



**Motor Cycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Ltd.**

# **General Rules**

**Revised to 10th November 2018**

# MOTOR CYCLE UNION OF IRELAND (ULSTER CENTRE) LIMITED

## GENERAL RULES

1. This body shall be called the Motor Cycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Limited, hereinafter termed “the Centre”, and shall have jurisdiction in all questions relating to the sport of motorcycling within the province of Ulster (nine county area).

### OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Centre shall be:

- (a) To act as Governing Body within the territory controlled by the Centre in all matters relating to motorcycle competitions.
- (b) To foster the pastime of motorcycling and to act as a society of encouragement.
- (c) To secure a fair and equitable administration of justice as regards the rights of motorcyclists as such.
- (d) To watch the course of any legislative measures affecting the interests of motorcyclists and to make such representations on the subject and take such action as occasion may demand.
- (e) To make and administer rules and regulations for the government of motorcycle competitions of any kind within the area of its jurisdiction.

**2.1 CODE OF ETHICS** - the Centre agrees that sporting integrity is based on the acceptance of rules, fairness, equality, respect for others, moral conduct and a sense of what is right. Violence, bullying, breaking the rules, abuse of drugs, lack of fair play and other unethical behaviours are unacceptable and the Centre reserves the right to discipline any of its affiliated clubs and bodies, members, officials or competition licence holders involved in such activities.

The Centre agrees to:

- (a) set a good example at all times.
- (b) sign and agree to relevant Codes of Conduct.
- (c) follow the spirit of policies as required e.g. Equal Opportunity Policy.
- (d) abide by and agree to international/national policies and guidelines e.g. anti-doping, Child Protection procedures.

*AGM Nov 2003*

**2.2 EQUALITY STATEMENT** - the Centre aims to promote the sport of motorcycling for all present and potential competitors, officials, members, instructors, coaches, volunteers and employees and will be mindful of the need to carry out its functions in a manner which promotes equality of opportunity between:

- (a) persons of different religious belief, political group, racial group, age.
- (b) persons regardless of marital status or sexual orientation.
- (c) men and women generally.
- (d) persons with a disability and persons without.
- (e) persons with dependants and persons without.

Furthermore the Centre:

- f) aims to make its services and training programmes accessible to all and may take special measures to ensure that certain groups are not unfairly disadvantaged, provided such action does not adversely affect the standard, quality and integrity of its schemes.
- (g) reserves the right to discipline any of its affiliated clubs and bodies, members, officials or competition licence holders who practice any form of discrimination in breach of this statement.
- (h) encourages its affiliated clubs and bodies to adopt a similar policy.

*AGM Nov 2003*

**2.3 CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT** - the Centre and its affiliated clubs and bodies are committed to safeguarding the well being of all competitors, officials, members, instructors, coaches, volunteers and employees, and as such comply fully with the up to date policy, practice and/or procedures as recommended by the 2&4 Wheel Motor Sport Steering Group Limited. *AGM Nov 2003*  
The term *child protection* has been expanded to *safeguarding* as it reflects the wider responsibility for health, safety and prevention as well as just protection from abuse. It may be defined as ‘Doing everything that is possible to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people.’

We acknowledge the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and are committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with the requirements laid out by Sport N.I., the NSPCC and Child Protection in Sports Unit.

*AGM Nov 2014*

## CONSTITUTION

**3.** The Centre shall consist of:

- (a) A Patron
- (b) A President
- (c) A Chairperson
- (d) A Vice-Chairperson
- (e) Honorary Secretary
- (f) Assistant Honorary Secretary(s)
- (g) Honorary Treasurer
- (h) Affiliated Clubs
- (i) Affiliated Bodies
- (j) Senior Members
- (k) Honorary Members

*AGM Nov 2010*

**4. AFFILIATED CLUBS** – a motor cycle club, on applying to join the Centre, must do so in writing, and shall forward with its application a statement of the number of its members, a copy of its rules, the name and address of its secretary, and the names of the persons whom it is proposed shall represent the club if affiliated.

