



## Trust Rule Changes Explained

### Introduction

York City Supporters Trust is governed by an existing set of rules and side policies which have been in place for a number of years to ensure proper governance of the board and efficient operation of the Society as a whole. The rules basically tell the Trust what it is allowed to do and the side policies tell the board members how to do it!

There is currently a need to update the rules as they are based on an old set of model rules and refer to Acts of legislation, regulators and football supporter organisations which have all now been either superseded or renamed. This also means that existing side policies need to be updated to make proper reference to the proposed new set of rules.

Using model rules provided by the Football Supporters Association (FSA) simplifies the process of updating the rules and also makes the registering of the new rules with the regulator much less problematic. The Society Board ("the Board") have worked with the FSA to develop a set of model rules to be considered and voted on by members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Please find below a summary of the main changes to the existing rules with explanations provided where necessary.

The new rules (available on the Trust's website at <https://www.ycst.org.uk/downloads/>) have been highlighted to show changes from our existing rules (in yellow) and differences between our rules and the FSA model rules (in grey). It should be noted that differences to model rules are permitted when they relate specifically to an individual Trust.

### Summary of Changes

*Legislation* - The previous rules referred to the **Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 - 78** but this has been replaced with the **Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014**. As such, the Society is now registered as a Community Benefit Society.

*Financial Regulation* - the regulator was previously the **Financial Services Authority** and this has since been replaced by the **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)**.

*Sponsoring body* - our sponsoring body was previously **Supporters Direct** but this organisation has since been amalgamated into the **Football Supporters Association (FSA)**.

## *Other Differences*

*Rule 9 (Asset Lock)* – proposed within the new model rules but the FSA have advised us not to use this rule (It is therefore in as 'Not Used' so it is clear to the FCA). This rule is useful for new Trusts who are just setting up as it relates to how assets will be used by the Society and also how they will be disposed of in the event of Dissolution of the Society. These issues are already dealt with by our existing rules and shareholder agreements.

*Rule 54* - we have retained the word 'appropriate' in how we facilitate online voting systems as this was voted on in a SGM last year.

*Rule 59* - we have retained the section on Postal Ballots which is now no longer in the model rules. We believe it is wise to keep this section in so that all members have the opportunity to vote, including those who cannot use online voting technology. The word 'shall' has, however, been changed to 'may' to allow alternative voting methods to be used in future.

*Rule 100* - we have retained the section on 'Performance Audits' as we believe we may need further audits in the future (such as the one recently carried out by the FSA).

## **New Trust Side Policies**

As previously mentioned, the existing Trust side policies need to be updated to align with the proposed new rules. These are all based on model templates provided by the FSA.

<b>Existing Side Policy</b>	<b>Proposed New Side Policy</b>
Board Membership Policy	Code of Conduct for Board Membership
Disciplinary Policy	Disciplinary Policy
Election Policy	Board Election Policy
Standing Orders for Board Meetings	Standing Orders for Society Board Meetings

The new side policies (available on the website at <https://www.ycst.org.uk/downloads/>) have been highlighted to show changes from our existing side policies (in yellow).

Any queries on any of the above, please contact the Trust Secretary, Paul Sankey, at [secretary@ycst.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ycst.org.uk).