

# THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (YRA) CONSTITUTION AND RULES

## PART A – CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

### TITLE

1. The Regimental Association of the Yorkshire Regiment - short title – “The Association” – abbreviation - “The YRA”.

### DEFINITIONS

2. Definitions used in this Constitution and Rules are as follows:
  - a. “Regiment” shall mean all Regular and TA Units of the Yorkshire Regiment and their antecedent Regiments (including The York and Lancaster Regiment) and all cadet detachments who wear the cap badge of The Yorkshire Regiment.
  - b. “Member” shall mean anyone who has served in the Regiment as defined above. They may be Honorary or Ordinary Members as provided in the Rules.
  - c. “Rules” shall mean the Rules of the Association as shown in Parts B and C of this Constitution.
  - d. “Branch” shall mean any organised grouping of Members, approved, as a Yorkshire Regiment Association Branch, by the Executive Committee.
  - e. “Affiliated Branch” shall mean any branch of an Antecedent Regiment Association and approved by that Association, according to its own rules.

### OBJECTS

3. The Objects of the Association are:
  - a. To promote the efficiency of the Regiment by fostering esprit de corps, comradeship and the welfare of the Regiment and establishing and preserving its traditions.
  - b. To make recommendations, as necessary, to the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolence Case Committee, in order to provide relief, either generally or individually, for members of the Association or past and present members of the Regiment, and their dependents, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress (hereinafter referred to as beneficiaries).
  - c. To support recruiting by encouraging suitable young men to join the Regiment and by assisting the Regiment in its activities to promote awareness of the Regiment and its good name in its home recruiting area.
  - d. To raise funds for the Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust.

### POWERS

4. In furtherance of the foregoing Objects but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers:

- a. To take all necessary action for publicising and disseminating information concerning the histories, deeds and traditions of the Regiment.
- b. To receive and accept contributions by way of donations and otherwise to raise funds for the said Objects provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its Objects.
- c. To assist beneficiaries by way of making recommendations to the Regimental Benevolence Case Committee.
- d. To make recommendations to the Regimental Benevolence Case Committee that they consider paying for such items, services or facilities by way of donations or subscriptions to charitable institutions or organisations which provide or which undertake in return to provide such items, services or facilities for beneficiaries.
- e. To do all such other lawful things as shall be necessary for the achievement of the said Objects.
- f. To hold an Annual General Meeting and if required hold other general meetings.
- g. To hold, when possible, an annual reunion at which Members may meet.

## **PART B - RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **ORGANISATION**

1. The Association is based on RHQ The Yorkshire Regiment and consists of an Executive Committee and Branches whose formation is approved of by the Executive Committee and whose Rules incorporate, where appropriate, and do not contravene, these Rules. The following officials will serve the Association:
  - a. **President.** The Colonel of the Regiment shall, ex-officio, be the President.
  - b. **Vice-Presidents.** Vice-Presidents may be appointed by the Executive Committee and hold office for life or until resignation.
  - c. **Chairman.** A Chairman shall be appointed by the Regimental Board.
  - d. **Vice-Chairman.** A Vice-Chairman will be appointed by the Chairman.
  - e. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall, ex-officio, be the Regimental Affairs Officer at RHQ or an approved deputy.
2. The Executive Committee shall comprise:
  - a. Chairman.
  - b. Vice Chairman.
  - c. Secretary - Ex officio.

- d. Chairman or Secretary of each (approved) Branch.

## ADMINISTRATION AND DUTIES

3. Specific duties of those officials responsible for running the Association are:

a. Chairman. The Chairman presides over The Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting. He should offer his views and recommendations when considering proposals, but remain impartial when controlling any proposal put to the meetings. He is a permanent member of the Regimental Board.

b. Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman is responsible for the supervision of the Committees and other duties as allocated by the Chairman. He will deputise for the Chairman in the Chairman's absence.

c. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- (1) Prepare and distribute notices and agendas for meetings; record and distribute Minutes of Proceedings.
- (2) Prepare the Association Annual Report to include:
  - (a) A financial statement.
  - (b) An agenda for the AGM.
  - (c) Any other business undertaken by the Committee.

This is to be received by Members of the Committee and Branches two clear months prior to the AGM.

d. The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall:

- (1) Subject to the Constitution and Rules of the Association, be responsible for matters of policy, finance and general administration of the Association. In matters of major expenditure, whenever practicable, not less than 3 quotations are to be obtained.
- (2) Organise and allocate the funds to meet the expenses of any Association function.
- (3) Ensure that the Secretary maintains full and correct records.
- (4) Appoint Vice Presidents.
- (5) Appoint General Standing and Sub-Committees where necessary and determine their Terms of Reference.
- (6) Hold a full Committee Meeting not less than once a year and such additional meetings as required by the Chairman at such times and places as he may reasonably designate. Four or more members of the Committee will form a quorum.

(7) Elect Honorary Members in accordance with Rule 4 b.