The application shall be considered at the next meeting of the Centre and, if supported by a clear majority of those present and voting, the club shall become affiliated to the Centre.

Every application for affiliation shall be deemed to imply the intent, on the part of the applicant club, of complying with the rules of the Centre. During the first twelve months following affiliation, no club may secure an “Open” date for the promotion of an “Open” competition.

**4.1 AFFILIATED BODIES** – the Centre may accept any organisation approved by it as an Affiliated Body. An Affiliated Body shall be affiliated for such purposes and under such terms and conditions as shall be determined at the time of its affiliation. An Affiliated Body shall pay an affiliation fee to the Centre and, shall, if it promotes events, be liable for all permit and insurance fees associated with the promotion of the said events.

*AGM Nov 2001*

Each affiliated body shall be entitled to representation by one duly appointed delegate, who shall be the official representative of the body at all meetings of the Centre.

**5. SENIOR MEMBERS** – the Centre, at the Annual General Meeting each year may elect to the position of “Senior Member” not more than three persons who are deemed to have rendered valuable service to the government and sport of motorcycling. The period of office for these Senior Members will be for twelve months. They shall be eligible for re-election at the expiration of their term of office, provided that during the year of office ending, they have attended at least two-thirds of the total number of Council meetings held or have satisfied the Council that their failure to attend this number of meetings was due to exceptional circumstances.

**6. HONORARY MEMBERS** – the Centre may elect to the position of Honorary Member, either for life or such period as may be determined, any person who has rendered conspicuous service to the Centre. A person can only be elected to the position of Honorary Member at an Annual General Meeting and the name of the person must have been proposed for nomination at a Council meeting not less than three months prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the nomination is to be considered. An individual member or a club is only entitled to make one nomination in any year.

**7.** Each club shall pay annually to the Centre an affiliation fee together with a capitation fee for each member. The amount shall be recommended by the Finance Committee to the Annual General Meeting (or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose) and shall be subject to the approval of that Annual General Meeting (or Extraordinary General Meeting). Membership numbers shall be based on the certified membership shown at the date of the club’s annual general meeting of the previous year or, alternatively, upon a certificate signed by the Treasurer and Secretary of the club applying for affiliation. The subscriptions are due upon affiliation and thereafter on the 1st November each year and should be paid promptly and without application from the Centre. Until these fees are paid no club shall be entitled to the benefits of affiliation. A nominal roll of members in respect of whom fees are paid, giving their names and addresses shall be sent to the Centre at the same time as the affiliation fees are paid.

**8.** The affiliation of a club may be terminated by either party giving three months’ notice to end 31st October in any year.

**9.** If any member of an affiliated club shall cease to be a member of that club, notice shall be given within 14 days to the Centre, whereupon the member shall cease to be entitled to any of the privileges of affiliated membership.

## **GOVERNMENT**

**10.** The affairs of the Centre shall be managed by the Council as hereinafter set forth. Six shall form a quorum of the Council.

**11.** The Council of the Centre shall consist of delegates nominated by an affiliated club to represent that club and properly qualified under Rule 14, Senior Members, Honorary Members and Vice-Presidents.

**11.1** The following persons may also attend Council meetings but shall not have an automatic right to speak but, may do so with the permission of the meeting:

- (a) a Centre Official.
- (b) a Secretary of an Affiliated Club.
- (c) a holder of a Competition Licence issued by the MCUI (Ulster Centre) Limited.
- (d) any other person with the permission of the meeting.

**12.** The Council shall elect, at the Annual General Meeting, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Solicitor, an Auditor and such other officers, committees etc. as the Council may from time to time determine. A paid official shall not be eligible to act as a member of Council.

