



The Rules and Constitution of BritBears

1. The name of the Association is **BritBears**.
2. The Association emblem is as pictured in *Annex 1* to these Rules.

Objects of the Association:

3. The objects of the Association are as follows:
 - I. To associate/form as an inclusive gay London based social group within the LGBT community. BritBears is founded to promote “bear” culture within the LGBT community and to provide a social space for those who identify with the bear community;
 - II. To operate as a not for profit association for the general purpose of fund-raising for charities that support the LGBT community.
 - III. To promote participation in local businesses supporting the LGBT, and specifically bear communities.

Membership

4. Any person aged 18 or older is eligible for membership.
5. The signatories to this Constitution are the first members of the Association.
6. An applicant for membership may apply by submitting an application via Brit Bears website: www.britbears.org. The application process will require the following:
 - I. The applicant’s name and email address;
 - II. That the applicant has been given and has read a copy of this Constitution, supports the objects of the Association and agrees to be bound by the Constitution immediately upon admission to membership;
 - III. The applicant’s consent to the holding of relevant data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018.
7. Until an applicant is approved for membership he is not entitled to any of the privileges of the Association.

Officers and their Duties

8. The Association has the following Officers who are appointed by its' founding members at Association's inception and thereafter by election at the Annual General Meeting by the membership to one- year terms:*

Chairman – who shall chair all General Meetings and all Executive Committee meetings when present;

Secretary – who is responsible for the keeping of all books and records of the Association, including the Members' Register (containing the name and address of every member and such other contact details as the member supplies) and the taking of minutes of all General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings.

Treasurer – Who ensures that the financial affairs of the Association are kept in good order and that annual accounts and a financial report are submitted to the Executive Committee for it to place before the members at the Annual General Meeting.

*Notwithstanding the above, for good order within the Association and continuity the Chairman and Secretary (Co-Founders) shall remain in office for a two year term following the inception of the Association and thereafter the terms of this Provision shall apply.

Executive Committee

9. The day-to-day running of the Association is under the control of the Executive Committee which consists of:

The 3 Officers of the Association;

10. 2 Executive Committee members must be present for to establish a valid quorum for an Executive meeting.

11. The members present will elect a chair for that meeting whenever, the Chairman is not present.

12. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings must be taken and made available to all Association members.

13. The Executive Committee has the following powers and responsibilities:

Supervision and direction of the day to day running of the Association.

Preparing and presentation to the Annual General Meeting of a written annual on the Association and its activities (annexing the annual account and the Treasurer's financial report).

Appointment of sub-committees, and whose membership must include at least one member of the Executive Committee, to which it may delegate powers and duties on such terms as the Executive Committee thinks fit.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee

14. The Executive Committee may appoint a member to fill any casual vacancy on the Executive Committee until the next annual general meeting.
15. Any member so appointed must retire at the next annual general meeting but may be elected as a member of the Executive Committee at that meeting.

Re-election and further terms of office

16. Members are always eligible for re-election for further terms as Officers or members of the Executive Committee.

Renewal of Membership

17. Membership is annual and will run from the **1st of January to the 31st of December** of any given year or from the date of subscription to the **31st of December** of any given year.
18. Membership shall be renewed on an annual and voluntary basis via the membership renewal process on the BritBears website.

Subscription

19. Membership of BritBears shall be based upon subscription from its membership.
20. The subscription amount shall be decided by the Executive Committee and will remain fixed for a calendar year.
21. The proceeds of members' subscriptions shall be donated to the nominated charities of BritBears after all running costs and incidentals have been discharged.

Resignation of Membership

22. A member may resign or withdraw from membership of BritBears at any time by notice to the Secretary. On receiving the notice the Secretary will

immediately remove the member from the Members' Register, which will terminate membership.

23. The resigning/withdrawing member is not entitled to any return or rebate of subscription and remains liable for any unpaid subscription and any sums due from him to BritBears.

Disciplinary offences

24. Any member who is in serious or persistent breach of these Rules or who otherwise acts in such a way which in the opinion of the Executive Committee is seriously or persistently inappropriate for a member of BritBears may be removed from membership of Brit Bears.

Effect of resignation, expulsion or death

25. All rights and interests in Britbears and its property cease immediately on termination of membership by resignation, expulsion or death.

General Meetings of Members

26. Annual General Meeting: An annual general meeting of all members must be held in January each year (or failing that as soon as possible thereafter) and called by the Secretary within 14 days' notice to the members stating the date, time and place of the meeting, and the business to be conducted. Notice, in this instance may be by email or BritBears social media platform. The business shall include:

- i. Presentation and summary explanation by the Treasurer of (a) **BritBears** Annual Accounts for the financial year last ended and (b) a budget for the **BritBears'** current financial year.
- ii. Consideration of the Executive Committee's annual report
- iii. The election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee.

27. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM): at any point the Executive Committee or any 2 members may by joint written notice request the Secretary to call a meeting of members and the Secretary must then call a Extraordinary General Meeting on no less than 21 days' notice to all members stating date, time and place of the meeting, and the business to be conducted.

- 25 The quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting is 3 Executive Members and 10 ordinary members of BritBears. Once a quorum is established, a resolution is deemed passed by a simple majority of those present.

- 28. The voting members present elect a chair for any general meeting whenever the Association Chair is not present.
- 29. Minutes of the General Meetings must be taken and made available to all members.

Notices

- 27 Notices to members of BritBears shall be issued by email or where appropriate by BritBears social media platforms.

Resolutions and Voting

- 30. Resolutions and other decisions at all General Meetings, Executive Committee or Sub-Committee meetings are passed and made if so voted by a majority of those members present and voting when a vote is taken. An Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall require a quorum as outlined in provision 25.
- 31. Voting may at the discretion of the Chair be undertaken by show of hands, by ballot or by show of hands followed by a ballot.
- 32. Proxies are allowed upon written notice by the member to vote by proxy to the Secretary prior to the meeting stating the name of the member to vote on their behalf at the forthcoming meeting.

Amendment of the Rules.

- 33. These Rules may be amended by a resolution in a General Meeting passed by a simple majority of those present.

Dissolution

- 34. BritBears may be dissolved by a resolution passed by strictly more than 50% of the members present when the vote is taken but only if there are at least 50% of all members voting in favour of the resolution.
- 35. As soon as the resolution takes effect the Executive Committee must pay or otherwise settle all debts and other liabilities of BritBears; realise the remaining value of any assets of BritBears and distribute the proceeds to the nominated charities BritBears.

Adopted this Day of 2018/19

Signed (with name and address printed)

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 Chair.

Secretary

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Treasurer

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Annex 1: BritBears logo

