



# N.A.T.B. DOG SPORTS



## Club Constitution

### Title:

The club shall be known as N.A.T.B. Dog Sports

### Objectives:

The objectives of the club shall be:-

- To encourage the practice, promotion and development of the following dog sports disciplines: canicross, (cross country running with your dog/s) bikejor (mountain biking with your dog/s) dog scootering (scootering with your dog/s) and mushing in the UK for both sport and recreation.
- To encourage responsible canine care when canicrossing, bikejoring, dog scootering and mushing.
- To arrange regular events to allow members to train in one, or all of the activities of canicross, bikejor, dog scootering and mushing (this may be reliant on permits or licences being granted)
- To organise teams to represent the Club in championships and leagues and in such other competitions as the Committee shall decide.
- The Club shall seek to be affiliated to any national or international bodies as the Committee consider appropriate in order to carry out the objectives of the Club.

### Membership:

- This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of 18 years and who have paid the due subscription for the current period.
- The club year is to run from 01 Sept – 31 August.
- Anyone wishing to become a member must complete a membership application form and comply with the conditions of membership which can be found on the application form.
- Types of membership available are: Full Membership & Temporary/Trial Membership (can attend up to 3 events)
- The Committee shall have the right to reject any application for membership it deems unsuitable.
- The annual subscription shall be due on the first day of the club's financial year. A reduction of 50% in fees will be due, if 6 months of the membership year has passed, and if joining in the last two calendar months, then the following year subscription is automatically covered.
- Any member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears may have his or her name removed from the Membership List without notification.
- The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has not complied with the rules of the Club or who has, in the opinion of the Committee, been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, providing that before expelling him or her the Committee shall call upon him or her for an explanation of his or her conduct and give him or her a proper opportunity of answering the allegations.
- Any member wishing to resign from the Club must do so in writing or by email to the Secretary before the 1st September.
- Resignation shall be considered by the Committee within one calendar month of receipt and will be held as effective from the date of tendering. Resignations will not be accepted if the member is financially indebted to the Club, i.e. has not paid their subscription for the current year and acceptance of the resignation will be withheld until the debt has been discharged.

Administration:
The Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and all other committee members: three shall form a quorum.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from among their number.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules or for anything relating to the Club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election.</li> </ul>
The Annual General Meeting shall be held in July/August each year to transact the following business:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive and if approved to adopt a Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the preceding year</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To fill vacancies on the Committee</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To appoint an auditor</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice convening the AGM shall be sent to members not less than 21 days before the meeting and shall specify matters to be dealt with.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post or email or Facebook to him or her at the address registered in the records of the club.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rules set out in this constitution may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at the Annual General Meeting, provided a change notice is sent to all members stating the proposed amendment 21 days prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members can vote by proxy if unable to attend the AGM, with the members at vote at the AGM a 2/3 majority must be reached. Members choosing not to vote either at an AGM or by proxy will be considered as abstentions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Club, its Committee or persons acting on their behalf will not be held responsible for claims for anything which may happen to competitors, their helpers, onlookers, canines, vehicles or property in connection with, or arising from, any Club event and it shall be a condition of participation that each member, even if temporary, shall indemnify the Committee against legal action arising from any accident.</li> </ul>

Bye-Laws:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Club will not be responsible for the actions of any members or member's canines at an event. The Club advises that individual members should ensure that they have adequate insurance that provides third party liability cover (eg. NSDSC insurance policy or an equivalent)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is each member's responsibility to ensure that their dog is fit to run and not put at risk whilst attending any club event.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike similar canicross clubs, the Club does not provide third party liability for members at its own events against third parties not involved in the event.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary membership will be granted to persons new to the club. This will permit the temporary member to join in a maximum of 3 club runs, after which the temporary member must join the club to continue attending events. The Club may make a nominal charge for loan equipment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members may bring guest/guests to club runs. The same criteria as a temporary member apply.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by their Parent or Guardian, who is a fully paid up member, the Parent or Guardian accepts full responsibility for said person.</li> </ul>

**Finance:**

- The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1 September in each year
- The annual subscription shall be a sum determined by the Committee. The subscription shall be used primarily towards costs associated with the club promotion such as t-shirt printing and consumables for members at events.
- The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts of the club.
- All cheques drawn from the club, bank transfers or internet payments from the club account will be made by the club Treasurer.
- The club accounts and bank statements will always be made available by request, to any council member.

**Revenue:**

- The revenue of the Club shall not be available for dividend, but shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Club. In the event of dissolution or winding up of the Club, whether voluntary or by order of the court, any net assets remaining after settlement of all due Liabilities shall be donated to a Canine Rescue Organisation agreed on by the officers of the club.

**Data Protection & Privacy:**

- The Data Protection Act currently exempts private clubs from the need for registration of their data bases, but the Club will follow best practice guidelines as follows: The Membership Secretary holds a simple UK-based electronic database of the information provided by members on their membership application form including e-mail addresses where supplied.
- Member contact details will be used for mailing newsletters, renewal reminders and other club information the Committee deems appropriate. E-mail addresses will only be used if the member has given permission via the membership form and will only be used for club business. From time to time, the Club may allow third party material to be included with mailings to offset the costs but undertake not to pass contact details to any third party at any time
- Committee Members undertake to treat any member contact details as confidential and for the use of club business only. Membership records will be kept for five years or at the discretion of the Committee. Any member who has any concern regarding the use or holding of their contact details at any time should contact the Membership Secretary in writing giving details of the nature of their concern.

**Club Rules:**

- Members will follow the rules of good sportsmanship in all NATB Dog Sports activities
- Members will respect other members' space, both in training and racing, particularly where a dog may be prone to lunge at another dog
- The Club view any act of neglect of or cruelty to dogs with serious concern and where relevant may instigate action to expel the member concerned if grounds for such action are deemed sufficient by the Committee