



THE FAIR PLAY FOR CHILDREN  
ASSOCIATION For The Child's Right to  
Play

- 1) The name of the organisation shall be **The Fair Play for Children Association** ('The Association').
- 2) "The Association is founded to promote the Child's Right to Play, Rest and Leisure as set out in Article 31.1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Principle 7 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child.
- 3) The Association recognises that this Right exists in a context of other Rights of the Child as set forth in international agreements, especially but not exclusively Rights on Consultation, Freedom of Association, Freedom of Expression, Freedom to receive and impart information, Child Care, Health, Exploitation, Conflict, Education and Labour. With provision for play as its primary purpose and role, the Association will work, with others where appropriate and feasible, to ensure that context is provided.
- 4) The Association shall have such lawful powers as it requires to fulfil the purposes set out in rules 2-3 including but not exclusively:
  - a) campaign, lobby and otherwise influence opinion
  - b) seek to see created amended and changed relevant legislation and policy of government, local authorities and other bodies
  - c) work with other organisations of similar and related purpose
  - d) Form and regulate such standing conferences and networking bodies as may facilitate its work, and these may be composed of members and non-members
  - e) promote and publish, or cause to be published, information in all available formats
  - f) consult with and otherwise engage with any persons or organisations
  - g) raise funds for its work including subscriptions and the fixing of rates of subscription and categories of membership
  - h) engage, remunerate, fix terms and conditions of service for any persons employed, paid or unpaid, in its service.
  - i) establish such banking and investment arrangements as are required for its work
  - j) form charitable trusts that will carry out work related to the purposes of rules 2-3, for such period and on such terms as comply with charitable law in the UK and as shall ensure the Association through its

Management Council shall appoint and remove trustees from time to time.

- 5) The Association shall comprise a membership of individuals and organisations who may be admitted to membership by the Management Council of the Association at its absolute discretion provided each member agrees to abide by these rules as a matter of contract and provided the member has signed a relevant membership registration document.
- 6) Membership shall be granted to Play Wise Partnerships set up by children and their parents and recognised by the Management Council
- 7) The Management Council shall consider and decide upon all new membership applications and may delegate that function to the Officers who shall report new admissions at least quarterly to the Management Council for ratification.
- 8) Membership shall be terminated in the case of resignation in writing to the National Secretary by a member, or in the case of an individual through death, or in the case of an organisation through its winding-up or closure, and may be terminated for good and sufficient reason by the Management Council provided the member shall have at least 21 days clear notice in writing of intention to do this from the proposer and seconder of such a proposal, and has had opportunity to address members in writing and/or in person before a decision is made. A member resolved to be terminated shall be informed of the decision in writing by the National Secretary at the last registered address notified to the Association
- 9) The Association shall be governed by a Management Council whose membership shall consist of each individual member and 1 representative of each organisational member, plus one child representative for each Play Wise Partnership in membership as well as their adult representative.
- 10) The Management Council may meet in person and by such means as electronic communication including telephone conference facilities, video, IT and other means.
- 11) The Management Council may be convened by:
  - a) The Officers
  - b) The President
  - c) The National Secretary
  - d) Ten or members in writing to the Secretary
- 12) The quorum for a Meeting of the Council shall be ten members.

- 13) In the case of 11 d) the National Secretary shall give due notice of date time and place/method of the meeting and should that not happen within 28 days of the National Secretary's receipt of notice under 11 d) the members in 11 d) may themselves issue notice of meeting.
- 14) All meetings shall be notified in writing to all members at the address registered with the Association of each by the National Secretary (or convenors as in 10(d) above) stating the date, time, place/ electronic communication details, together with the matters to be discussed set out in adequate detail. The Notice period shall be not less than 28 clear days.
- 15) Proposals which are intended to bind the Association and the Council may be made by any member, in writing, to the Secretary at any time who shall publish them to members with the Notice of meeting, or if received after the meeting not less than 14 clear days before the meeting. If a proposal is tabled at a meeting, it must be proposed and seconded and it shall stand adjourned without discussion to the next meeting.
- 16) The National Secretary shall cause written and/or electronic records to be made of all Management Council meetings and to make them accessible to all members. Formal minutes shall be taken of all proceedings where financial and policy decisions are made and shall be similarly accessible in written form to all members.
- 17) The Association shall have a national address for communication, registration of membership, issuance of notices, and this shall be decided from time to time by the Management Council, or in the absence of a decision, it shall be the address of the National Secretary for the time being.
- 18) The Management Council may form any working groups and committees as are required for its work, the terms and references of each one shall be recorded together with the basis for membership of each and the members serving on it.
- 19) The Management Council shall appoint from time to time from the Management Council:
  - a) A President either for a fixed or indefinite term
  - b) A National Secretary for such term not less than one year as resolved
  - c) Such other Officers as are required for the Association's good governance for such fixed terms and for such purposes as are required
- 20) The Officers shall act to ensure the Management Council is fully briefed about the work of the Association, and shall act between

meetings of the Council to implement policies and decisions of the Council and to ensure the good governance of the Association.