The office of Chairperson shall be elected annually and may not be held by the same person for more than two consecutive years and having relinquished the office a person may not be re-elected to it for a period of three years. The outgoing Chairperson shall inherit the office of President unless the Chairperson resigns from office or is removed from office on a vote of no confidence. The outgoing President shall inherit the office of Vice-President unless the President resigns from office or is removed from office on a vote of no confidence. Any officer in whom a vote of no confidence is passed shall immediately resign from the office and any officer refusing to do so will be expelled from the Centre. Nominations for all offices, except the Management Committee, will be taken at the October Council meeting each year. Further nominations may ONLY be made at the Annual General Meeting and shall be subject to the following limitations:

- a)** In the case of an election for a single office, further nominations will only be accepted if all the original nominees withdraw otherwise the election shall be confined to the remaining nominees or if only one remains that nominee shall be declared elected.
- (b)** In the case of an election for a committee which has a stipulated membership, further nominations will only be accepted if the number of the original nominees remaining is less than the number required for the committee. In such circumstances those original nominees remaining shall be declared elected and further nominations will then be accepted for the remaining position(s).

**13.** The affairs of the Centre shall be managed by the Council which shall meet monthly.

The business shall be conducted by committees which shall meet monthly or as required and report to the Council. The reports of the committees shall be in writing or typed form and shall be forwarded to the Ulster Centre Secretary within 7 days of the date of the meeting and not less than 7 days prior to the monthly Council Meeting at which they are to be considered. The Council shall have powers to confirm recommendations made by the various committees, or shall refer them for consideration together with such direction as may be deemed appropriate. Minutes of the monthly Council meeting, Management Committee meetings and other main committee meetings, shall be sent by (email or ordinary mail) to all Council members at least four days, excluding Sundays and public holidays, before the date of the next monthly council meeting.

There shall be main Committees as follows; Finance, General Purposes, Safety, Tarmac (Road Racing and Short Circuits), and Trials.

Each committee shall consist of five members, with the exception of the Tarmac and Safety Committees which shall consist of nine members, elected by the Ulster Centre Council at each Annual General Meeting, together with the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as ex-Officio members. In addition, the Sporting Committees (Tarmac and Trials) shall consist of one Nominated Delegate from each organising club of that particular discipline, if not already represented on Committee.

Each Committee shall also have power to co-opt not more than two additional persons who the committee considers can bring special skills/interest to the committee or for the purpose of developing future potential officers and officials of the centre. These additional persons can be either from within or without the Council.

Each Committee shall also have power to co-opt persons from within the Council to fill any vacancy that arises, for any reason, on a committee between Annual General Meetings.

All co-options are subject to approval by the Council; such approval shall not unreasonably be withheld.

The Convenor of each of these Committees shall be selected from one of the members elected by Council at each

Annual General Meeting. Each of the Committee members, either elected by the Ulster Centre Council or nominated by member Clubs, or co-opted, shall have equal voting rights.

Technical and Pre-1973 Racing Technical Committees shall also be elected each year and meet as and when required.

**(a.1)** A Roads Inspection Committee consisting of six members, which shall be responsible for approving all courses used for Road and Short Circuit racing within the Ulster Centre, shall be appointed at the 2008 AGM as follows:

- Two members elected to serve until 2009 AGM when they will retire;
- Two members elected to serve until 2010 AGM when they will retire;
- Two members elected to serve until 2011 AGM when they will retire.

The members elected for the committee at the 2008 AGM shall agree the above tenures amongst themselves; failing agreement the tenures will be decided by ballot.

From the 2009 AGM onwards two members shall be elected, for a three year period, at each AGM to the Roads Inspection Committee to replace the two retiring members. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than two additional persons who the committee considers can bring special skills/interest to the committee or for the purpose of developing future members of the committee. These additional persons can be either from within or without the Council.

The Committee shall also have power to co-opt persons from within the Council to fill any vacancy that arises, for any reason, on the committee between Annual General Meetings. All co-options are subject to approval by the Council; such approval shall not unreasonably be withheld. This rule can only be rescinded or varied by a motion approved by two thirds of the eligible members present and voting at an AGM or an EGM called to consider such motion.

*AGM Nov 2008*

**(b)** A Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting which shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer together with three members from each of the Finance, General Purposes, Safety, Tarmac and Trials Committees.

