspension or expulsion is appropriate, the said member shall thereupon be suspended pro tem.

In exceptional circumstances due to the serious nature of the matter, the disciplinary panel may dispense with interviewing the member concerned and may forthwith suspend the member pro tem provided that at least two Officers of the Society so agree. The disciplinary panel shall prepare a confidential report of its findings for the Executive Committee, and if applicable, recommending the period of suspension and/or whether expulsion is recommended.

The Executive Committee shall meet within eight weeks of the meeting of the disciplinary panel and shall ratify the suspension if at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee

members present and voting, vote for suspension, the length of time of suspension being determined by the Executive Committee.

Before the period of suspension is complete, the Executive Committee may determine whether the suspension is to be lifted and if so, from what date, or whether the suspension is to be extended. Any such extension shall only be effective if at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee members present and voting, vote accordingly.

A suspended member shall be prohibited from attending any HRGB events, including meetings, during the period of suspension. Once the period of suspension is complete the Executive Committee may decide if any further action shall be taken.

Before a member is expelled, or if the member concerned shall appeal against the suspension, the Secretary shall by letter invite such member to meet with the Executive Committee. At such meeting the member shall be allowed to offer a justification or explanation of the conduct in question, verbally or in writing; and if after hearing the defence, at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee members present and voting, vote for expulsion, the said member shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Society and any subsequent application for re-admission to membership shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of rule 6. *(Revised April 2026)*

Effect of Cessation of Membership
Any person shall upon ceasing to be a member of the Society, whether by resignation, expulsion or otherwise, forfeit all the privileges and benefits of membership and all right to and claim upon the Society and its property and funds

General Meetings

39. ***Annual General Meetings***
An annual general meeting of the Society shall be held in each year upon a date and at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee provided that no more than fifteen months shall elapse between one such meeting and the next. Notice thereof shall be published in the immediately preceding edition of "Reverberations" and at least 4 months before the date of the Annual General Meeting, such date of publication being determined by rule 62. At the annual general meeting the following business shall be transacted:

(a) to receive reports from the Executive Committee and the Statement of Financial Activities of the Society made up to the previous thirty-first day of December;
(b) to report the result of the Election of Officers for the ensuing year;
(c) to elect an independent Examiner for the ensuing year;
(d) to decide upon any resolution (including the election of any Honorary Life Member in accordance with rule 4) which may be duly submitted to the meeting as hereinafter provided.

41. ***Notice of Resolutions***
Any member desirous of moving any resolution at the annual general meeting shall give notice thereof to the Secretary no later than 60 clear days before the date of such meeting. All notices of formal motions shall be in writing and sponsored by a least two members.

42. ***Extraordinary General Meetings***
All general meetings other than the annual general meeting shall be called extraordinary

general meetings. The Executive Committee may convene an extraordinary general meeting whenever they consider necessary and shall be bound to do so on requisition; such a requisition must be in writing and signed by at least fifty members of the Society and must state the object of the meeting proposed to be called. Further:

(a) if an extraordinary general meeting has not been convened by the Executive Committee within one month of receipt by them of such a requisition, the requisitioners (or a majority in number of them) may themselves convene a meeting;

(b) at any extraordinary general meeting summoned on requisition, the whole Executive Committee, or any member or members thereof including an Officer, may be removed from office by a majority of two-thirds present and voting on the question and shall cease to hold such office immediately if the question is agreed to, provided that if all 4 Officers are removed from Office they shall continue as caretaker Officers until their successors are elected. Such vacancies in the membership of the Executive Committee shall be filled as follows:

- Where the vacancy occurs in the regional representation, the relevant regional association(s) shall convene a General Meeting within 30 days of the extraordinary general meeting to elect new representative(s);
- Where there is a vacancy in the Officers, new Officer(s) shall be elected in accordance with regulations made by the Executive Committee in accordance with rule 8A (d).

Any member of the Executive Committee or Officer removed from office shall be eligible for re-election.