- 21) The President shall chair meetings of the Management Council, and in the absence of the President or his/her declining to chair a meeting, the Council shall appoint a member of the Council to do so for that meeting. The President shall be the chief spokesperson of the Association and may delegate that function to the National Secretary.
- 22) The National Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the Council and the Association and shall be responsible for ensuring its efficient operation and for the implementation of the decisions of the Council including by such delegation as is appropriate. The position may be remunerated by a decision of the Council from time to time on such terms and conditions as are appropriate, or it may be unremunerated provided reasonable expenses are payable as agreed by the Council.
- 23) The Management Council from time to time may set such standing orders for conduct of its meetings as it deems fit.
- 24) Except in the situation of contested election of President, National Secretary and Officers, all members shall have one vote at meetings of the Management Council.
- 25) Voting at in person meetings may be made by show of hands or written secret ballot as decided by the Council in each situation. The National Secretary together with another member of the Council shall scrutinise votes cast and shall report voting results to the President who shall straightway announce the outcome to the meeting.
- 26) Voting in meetings which are not conducted in person shall be made by postal, online and electronic means and voting results shall be reported to the President by the National Secretary and communicated to all members in writing by the latter.
- 27) Officers in rule 15 shall be appointed by the Management Council, the National Secretary shall notify members of the end of term of appointment or resignation or other vacation of a position and invite nominations.
- 28) Any candidate for any position shall be nominated by proposer and seconder in writing to the National Secretary not less than 21 clear days before the opening of the election process, and the National Secretary shall inform the Management Council of all nominations with the notice of the meeting where the appointment will be made, provided that the candidate has provided written agreement to be nominated to the relevant position to the National Secretary.
- 29) If there is only one candidate for a position, that person shall be declared elected to the position by the President.

- 30) Termination of membership under rule 7 shall result in the person's tenure of an Office also being terminated as of the time and date of the termination of membership.
- 31) Where a position for an Officer post is contested voting for candidates shall be conducted by post and/or electronic means, ballot papers/ notification of access to vote shall be communicated to all members of the Management Council in writing by the National Secretary together with the names of proposers and seconders, and that the candidates have accepted nomination,. This notice shall give details of the address to which ballot papers shall be returned and/or the details of the electronic access to voting, together with a statement by any candidate who wishes to supply one of not more than 400 words, together with a final date by which votes may be cast, which shall be decided by the Council and be not less than 21 clear days after the issuance of ballot papers/instructions..
- 32) In such contested ballots, the voting shall be such that, for [n] candidates members shall cast their preferences in the form [n] points for the most preferred, [n-2] for the next preferred down to [n-n] for the least preferred. The candidate achieving most points shall be declared elected.
- (i) A ballot paper shall only be valid if it has been completed so as to show a preference for every candidate as at rule 32 and no two candidates may have the same preference.
- 33) The Officers shall cause:
- a) Adequate financial and administrative records to be maintained
  - b) Banking accounts to be opened such that no transaction may be undertaken without the written authorisation of two Officers
  - c) An Annual Report and Accounts to be published to all members of the Association and of the Management Council and their submission to the Council for approval on the basis of an annual financial year whose dates shall be fixed from time to time by the Council, or 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March in default.
  - d) Reports on the work of the Association to be laid before the Council on a regular basis by the National Secretary, and also by other Officers where they have matters to report.
  - e) Policies and decisions adopted by the Council to be implemented on behalf of the Council.
- 34) These rules may be cited as the Constitution of the Association, they shall be published and available to members on demand, and may be amended by a decision of two-thirds or more of the Management

Council provided that at least 30 members or 50% of the Association, whichever is the greater, is voting. Notice shall be as in rule 15.

35) A decision to close the Association may be made by a meeting of the Council providing not less than two-thirds of the membership approves in writing prior to the meeting and/or by votes of their representatives on the Council. After settlement of all liabilities and realisation of any assets, any surplus of funds shall be given to another organisation with similar objectives, or failing this, to any children's organisations agreed by the Council.

36) In these rules, the term "in writing" shall cover all printed and electronic written formats. Recordings by video/sound shall not be counted as "in writing" but may be cited as agreed by the Council as being able to be used to confirm accuracy of written records provided they were recorded at the time of the relevant meeting(s).