The Management Committee shall have Council powers to deal with any matter referred to it by the Committees, the Council or any business which arises between Council meetings which is deemed by the Secretary to be of an urgent nature. The Management Committee shall not have power to alter or revise the rules of the Centre. The quorum necessary for the Committee to transact its business shall be six, however, if within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting six members are not present the members then present shall be the quorum.

The members of the Management Committee shall be the Directors of the Motor Cycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Limited.

*AGM Nov 2007*

## **REPRESENTATION**

**14.** Affiliated clubs shall be entitled to representation by three duly appointed delegates. These delegates shall hold office for one year and shall be the official representatives of the club at all meetings of the Council. No member of the committee of one club shall be eligible, in any circumstances, to act as delegate for any other club. At least two delegates representing a club shall be resident within twenty miles of the headquarters of that club.

**14.1** An Affiliated club must have at least one delegate in attendance at a minimum of two Council meetings or Sporting Committee (Tarmac and Trials) meetings during a year i.e. from the Annual General Meeting in November until the last Council meeting prior to the following year's Annual General Meeting (12 months). Otherwise the club will not be granted any permits to promote events in the following year or any subsequent year until the minimum attendance requirement has been fulfilled. Exception to the rule may only be permitted if approved by a two-thirds majority at a Council meeting. Nothing in this rule shall preclude a club just affiliated from applying for permits to promote such events as it is entitled to during the first year of its affiliation.

*AGM Nov 2008*

**15.** Where the representative of a club has, for any reason, ceased to serve, the Club may appoint a new representative under the terms of rule 14. In such case notification of the appointment must be sent to the Secretary of the Centre. If such notification is received by the Secretary of the Centre two days before the next meeting of the Council, such representative will be entitled to attend that meeting and represent his club.

## **METHOD OF VOTING**

**16.** The method of voting to be adopted at all meetings of the Council of the Centre shall be as follows:

**(a)** Affiliated Clubs – to be entitled to one vote per club.

The delegates are to agree between themselves as to which way the vote on behalf of their club should be cast.

**(b)** Chairperson – One vote

**(c)** Honorary Secretary – One vote

**(d)** Honorary Treasurer – One vote

*EGM May 1999*

**16.1** On all occasions when a vote cannot be taken on a show of hands a secret ballot will be held.

**16.2** A member elected at the Annual General Meeting to a position which entitles the member to an individual vote shall inherit the vote at the conclusion of the election of officers and shall retain the vote until the conclusion of the election of officers at the next Annual General Meeting.

*AGM Nov 2007*

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**17.** The Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held in November of each year, and where possible on the second Saturday. Notices of Motion for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting must be with the Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall be circulated within one month of the date thereof and shall be considered for their accuracy and content at the next monthly Council meeting following dispatch.

**18.** Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Monday of each month unless, in the opinion of the Chairperson and Secretary, there is insufficient business to justify the calling of a meeting.

*EGM Feb 1999*

**19.** The Secretary on receiving a requisition signed by not less than one fourth of the members of the Council, and stating the purpose for which the meeting is desired, shall summon a Special Meeting of the Council within fourteen days. Only the business stated on the requisition shall be transacted at the Special Meeting.

**20.** Six delegates shall form a quorum of the Council at all meetings

**21.** Notices of Council meetings shall be sent by the Secretary to each member at least four days, exclusive of Sundays and public holidays, before the date of the meeting.

**22.** Items for inclusion on the agenda shall reach the Secretary not later than ten days before the Council meeting at which they are to be considered and shall take precedence on the agenda in order of date of receipt.

**23.** Notices of Motion to rescind a decision of the Council shall not be accepted for consideration until after at least six months from the date of such decision, unless a motion to permit its consideration is first approved by at least a two-thirds majority of the Council present and voting.

**24.** Every motion shall be duly proposed and seconded by one of the under-mentioned methods before it can be considered:

Two members of the Council, irrespective of whether or not such members have the right to vote.

A member of the Council and a delegate from a Club

Two delegates from the same Club.

Two delegates from separate Clubs.

**25.** A decision on any question shall be by a clear majority of those present and voting. The voting will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of rules 16, 16.1 and 16.2

## **CONTROL OF AFILIATED CLUBS**

**26.** Affiliated Clubs shall hold their annual general meeting not later than 31st October in each year. The Council shall have power to suspend any club whose meeting is not held before this date.

