



THE LARGE MUNSTERLANDER CLUB

FINAL VERSION READY TO SEND TO THE RKC – 23/11/23

PROPOSED RULES OF THE LARGE MUNSTERLANDER CLUB

Words of masculine gender should be taken to include the feminine gender unless the context indicates otherwise.

NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The name of the club shall be 'The Large Munsterlander Club' hereinafter referred to as 'the Club'.
2. The aims of the Club are to:
 - a. Protect the type of Large Munsterlander that has proved eminently suitable for work.
 - b. Promote the health & welfare, breeding, and exhibition of pure Large Munsterlanders conforming to the Standard of the breed as adopted by The Royal Kennel Club.
 - c. Encourage Field Trials.
 - d. To support, encourage and advise new and prospective Members.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

3. The Club shall consist of a Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, a Management Committee of not less than six (6), and not more than fourteen (14) Members plus an unlimited number of ordinary Members. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Royal Kennel Club Registered Society/Club.
4. The Committee may appoint a suitably qualified Member to serve as President for a term of five years at which point it will be subject to review. This appointment will be a matter for discussion and ratification at an SGM or AGM. The President will be able to participate in Management Committee meetings but will not have a vote.
5. The Club may appoint a distinguished past Member or other distinguished individual as Honorary Club Patron. This appointment will be a matter for discussion and voting by simple majority at a General Meeting. Such an individual would remain as Patron of the Club at their pleasure.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

6. There shall be no limit to the number of Members. Candidates for membership of the Club shall be elected by the Management Committee at the first available meeting or by electronic means. Three (3) negatives shall exclude.
7. No applicant shall be acceptable to the Club if that person is banned by the Royal Kennel Club from any function held under Royal Kennel Club Rules, or has been convicted of any offence relating to the mistreatment or cruelty to dogs.
8. Members are expected to comply with the Club's Code of Ethics (Annex A).

9. An up-to-date list of Members and their addresses must be maintained and, if so requested, cognisant of GDPR regulation, the list of names made available for inspection by the Royal Kennel Club and/or Members of the Club.

10. A declaration of the number of Members of the Club must be made with Annual Returns to the Royal Kennel Club.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

11. On the recommendation of the Management Committee, Club Members may, at an AGM elect as Honorary Life Members of the Club any person(s) considered to qualify for that distinction. Honorary Life Members will have the same rights and privileges as ordinary Members but will not be required to pay membership subscriptions.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND APPOINTMENTS

12. The management of the Club shall be in the hands of a Committee comprising the Chairperson, The Honorary Secretary, The Honorary Treasurer and not less than six (6) or more than fourteen (14) Committee Members.

13. The Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be ExOfficio Members of the Committee and except for the Chairperson be voting Members. The Chairperson may only cast a vote when a proposed motion vote is taken in Committee, AGM or Special General Meeting (SGM) be equal (but may vote as a Member in an election vote).

14. The Committee will broadly operate with the responsibilities as defined in the Committee Handbook amended from time to time as required. Management Committee Members will be expected to sign and abide by a Committee Code of Conduct held by the Secretary. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment.

15. Officers and General Committee Members shall be elected at the AGM from written application by candidates on a nomination form supported by a Proposer and Seconder and received by the Honorary Secretary no later than 21 days prior to the meeting.

The Committee will be elected by a simple majority vote through a secret ballot of the paid-up Members and Honorary Life Members present at the meeting. (NB this means that to be successfully elected a candidate requires more than 50% of the votes cast and by implication any abstentions become a “no” vote).

Where there are more candidates standing than positions to fill, the candidate polling the lowest number of votes will be eliminated and further round(s) of voting will take place until there is one candidate standing per vacancy. At this time the simple majority principle will apply.

16. Should a Committee Member position become vacant, the remaining Committee may, by a majority vote at an Ordinary Committee Meeting, co-opt a suitably qualified Member as replacement who will then serve until the following AGM and have the same rights as a General Committee Member normally elected at an AGM. That Member would be eligible for election to the post at the next AGM to then comply with the rotation at Rules 17 and 19.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

17. Ex-Officio Officers of the Club, (hereinafter referred to as 'Officers') shall be elected every three (3) years. With one Officer standing down each year, in rotation order Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, but they shall be eligible for re-election if they wish to stand again. Candidates for election as an Officer must attend the AGM in person. The Chair has a vote as a Member but does not have a casting vote.

