

East Dorset Dockers Rugby Club: Governance Framework

This framework outlines the principles and structures guiding the East Dorset Dockers Rugby Club in its pursuit of its aims, mission, and vision. It emphasises transparency, accountability, and community involvement.

1. Core Principles:

Community Focus: The club's activities and decisions will prioritise benefit, engagement, and wellness in the local community; Southbourne, Tuckton, Iford, and Christchurch.

Protect and preserve Iford Lane Playing Fields: Safeguard the recreational space so that it remains unspoilt and accessible for the whole community to enjoy. Actively promote and grow rugby participation within our community, ensuring the Club thrives in harmony with our Fields in Trust home.

Player-Centric Approach: The development, well-being, and enjoyment of all players, from youth to senior levels, will be central to the club's operations. Each playing section of the club will be supported equally.

Uphold the volunteer ethos of grassroots rugby: Ensure the Club remains a community-led organisation where **all** contributions of time, skills, and commitment are voluntary. We shall support, encourage, and develop all who wish to give their time in service of the Club and community.

Inclusivity and Accessibility: The club will be open and welcoming to all individuals who wish to participate in or support rugby, regardless of background or ability.

Integrity and Fair Play: All club activities will be conducted with the highest ethical standards, promoting fair play and respect within the sport.

Sustainability: The club will aim for long-term financial and operational stability to ensure its continued contribution to the community; this will be achieved with partnerships and external support alongside club financial strategies.

Transparency and Communication: Key decisions and club activities will be communicated clearly and openly to members, sponsors, and the wider community will be given the opportunity to have input when relevant.

2. Organisational Structure: The club operates with a structure that includes:

The Committee (or Board of Directors): This will be the primary governing body responsible for setting the strategic direction, overseeing operations, ensuring financial stability, and upholding the club's principles. Membership should include individuals with diverse skills and a passion for the club. Key roles include, and are currently held by:

- Chairperson: Morgan Leadbitter
- Honorary Secretary: Jess Fay
- Honorary Treasurer: Morgan Leadbitter
- President: Stu Wilson
- Youth chair: Joe Day
- GMS officer: Becky Davis
- International tickets contact: Howard Larkin
- Membership secretary: El Notarbartolo
- Club captains: Jack Stanley/Carla Hastings
- Ladies fixtures sec: Charlotte Wiggles
- Men's fixtures sec: Jess Fay
- Safeguarding officer: Scott Curtis
- Men's captain: Jon Vickery
- Women's captain: Tiegán Rider
- Facilities manager: Sam Anstey
- Fundraising and grants lead: Gee Grou

Coaching Staff: Responsible for the development and management of playing teams at all levels, operating within the guidelines set by the Committee.

Playing Members: The core of the club, with avenues for input and feedback on club matters.

Supporters and Volunteers: Integral to the club's success, with their contributions valued and recognised.

3. Key Governance Areas:

Strategic Planning: The Committee will be responsible for developing and regularly reviewing a strategic plan that aligns with the club's aims, mission, and vision. This plan will guide the club's activities and resource allocation.

Community Engagement: Proactive efforts to connect with the local community, fostering partnerships and promoting the positive impact of the club and the positive usage of the clubhouse as a community hub.

Financial Management: Robust financial controls and transparent reporting will be essential. Relevant committee members will oversee financial matters, and regular financial updates will be provided to the Committee and potentially the wider membership when necessary.

Membership and Communication: Clear membership processes, effective communication channels (website, social media, newsletters), and regular engagement with members will be prioritized.

Sponsorship Management: A clear strategy for attracting and managing sponsors, ensuring that sponsorship agreements align with the club's values and provide mutual benefit (as outlined in the sponsorship package). Regular reporting to sponsors on the impact of their investment will be important.

Youth Development: A structured program for developing young players, overseen by the Youth Officer and guided by principles of safety, inclusivity, and skill development.

Clubhouse Governance: Clear guidelines for the use, maintenance, and development of the clubhouse as a community hub, ensuring it is welcoming and accessible.

Disciplinary Procedures: Fair and transparent procedures for addressing any breaches of club rules or codes of conduct.

Regular Review and Evaluation: The governance framework and club activities will be reviewed periodically to ensure effectiveness and alignment with the club's objectives. Feedback from members, sponsors, and the community will be considered.

4. Decision-Making Processes:

Clear processes for decision-making at the Committee level, including frequency of meetings, quorum requirements, and voting procedures.

Mechanisms for consulting with members and seeking their input on key decisions where appropriate.

5. Accountability and Transparency:

The Committee will be accountable to the club's membership and will act in the best interests of the club and its community.

Regular reports on club activities, financial status, and progress towards strategic goals will be communicated to members and, where appropriate, to sponsors and the wider community.

Moving Forward:

This framework provides a Governance structure for East Dorset Dockers and all included in the club and will be reviewed regularly to maintain that Governance follows the Aim, mission and vision set out for the next 5 years. The next review date will be September 2026