**27.** The affiliation of a club may be terminated by either party giving three months notice to end on the 31st October in any year.

**28.** The members of an affiliated club shall be understood to be those members who have paid the ordinary club subscription for the previous year, or who have paid life composition for the same. The minimum annual club membership subscription shall be £1.

**29.** At a meeting to be held upon a specified date each year the Council shall consider applications from affiliated clubs for permits to hold open competitions during the year. Upon request from the Secretary of the Council, affiliated clubs must supply a list of dates upon which they propose to promote open events, and this list must be in the hands of the Secretary on the date specified in the request.

**30.** Failure on the part of an affiliated club to supply a list of dates upon request by the date specified may result in such affiliated club forfeiting the right to have any subsequent application for open permit considered until the next annual meeting for consideration of dates.

**31.** In the event of the clashing of the proposed dates for holding open motorcycle events, the Management Committee shall have power to call upon Clubs or Promoters to mutually avoid clashing dates, and failing a mutual agreement, the fixtures shall be adjusted by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.

*EGM Jan 1997*

**32.** No meeting or competition shall be held without a permit from the Centre. Such permit shall only be granted upon the formal application of the promoting body or club and it shall be deemed a condition attaching to all permits that no permit is assignable or transferable, except by the Council of the Centre.

**33.** No entries shall be invited for any competition until the permit for same has been granted by the Centre. The Council reserves the right to withdraw any permit.

**34.** No permit to promote an open competition shall be issued at the request of a newly affiliated club and not until that club has been affiliated to the Centre for a period of not less than twelve calendar months.

**35.** MCUI licences to ride in competitions shall be issued to individual members of the Centre or to members of clubs affiliated thereto at the current fee.

**35a.** All MCUI (UC) Tarmac Competition Licence Holders residing within the Ulster Centre must complete the official Ulster Centre Flag/Drugs Seminar (**Online or in Person**) in order to obtain their competition licence. MCUI (UC) Tarmac Competition Licence Holders residing outside of the Ulster Centre must **complete the MCUI (UC) online seminar** or show proof they have attended **in person** or **they** will be required to attend an ACU or FIM approved seminar.

*AGM 2018*

**36.** The Centre may appoint a steward or stewards to supervise all competitions. Such steward shall not be otherwise connected with the competitions. To be eligible for election to the panel of stewards, nominees must be active members of the Ulster Centre and must, during the preceding year, have a minimum attendance record of 75% at Council meetings. Illness, business commitments, or other extenuating circumstances will not render a nominee who has not attained the minimum attendance record ineligible for election to the panel.

**36a.** Each trials promoting club must provide at least one club member to act as Centre Steward for use in the trials season. Failure on the part of an trials promoting club to supply at least one Centre Steward upon request will result in such affiliated club forfeiting any permits for their trial events.

*AGM 2018*

**37.** Where a club affiliated to the Centre applies for and is granted an open date for any competition and on that date fails to promote such competition, without reason which is acceptable to the Council, it shall be subject to a maximum fine as follows:

- Where the event is a road race - £150.
- Where the event is one scheduled for a championship - £100.
- Any other event - £50.

Should such an event not be run, the club shall nonetheless be liable to pay to the Centre any and all irrecoverable permit and insurance fees relating to such event.

**38.** It shall be the responsibility of a club promoting an event to render promptly such statistics of the event, which the Centre may require, together with any fees due to the Centre arising from the promotion.

**39.** In the event of an affiliated club failing to fulfil its obligations to the Centre in regard to events promoted by it, in that it fails to furnish the fees required within the time specified by the Council, then that club shall be expelled and shall not become an affiliated member of the Centre until formal application is again made and accepted by the Centre in Council.

**40.** Neither the Council nor the Centre shall accept any liability for any accidents occurring in competitions run under the foregoing rules.