18. Any person seeking election as a Club Officer must be a fully paid-up Member of the Club at time of nomination and is only eligible for election having been a fully paid-up Member of the Club for two (2) years. The Member must be proposed and seconded by a fully paid-up Member of the Club.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

19. The Management of the Club shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of not less than six (6) nor more than fourteen (14) Members (plus the Ex-Officio Officers) who shall be elected to serve for two (2) years. Half shall retire annually to maintain 50% Committee continuity, but they shall be eligible for re-election if they wish to stand again. Candidates for election must attend the AGM in person or virtually. The Chair has a vote as a Member but does not have a casting vote.

20. Any person seeking election to the Management Committee must be a fully paid-up Member of the Club at time of nomination and is only eligible for election having been a fully paid-up Member of the Club for one (1) year. The Member must be proposed and seconded by a fully paid-up Member of the Club.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

21. The annual membership subscriptions for Single, Joint, Gamekeeper and Overseas shall be such a sum as may be decided at an AGM or SGM.

22. Any Member having paid the prescribed membership fee after 1st November shall be deemed to have paid for the ensuing year except in the event of membership fees being increased from 1st January following. In this instance the increase in membership fee shall be required to be paid.

23. All subscriptions shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer in advance of the first day of January each year.

24. No Member whose subscription is unpaid shall be entitled to any privileges of membership.

25. Membership subscriptions fall due on the 1st of January, any not paid by the 1st of March will be deemed to have been cancelled.

26. Only Members who are fully paid up by the 1st of March may attend and vote at the AGM.

CLUB PROPERTY

27. The property of the Club shall be vested in the Management Committee and in the event of the Club ceasing to exist a Final General Meeting shall be called to decide upon the disposal of the Club assets and to meet any Club liabilities. Cups and trophies shall be the property of the Large Munsterlander Club and awarded only to current Members of the Club.

28. If the Club is wound up or ceases to be a registered club under these regulations, a final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return furnished to the Royal Kennel Club, will be held responsible by the Royal Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Club. On dissolution and after the sale of assets and settlement of all outstanding debts the funds remaining will be distributed in equal shares to appropriate canine organisations as decided at the winding up meeting.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

29. Any complaint concerning any Member must be made in writing and signed by the complainant(s). The written complaint must then be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary so that the matter can be addressed at the next Ordinary Committee meeting, which may be called specifically to address the complaint.

30. If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a Meeting the notice convening which includes as an object of consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a SGM of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of the SGM shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that he or she may attend and offer an explanation.

If at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the Members present and voting, that person shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Club except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to The Royal Kennel Club and subject to such conditions as The Royal Kennel Club may impose.

EXPULSION OF CLUB MEMBERS

31. a. Any Member who shall be disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11j (5) and/ or under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11j (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Club.

b. If a Member is expelled for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions, the Club must report the matter in writing to the Royal Kennel Club within seven (7) days and supply any particulars required.

MAINTENANCE OF TITLE AND ANNUAL RETURNS

32. The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club by the Honorary Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns as stipulated in Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration & Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Royal Kennel Club of any changes of Honorary Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

CLUB ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL YEAR

33. A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Club into which all revenue received on behalf of the Club shall be paid.

34. The Banking Account may only be operated by any two of the three following: Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary.

