

**The National Association of Retired Police Officers  
(Merseyside Branch)**

**Merseyside Branch Rules**

**Introduction**

1. The Rules of the National Association of Retired Police Officers shall apply at all times and, under Rule 7(iv) of the Association's Rules, the following shall also apply.

**Branch**

2. The Branch shall be known as the Merseyside Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers.

**Membership**

3. Membership shall be open to the following:
  - (a) Former Police Officers who have retired having completed 25/30 years pensionable service or on maximum age grounds or on medical grounds. "Retired" does not include those dismissed or required to resign from the Police Service.
  - (b) Spouses or partners of such former Police Officers.
  - (c) Widows or widowers or partners of such former Police Officers.
  - (d) Widows or widowers or partners of Police Officers who died in service
  - (e) The Branch may also grant membership to 'Life Members'; 'Additional Members'; 'Associate Members'; 'Affiliate Members'; and 'Honorary Members' as set out in the National Rules.

**Objects**

4. The objects of the Branch shall be:
  - (a) To safeguard the rights of members and to promote measures for their welfare with particular regard to pensions.
  - (b) To protect, promote and represent the interests of its members and provide a channel whereby they can express their opinion.
  - (c) To assist in the solution of the problems of members.
  - (d) To establish liaison with the National Executive Committee, other Branches and bodies and co-ordinate the work for the mutual benefit of members.
  - (e) To provide assistance for the benefit of branch members, the Association or any section of it as may be authorised by the Branch Committee.
  - (f) To make charitable donations.
  - (g) To invest funds of the Branch not immediately required.
  - (h) To do all such things and carry out such other activities for the benefit of the members as the Branch Committee may decide.

**General Committee**

5. A General Committee of a maximum of 30 members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to govern the Branch. Those members of the Branch wishing to stand for election to the General Committee must submit in writing their names, proposed and seconded by Branch members, to reach the Branch Secretary at least 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary shall present to the Annual General Meeting a list of those members standing for election to the General Committee. If more than the allowed number of members is proposed, the Branch Secretary will prepare ballot forms for use at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of insufficient numbers being submitted for election prior to the Annual General meeting, the Chairman may accept nominations from the floor for any remaining vacancies.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the General Committee shall appoint a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, from amongst the committee members to serve for one year. The General Committee may appoint sub-Committees for specific purposes and may co-opt such other persons as they may determine to the Committee for specific purposes for a maximum period of one year. The Chairman shall be ex-officio a

member of any such sub-Committee or may delegate another committee member to represent him in his absence. The General Committee shall meet as required and any ten members of the Committee shall form a quorum but must include any two of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Treasurer.

#### **Annual General Meeting and Annual Report**

6. The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the 1 January and 15 May each year, to which all members will be given at least 21 days notice. The Annual Report of the activities and finances of the Branch will be presented at the AGM for discussion and approval.

#### **Rule Changes**

7. Rules can only be altered by a majority vote of two thirds in favour at the Annual General Meeting. Details of proposed changes to the Rules must be put in writing and in the hands of the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. A copy of the rule change must be posted on the Branch web site.

#### **Subscriptions**

8. Subscriptions for members shall be laid down at the Annual Conference and by the Branch Committee in respect of widows, widowers, life members, additional members, associate members, affiliate members and honorary members. All funds shall be accounted for by the treasurer and shall be devoted to the objects of the Branch in accordance with Rule 15 of the National Rules and as determined by the Committee who shall be the trustees of the funds and monies.

#### **Finances**

9. The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December, with the accounts being audited and presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval. The auditors, bankers and signatories will be decided annually or as considered necessary by the General Committee.

#### **Expenses**

10. All reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the duties and functions authorised by the Branch shall be paid subject to the approval of the General Committee and subject to National Rules.

#### **Inventory of Branch Property and Equipment**

11. The Treasurer shall keep an up to date inventory of all property and equipment purchased by the Branch, recording the date of purchase and the disposal of it.

#### **Annual Conference**

12. The General Committee shall have the authority to nominate delegates to attend the Association's Annual Conference, such delegates being members of the General Committee or Branch Members. The Committee may authorise the total amount expended in sponsoring delegates to Conference. Delegates may be paid:
  - (a) Expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred;
  - (b) Actual cost of travel by rail or public service vehicle or at the mileage allowance as applicable and as notified to the Branch by NEC Circular;
  - (c) Cost of hotel accommodation as approved by the General Committee;
  - (d) Cost of attendance at pre Conference dinner and social evening.

#### **Interpretation**

13. All matters of interpretation of these rules shall be decided by the Branch Committee and in the event of urgency by the Chairman, who may consult the Secretary and Vice Chairman.