**41.** No competition held under the rules of the Centre shall be styled a championship unless with the approval of the Council. The Council shall make provision for the holding of such championships as come within its jurisdiction and may delegate authority to promote such events to affiliated clubs. The Centre may arrange to hold annually, or may delegate to any affiliated club or body the holding of the Ulster Grand Prix and such Championship events as it may decide.

**42.** No new rules shall be made, nor shall any of these rules be amended, altered, or rescinded, unless at the Annual General Meeting of the Centre or a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

**43.** A two-thirds majority of the Council present and voting is empowered upon such grounds as shall seem reasonable to it to suspend or permanently disqualify any person club or body as listed at Paragraph 3 of the MCUI(UC) General Rules, charged with an offence against the rules of the Centre, and also to re-instate any

person club or body as listed at Paragraph 3 of the MCUI(UC) General Rules, suspended or disqualified by it; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify such suspension or re-instatement to such person in writing by letter to such person's last known place of address, or in the case of a club or body, to the last known place of address of the secretary thereof.

*AGM Nov 2010*

**44.** No person, club or body as listed at Paragraph 3 of the MCUI(UC) General Rules, shall be cautioned, suspended, required to resign or expelled unless an opportunity has been given of explaining the charge, and unless the resolution is supported by at least two thirds of the Council present and voting.

*AGM Nov 2010*

**45.** Any person, club or body as listed at Paragraph 3 of the MCUI(UC) General Rules, cautioned, suspended, required to resign or expelled under the rules of the Centre shall forfeit all right to, or claim upon the Centre, or its property or funds, or services.

*AGM Nov 2010*

**46.** When it is necessary to appoint a court under Motor Cycle Union of Ireland General Competition Rule 202, the court shall be appointed as follows:

(a) Any member of the court hereinafter referred to as a "member" must, if selected under the procedures detailed in clause (b) below, serve on such court.

(b) Ten members shall be selected by ballot, from the eligible members present at the Council meeting at which the court is to be appointed, as possible members of the court. The order in which the names are drawn shall be recorded. For the purposes of this rule eligible members shall mean Delegates of Affiliated Clubs/Bodies, Honorary Life Members, Senior Members, Vice-Presidents and Assistant Secretary(s). Eligible members shall not include the President, Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

Should a member so selected be considered to be an interested party to the matter in dispute, then the member shall be exempted from service, provided that the Council can be satisfied that the reasons are genuine. In such circumstances the ballot shall be continued until ten eligible members are selected

(c) The Secretary shall, when notifying the parties to the appeal, complaint or dispute, of the date, time and place of the hearing, also advise them of the possible members of the court. Each party shall be entitled to object to not more than two of the possible members of the court. Such objections must be advised either by telephone or letter to the Secretary within five days of the date of the original notice. If no objections are received, the first six members selected under clauses (b) or (e) shall form the court. If objections are received, the first six members selected under clauses (b) or (e), excluding the member(s) objected to, shall form the court. The Secretary shall advise each of the members drawn under clause (b) as to whether they are/are not required to serve on the court.

(d) The members who sit in a court shall not be selected under clause (b) in the same year (i.e. Annual General Meeting to the following November Council meeting), unless it is necessary for them to be so to enable ten eligible members be selected at a Council meeting.

(e) Should it be necessary to appoint a court between Council meetings, the possible members shall be selected by the Secretary from the eligible members, as defined in (b) above, in attendance at the previous council meeting, on the basis of the first ten eligible members obtained from a list of the eligible members' names in alphabetical order. Should a member so selected be considered to be an interested party to the matter in dispute, then the member shall be exempted from service, provided that the Secretary is satisfied that the reasons are genuine. In such circumstances the process shall be continued until ten eligible members are selected by the Secretary. The procedure as detailed in clause (c) shall apply to decide the final composition of the court.

(f) The members who sit on a court appointed under clause (b) or (e) above, shall not be selected under either clause more than once in the same year (AGM to AGM) unless it is necessary to do so to enable ten eligible members be selected.

*AGM Nov 2008*

## INTERPRETATION

**47.** The Council shall have power to deal with any question arising out of or not covered by the foregoing rules.