43. ***Business at General Meetings***
The Secretary shall at least fourteen days before any general meeting notify every member of the time and place of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat; save that if (i) the meeting is not an extraordinary general meeting and (ii) the only business to be transacted is that specified in paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) of Rule 40 and (iii) there is not more than one nomination for any of the posts of Officers of the Society and (iv) notice convening the meeting has been published in a preceding edition of "Reverberations", then the further notice required by this Rule shall be at the discretion of the Secretary and may be dispensed with in exercise of such discretion.

44. ***Omission to Give Notice***
The accidental omission to give notice of any general meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice by, any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

45. ***Quorum***
No business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Such quorum shall be twenty members. *(Revised April 2026)*

46. ***If No Quorum***
If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum of members is not present, the meeting if convened on the requisition of members shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to a time and place within 15 days as the Officers shall

decide and publicized via email and the Society website; and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum of members is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum.

47. ***Chair of the Meeting***

The Chair of the Society shall preside at every general meeting of the Society, but if not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the meeting or has signified an inability to be present at the meeting, the members present shall choose one of their number who is a member of the Executive Committee to be chair of the meeting, and if there shall be no member of the Executive Committee present then the members shall choose any one of their number to be chair of the meeting.

48. ***Adjournment of Meeting***

The chair of the meeting may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

49. ***Minutes***

The Secretary shall record in a minute book the proceedings of all general meetings of the Society.

50. ***Chair's Declaration***

At any general meeting, unless a poll is demanded by the chair of the meeting or by at least one-third of the members personally present, a declaration by the chair that a resolution has or has not been carried and an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Society shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against the resolution.

51. ***Polls***

If a poll is demanded under the provisions of Rule 50, the same shall be taken in such manner as the chair of the meeting directs and the results of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

52. ***Voting***

(a) Every member of the Society shall have the right to attend general meetings of the Society and have the right to vote thereat provided that in the case of the Annual General Meeting, the provisions of rule 8A (e) shall apply;

(b) No member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all subscriptions then due from that member to the Society have been paid provided that in the case of the Annual General Meeting, the provisions of rule 8A (e) shall apply;

(c) Every member of the Society entitled to vote shall have one vote and no more upon every motion and in case of an equality of votes on any motion the chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

53. ***Proxies***

The Executive Committee shall be empowered if they think fit to make regulations for enabling members unable to be present at a general meeting to vote by proxy or in writing or electronically or any combination of the foregoing on any motion before the meeting;

unless and until such regulations have been made, no proxy, postal or electronic votes shall be counted.

Miscellaneous

54. ***Donations***
The Society shall have power to accept donations for any purpose not inconsistent with its object and may make special appeals for funds to be used in connection with such purpose.

55. ***Publications***
The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the publishing and distribution of books, music and other publications approved for issue or sponsorship by the Society. It may make what arrangements it considers most expedient for the discharge of this responsibility provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities of a permanent nature.

56. ***Borrowing***
The Society (subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law) may in general meeting pass a resolution authorising the Executive Committee to borrow money and the Executive Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purposes of the Society such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as shall be specified in such resolution and the Executive Committee may make all such dispositions of the Society's assets or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto as they may deem proper for giving security for such loans and interest. All members of the Society, whether voting on such resolution or not, and all persons becoming members of the Society after the passing of such resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.

57. ***Application of Profit***
No money or property of the Society nor any gain arising from the carrying on of the Society shall during the life of the Society be applied otherwise than for the benefit of the Society as a whole and nothing in these rules shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

58. ***Private Gain***
No member shall on any pretence or in any manner receive any profit salary or emoluments from the funds or transactions of the Society except that:

(a) any member for the time being hereof being a solicitor or other person engaged in any profession shall be entitled to charge and be paid all usual professional and other charges for work done by said member or the member's firm when instructed by the Executive Committee or relevant Regional Committee so to act in that capacity on behalf of the Society;

(b) any member entitled to the copyright in any work within Section 1 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof) shall be entitled to receive from the funds of the Society royalties or other payments for any assignment or licence of or other dealing with the copyright in that work in favour of the Society whether under Section 90 of the said Act or otherwise;

