

DRAFT RULES FOR NEW BRANCHES

18/12/2017

RULES OF THE

“ _____ BRANCH ”

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

1. The name of the Branch shall be the _____ Branch.
2. The Branch accepts and supports the Objects of the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws of The Royal Society of St George (The Society); and those of the Society's Charitable Trust (Registered Charity No: 263076).

Donating to charity has been a principle purpose since The St. George's Society of New York was founded by Englishmen in **1770** to celebrate St. George's Day and to assist fellow countrymen in need or distress.
3. (a) Management of the Branch shall be vested in a Committee, each of whom must be Full members or Branch Full Members of the Society (See Rule 7 re Associate Members), comprising up to ten members as the Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) may choose. At each AGM three members of the Committee who have served for four years shall retire by rotation, but shall be eligible to offer themselves for re-election for a further 4 year term. In the case of more than 3 members having served for the same period, those to retire shall be selected by lot. The AGM will elect the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and independent Accounts Examiner.

(b) The Committee must elect from its own numbers, when it first meets after the AGM, a Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Then as and when circumstances require an Honorary Membership Secretary, who will take over the membership responsibilities from the Honorary Secretary, and other officers such as an Event Secretary. The Chairman of the Branch shall not be eligible to serve as such for more than four consecutive years. Therefore succession planning is absolutely essential.

(c) The Committee is charged to provide an interesting and varied program of events, being both social and informative, for the benefit of members.

(d) The Chairman shall preside over the Committee and, if absent, the Deputy Chairman, or failing that a Member elected temporarily by the members present

(e) The AGM may appoint a President whose appointment shall be ratified annually at the AGM. The President may be invited to attend and speak at meetings of the Committee but not vote.

4. At meetings of the Committee SIX shall form a quorum. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur, but only until the next AGM. The Committee may elect not more than TWO co-opted members to hold office until the AGM. Co-opted service does not count towards any term of four years.
5. The Society's Armorial Bearings are only permitted to be used by Branches on stationery etc. for specific Branch Royal Society of St George business. The name of the Branch must be prominent on any document that has the Armorial Bearings on it, and be of equivalent sized type to "The Royal Society of St George". **If the Bearings are required for any other purpose whatsoever, then explicit permission must be sought from the Council of the Royal Society through the Regional Councillor.** Use of the Bearings to in any way promote other enterprises or commercial ventures is strictly prohibited.
6. It is by no means obligatory, that all members of the Branch are persons born in England or of English descent. Membership of the Society is open to all people who share our love of England and Englishness. Those joining the Society today are following in the footsteps of such great Englishmen as the author Rudyard Kipling, Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the world-wide Scout movement, and Sir Winston Churchill, soldier and statesman, whose leadership of his nation in wartime continues to provide inspiration to generations of fellow English people.
7. **"Branch Members"** shall mean all Members who subscribe to and express a desire to support the Objects of the Society. They may attend General Meetings, vote and be elected to the Branch Committee.
8. Every candidate for membership shall be proposed and seconded by a member of the branch and the committee shall decide as to his/her admission. On acceptance, the Branch Secretary/Membership Secretary will, as soon as possible, send the approved application form along with the member's initial annual Society membership fee in full, to the General Secretary of the Society.
9. Approval of the annual Branch subscription to be paid by members shall be fixed at the AGM. Subscriptions are payable immediately after the first day of December and membership will run from 1st January each year.
10. If any Member (who is liable to pay any subscription) shall fail to pay the same within six months after it has become due, the Committee may order their name to be struck off the list of Branch Members whereupon they shall cease to be a Member. The Branch Secretary will inform the General Secretary of the Society as soon as practicable so that the individual's name and personal details can be removed from the Society's Nominal Roll.
11. The Committee shall arrange for an independent examination or inspection of the accounts by a person adjudged to be suitable who has been appointed by the AGM. The financial year of the Branch shall close on 31st December and the AGM shall be held within six months of that date but not

before the 1st February. Six persons entitled to vote, being personally present, shall form a quorum. The Statement of Accounts prepared by the Hon. Treasurer and approved by the Committee shall be circulated to members along with the calling notice for the meeting.

12. The Annual Report of the Branch Chairman will be presented at the AGM, and the members may discuss any matter relating to the affairs of the Branch. Motions can only be voted upon if they have been notified, via the Branch Secretary, to all members prior to the meeting.
13. The President may be invited by the Chairman to take the Chair during the election of officers at General Meetings. If the Chairman is not present at the time appointed for such meeting, the Deputy Chairman shall take the Chair, and failing any of them, the Members present shall choose one of their numbers to take the Chair.
14. The Committee or the President may convene an EGM of members at any time for the transaction of business duly specified in the Notice convening the Meeting and NO OTHER business shall be discussed. An EGM shall also be convened at the written request to the Secretary of not less than TEN members of the Branch stating the business for consideration.
15. Every General and Committee Meeting shall be convened by notice posted or sent electronically to appropriate members TWENTY-ONE DAYS before the date of the Meeting.
16. At all General and Committee meetings (except as provided in Rule 21) questions shall be decided by the majority of members present and voting and, in case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
17. Any expenditure to be incurred shall be authorised by the Committee.
18. The disbursement of funds for charitable purposes shall be made at the direction of the Committee with due regard to the wishes of the membership. At the end of each financial year, the Branch Secretary will forward to the General Secretary of the Society details of the Charities supported and the total amounts of Branch donations, including the 25% Gift Aid, if it applies. (A composite of the returns from all Branches will be reported in "St George for England" and posted on the Society's website).
19. The Branch Secretary will ensure current details of the names, telephone numbers, postal and email addresses of all members of the Branch (indicating those who are the duly elected / appointed officers), are passed to the General Secretary of the Society, as soon as possible after being notified
20. If after consultation with the Regional Councillor, who will advise the Council, a decision to recommend winding up or dissolution of the Branch is made by the committee, it must be confirmed at an EGM of all Members of the Branch – postal votes accepted.

21. Upon the winding up or dissolution of the Branch for any reason the balance of funds remaining after all the liabilities of the Branch have been met shall be transferred to the Society. After such winding up or dissolution of the Branch, NO MEMBER OR MEMBERS OR COMBINATION OF MEMBERS shall be entitled to use the name of the Society in any manner or for any purpose without the sanction in writing of the Council of the Society.
22. If any Branch member shall conduct himself or herself in a manner which, in the opinion of the Committee, is unbecoming a Member of the Society, the Committee shall have the power to cause that Member's name to be deleted from the Nominal Roll of the Society after giving him/her an opportunity of meeting the Committee. An appeal shall lie to a panel of persons appointed for the purpose as and if required by the Council of the Society.
23. No alterations shall be made to the Rules of the Branch unless with the consent of TWO THIRDS of the members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially called under Rule 15 or, if notice is given to the Branch Secretary one month previously, at the AGM.
24. These Rules and any subsequent alterations shall not take effect until formally submitted to and approved by the Council of the Society and such Rules or alterations must be consistent with the spirit and provision of the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws of the Society.