35. The financial year of the Club shall be from first day of January to last day of December.

36. The Club accounts will be certified annually and presented to Members at the AGM. Note: Certification of Accounts must be carried out by one qualified accountant or two individuals with accountancy experience. Those undertaking certification must be independent of those who prepare the accounts.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

37. The AGM shall be held in the month of March each year, but may take place no later than 15 April except in exceptional circumstances. The AGM will receive the reports of the Officers and Management Committee and the Certified Accounts, elect Officers and Members of the Management Committee and discuss any resolution duly placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Honorary Secretary. The date and venue of the meeting will be arranged by the Honorary Secretary after consultation with Members of the Management Committee. Virtual attendance, and voting either online at the meeting or by post in advance of the meeting, as notified by the Honorary Secretary may be permitted to allow the fullest participation in the AGM. A Member may be entitled to a postal vote for Officer and Committee places only provided they apply in writing to the Secretary for a postal ballot at least 28 days prior to the AGM.
38. No business other than the matter on the agenda can be discussed at the AGM, with the exception of routine matters or those, which in the opinion of the Chairperson of the Meeting, are urgent.
39. Members shall receive not less than forty-two (42) days notice in writing of the AGM.
40. Notice of the meeting will be sent to Members by email or by post and be published on the Club's website and other social media.
41. The Notice shall contain all the relevant information about the meeting and business to be discussed.
42. At least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the AGM, notice must be given to the Honorary Secretary of nominations for the positions of Ex-Officio Officers and Management Committee Members and for items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda of the AGM duly proposed and seconded by two fully paid-up Members.
43. If a proposal from a Member is put on the agenda for the AGM the Member must attend the AGM in person or virtually to put his/her case forward.
44. Each Member, including both joint membership partners, shall be entitled to one vote. A simple majority vote of those voting Members present and online (if applicable) at the AGM is required to carry any proposal; voting Members present and online (if applicable) plus postal votes for Officer and General Committee posts. In the event of a tie when voting for a proposed motion, the Chairperson has a casting vote which is in addition to his individual vote as a Member in an election vote. Voting will normally be a show of hands of those present, however a secret ballot must be taken should any Member request so in writing to the Honorary Secretary with 5 days' notice. Proxy votes will not be permitted.
- All votes submitted by post will be sent to and processed by an independent adjudicator.
45. The agenda, copy of the Certified Accounts and Minutes of the last meeting will be available to Members on application to the Club's Honorary Secretary fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
46. The agenda, copy of the Certified Accounts and Minutes of the last meeting will be available for inspection by Members at the AGM.
47. A quorum for an AGM shall be ten (10) Members plus two(2) Officers. If a quorum is not achieved business of the meeting may still be discussed, but no decisions can be taken.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

48. The Honorary Secretary shall convene a SGM of the Club by a resolution of the Committee stating the business to be brought before the meeting, of which twenty-eight (28) days notice has been sent to all Members in writing by email or by post, and advertised on the Club website and Social Media, stating the business to be discussed.

49. A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary secretary if 25 Members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and voted upon and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so.

50. No business other than that detailed on the agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting. The Notice shall contain all the relevant information about the Meeting and the business to be discussed. The date and venue of the meeting will be arranged by the Honorary Secretary after consultation with Members of the Management Committee.

51. When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Rule 49 and it is not called within twenty-eight (28) days, the situation must be referred to the Royal Kennel Club for resolution.

52. When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Rule 48, the quorum for an SGM shall be twenty-five (25) Members plus two (2) Officers.

When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Rule 49, the quorum for an SGM shall be twenty-five (25) Members plus two (2) Officers. The 25 Members calling the SGM must attend in person or virtually to put their case forward. If an SGM quorum is not achieved, business of the meeting may still be discussed, but no decisions can be taken. A simple majority vote of those present at the SGM is required to carry any proposal. In the event of a tie the Chairperson has a casting vote.

53. Virtual attendance and voting online at the meeting or by post in advance of the meeting, as notified by the Honorary Secretary may be permitted to allow the fullest participation in the SGM. Voting may also be by a show of hands of those present, however a secret ballot must be taken should any Member request so in writing to the Honorary Secretary with 5 days' notice.

All votes submitted by post will be sent to and processed by an independent adjudicator.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

54. The Management Committee shall meet at least four (4) times annually, preferably in person but virtual attendance as notified by the Honorary Secretary is also permitted to allow the fullest participation in the meeting.

55. The Chairperson will preside over meetings. If the Chairperson is absent the Committee will elect one of their number to chair the meeting before proceeding.

56. Six (6) shall form a quorum, one (1) of whom shall be an 'Officer' for the transaction of business. If a quorum is not achieved business of the meeting may still be discussed, but no decisions can be taken.