(c) any member shall be entitled to enter any competition run by the Society (if the rules of that competition so permit) and in the event of the said member winning any prize whether in money or money's worth offered by that competition to retain the same for personal use and benefit notwithstanding the said member's membership of the Society;

(d) if any member shall be invited by the Society to act as a presenter or lecturer, steward, organiser or in any other capacity at any event organised by the Society (whether regional or national) then in addition to any out-of- pocket expenses reimbursed to that member under Rule 20 the member shall be entitled to receive such honorarium or discount on the entry fee to that event as shall be deemed appropriate by the organisers thereof and ratified by the Executive Committee in the case of a national event or the relevant Regional Committee in the case of a regional event.

In this Rule, 'member' shall include any Officer or other elected member of the Executive Committee or any Regional Committee and any ex- officio or co-opted member thereof. For the avoidance of doubt, except as specifically mentioned, this Rule shall not be taken as abrogating the rule of equity whereby trustees are debarred from profiting directly or indirectly from their trusteeship and in particular shall only apply to benefits derived from the funds and transactions of the Society and shall not be construed as entitling any member deemed to be a trustee of the Society to retain any benefit received by that member from any third party.

59. ***Vested Interest***

If an Officer or any member present has a vested interest in a subject being discussed at any meeting of the Society its committees or sub- committees, that interest shall be declared at that meeting. The said Officer or member shall not be allowed to vote on matters related to that subject and shall be asked to leave the meeting whilst a vote is taken. If the person is the chair of the meeting, then an alternative chair shall be elected to be in place only whilst the subject in which the declared vested interest is considered.

60. ***Modification of Rules***

Alteration to these Rules shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Rules must be received by the Secretary of the Society at least twenty-one days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least fourteen days notice of such meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration to Clause 2 (objects), Clause 61 (dissolution) or this clause shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a charity in law.

61. ***Dissolution***

If at any general meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Society shall be passed by a majority of the members present and voting thereon and at an extraordinary general meeting held not less than two months thereafter (of which not less than one month's written notice shall have been given to each member) and at which not less than one-half of the members shall be present that resolution shall be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon, the

Executive Committee shall thereupon, or at such future date as shall be specified in such resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Society provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

62. ***Notices***

All notices printed in "Reverberations" shall be deemed to have been given to each member individually on the seventh day following its publication, a certificate given by the Editor as to the date of publication of any particular issue being conclusive evidence as to that date. All notices sent to the correspondent of a registered team at the address given for such correspondent in the Society's records shall be deemed to have been given individually (on the seventh day following the date of posting) to each member shown as belonging to the team in the Society's records. Every member of the Society not belonging to a registered team or leaving a registered team during the course of a year shall from time to time communicate to the Society the members postal and email addresses and all notices posted to a postal address shall be considered as having been duly received on the seventh day following the date of posting and for an email shall be considered as having been duly received three days following the day the email is transmitted by the sender.

63. ***Property of Members***

The Society accepts no responsibility for the loss of or damage to handbells and equipment of members or registered teams performing at any national rally or event organised by the Society or the personal belongings of members and their guests attending such functions.

64. ***Other Matters***

(a) All matters not hereinbefore provided for and not involving an amendment to these Rules may be dealt with by the Executive Committee acting in the best interests of the Society.

(b) Any member shall be entitled to a copy of any regulations made under these rules on application to the relevant Secretary.

65. ***Interpretation***

The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these Rules and the decision of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Society and not provided for by these Rules shall be final and binding on the members.

66. ***Marginal Notes***

The marginal notes and headings in these Rules shall not be taken as part thereof nor in any manner affect the interpretation or construction of the same.

67. ***Previous Rules***

These Rules shall supersede all previous rules of the Society with effect from the date of the general meeting at which it was resolved to adopt them.

These rules adopted April 2023 at the AGM, subsequently amended as shown at the April 2026 AGM.