## MEMBERSHIP

4. The following are eligible to be members of the Association and to attend its functions:
- a. Ordinary Member. Membership is open to all past and serving members of the Regiment. They will be Ordinary Members.
  - b. Honorary Member. Individuals, not otherwise eligible under Rule 4a, may be proposed for membership of the Association. The nomination shall be made in writing to the Executive Committee by either the Executive Committee itself or a Branch of the Association for the Executive Committee's approval. A list of approved Honorary Members is to be maintained by the Secretary.
  - c. Family Members. A Member's spouse, widow, or immediate family aged 18 or over shall be entitled to attend annual functions as though they were a member. This does not entitle them to any voting rights.
5. Disqualification. The Executive Committee shall have the right to terminate any form of membership. No person removed from Membership under this Rule shall be eligible to re-apply for membership without the approval of the Executive Committee.

## MEETINGS

6. Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association shall be convened by the Secretary on instructions of the Executive Committee. Notices of such General Meetings will be sent to all Branches and published by all possible means, not less than two months before the date of the Meeting. One copy will be sent to the RSM of each battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment, in order that serving members can be informed.
7. Agenda. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting, tabled by authority of the Executive Committee and of which notice has been given under Rule 6, shall include:

- a. Apologies
- b. Minutes of Last Meeting
- c. Matters arising
- d. Memoriam
- e. Reports of the officers (Committee, Secretary, etc)
- g. Election of officers
- h. Any other business
- i. Date of next meeting

8. Items. Any items for discussion at any General Meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary within 28 days of the date of notification of such a meeting and should be accompanied by details of the proposer and seconded.

## VOTING

9. At an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting 50, more members will form a quorum. Unless otherwise provided for in these Rules, all matters will be decided by a majority vote of those Ordinary and Honorary Members attending. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall

have a second or casting vote.

## **BRANCHES AND AFFILIATED BRANCHES**

10. The Executive Committee may, if requested, authorise the formation of a Branch of the Association, comprising a minimum of 10 Members, subject to the following:

a. The Committee shall not authorise the formation, and may order the discontinuation, or amalgamation, of any Branch which, in its view, is or will be unable to operate with an effective form of management, or viable financial structure, competent to ensure that its affairs are conducted efficiently and in a way creditable to the Regiment and The YRA.

b. Branches and Groups are autonomous, appoint their own officials and control their own finances. Their affairs must however be conducted in accordance with the Objects set out in Part A of this Constitution and the general policy of The YRA.

c. If Affiliated Branches should choose to become Branches of the YRA, they will need to be approved by the YRA Executive Committee and will then be governed by the YRA Rules. All other antecedent Branches will be considered to be affiliated to the YRA and be governed by their own antecedent Rules. Rules governing YRA Branches are set out in Part C.

d. Individual members of Affiliated Branches, who comply with Part A 2b and Part B 4a, are individual members of the YRA and as such will have the right to vote at General Meetings.

## **AMENDMENT OF RULES**

11. Any amendment to these Rules shall be subject to the passing of an appropriate resolution, for which at least two months notice has been given, and included within the distributed Agenda, and approved by not less than two thirds of Members present and voting at a duly convened General Meeting.

## **PART C - RULES GOVERNING BRANCHES**

### **GENERAL**

1. Branches are empowered to add to these Rules as may be deemed necessary providing that no rule of The YRA is contravened.

### **TITLE**

2. All Branches shall be known as: The Town (Antecedent Name) Branch of The Yorkshire Regiment Association.

### **OBJECTS**

3. The Objects of the Branch shall be as laid down in Part A of this Constitution.

## **BRANCH MANAGEMENT**

4. The Officials of the Branch shall be:

- a. Chairman.
- b. Vice Chairman.
- c. Honorary Secretary.
- d. Honorary Treasurer (if a Branch wishes).

5. These officials form the Branch General Committee and officials will manage the Branch. The Branch members are responsible for deciding the nominating/voting procedures for and the length of tenure of their officials.

## **COMMITTEE**

6. Composition of the Committee is left to the discretion of Branches concerned, but those elected must be Members, or Honorary Members of the Association. The Branch Chairman's appointment is subject to approval by the Association Executive Committee.

## **BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS**

7. Subscriptions, if any, are left entirely subject to the wishes of the Branch concerned. They must be accounted for and a Statement of account presented for approval at a Branch meeting.

## **MEETINGS**

8. Branches shall meet as often as may be considered necessary.

## **CHAIRMAN**

9. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a member of the Branch General Committee may be elected to the chair.

## **BOOKS**

10. The Branch Honorary Secretary shall keep a Minute Book and other books as may be considered necessary by the Branch concerned.

## **BRANCH ACCOUNTS**

11. All money which Branches may possess must be placed in a bank at the earliest opportunity. No money may be withdrawn except under the signature of the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer if one is appointed. The Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of Branch money.