57. Club Members elected to the Committee, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer will all have full voting rights at all meetings with the Chairperson holding only a casting vote if normal voting is tied. Voting will normally be by a show of hands of those present, however a secret ballot must be taken should any Committee Member request that this be done in advance of the vote. Proxy and postal votes will not be permitted.

58. The Honorary Secretary shall call such meetings with at least fourteen (14) days notice when agendas and minutes of the last meeting shall be sent to all Officers and Committee.

59. All Committee meetings will be agenda'd and minuted. Draft Minutes will be distributed to all Committee Officers and Members within one month of the meeting in question for perusal and comment if required. Minutes of Committee meetings will remain provisional (in "draft") until accepted and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairperson at the subsequent Committee meeting.

The Honorary Secretary will then make a summary of points of interest for the Members available through the web site and social media.

60. All correspondence which addresses the Committee of the Club, or for the attention of the Committee of the Club, must be presented to the Committee in its entirety, as it has been presented by the Member or Members.

61. Any petition by the Members to the Committee must include the name of the Members with a date of signing to validate consideration by the Committee to act on the petition request.

62. Should any Member of the Management Committee be absent, for three (3) consecutive Committee meetings, without apologies or reasonable cause, that Member shall from thenceforth and upon notification in writing by the Honorary Secretary, cease to be a Member of the Management Committee.

63. Any Committee Officer or Member wishing to resign must do so in writing to the remaining Committee. Any changes in serving Officers or General Committee Members will be communicated to the membership at the earliest opportunity.

64. A committee member leaving the committee under rule 62 or 63 shall not be allowed to accept nomination for Officer or Management Committee Member until at least one (1) calendar year has elapsed since their resignation with the proviso that the AGM should have the discretion to waive this rule in extenuating circumstances (see rule 62).

CLUB EXPENSES

65. All expenses, approved in advance by the committee, incurred by members for and on behalf of the club shall be defrayed out of funds of the Club.

RULE CHANGES

66. The Rules of the Club and the Code of Ethics may not be altered by the Club except an AGM or SGM, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter Rules. Time will be allocated at the AGM each year to review the Club Rules.

67. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Royal Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval of the alterations. Rule changes may be provisionally passed by the General Meeting in anticipation of subsequent Royal Kennel Club approval in order to speed/smooth the overall rule change process.

68. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Royal Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Club Rules with effect from the next AGM/SGM.

JUDGING LIST

69. The Club must produce a list of Judges each year, which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club as part of the Society's Annual Returns. The purpose of Breed Society Judges Lists is to indicate to interested parties those persons a Breed Society would support at differing levels of judging. Membership of the Society must not be a prerequisite for inclusion in the lists. Judges Lists should be divided into five parts namely, A1, A2, A3, B and C, and must indicate the date on which the list will expire. On expiry a new list must be completed.

A1 List – Judges who have previously been approved to award CCs in a given breed and have carried out the appointment.

A2 List – Judges who, if invited to judge by a Society, would in principle be approved by the Royal Kennel Club to award CCs in a given breed for that occasion.

A3 List – Judges who are recommended by a Society as being suitable to award CCs in the breed, but not yet approved by the Royal Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 List.

B List – Judges who have been approved by Breed Societies to judge at Shows without CCs or Open Shows.

C List – Any C List drawn up by a Breed Club should comprise aspiring Judges who do not fall into any of the above categories.

70. Such lists should be prepared by a judges sub-committee, consisting of at least 75% CC judges for the breed, appointed by the committee of the society. For breeds without CCs, the judges sub-committee members should be experienced judges within the breed. Judges subcommittee members need not be members of the society committee. Lists compiled are not subject to ratification by the committee or membership of the society. It is recommended that such lists be prepared by secret ballot of the society's judges sub-committee, and societies must clearly indicate to members the method by which persons may be nominated for inclusion in the ballot and indicate the judging experience necessary for inclusion of a person's name in the lists.

THE ROYAL KENNEL CLUB

71. The Royal Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to canine or Club matters.

72. The Club shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.