



## **Playing rules Subcommittee: Terms of Reference**

1. The 'playing rules' is a subcommittee of the Charity which shall meet at least once a year to discuss proposals for and formulate rule changes, and vote on any rule changes submitted by non-Trustees, as described below.
2. The subcommittee will create a template for the submission of rule changes ('Rule Change Form'), to ensure that proposals are of a consistent standard, with cogent, reasoned arguments.
3. The deadline for the submission of any Rule Change Form will be the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the current winter league season ('the Deadline').
4. Rule Change Forms are to be submitted to the chair of the subcommittee ('the Chair')
5. Any Rule Change Form submitted by the deadline, shall be reviewed by the Chair for quality and the Chair shall recommend changes to the proposer if it doesn't meet the submission standards.
6. If during the review it is discovered that the proposal might violate a FIDE or ECF rule, the Chair may, after consultation with the other arbiters on the subcommittee, reject the proposal.
7. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, the Chair will announce the date for a subcommittee meeting to discuss Rule Change forms. The meeting will take place within 3 weeks of the deadline.
8. During this meeting, the subcommittee will discuss and vote on any Rule Change proposals. It can however only reject a proposal if the vote is unanimous.
9. Any proposal not rejected would go forward to an EGM or the AGM – the decision for the need of an EGM resides with the Chair of the subcommittee. This shall be a delegated power from the Trustees.
10. If the Chair decides a 'rules' EGM is required, the Chair will announce the date by the 30<sup>th</sup> April, with the 'rules' EGM taking place in May of that winter league season.
11. Assuming there are few rule changes and they are non-controversial these can still be voted on at an AGM, but only if the expectation is that they would require fewer than 15 minutes (in total) to discuss and vote on. In the event that during an AGM, they do end up taking longer, the Trustees are empowered to call an EGM for these matters, within six weeks of the AGM.
12. Changes to the Constitution and other matters not relevant to the playing rules will still be considered at the AGM.

### **Membership**

The Chair of the subcommittee will be the League Secretary, who has a role as lead arbiter. The Chair will appoint a vice chair to act in his absence, although this should always be a qualified arbiter.

Other members to be invited are:

- All other qualified and active arbiters from level one upwards who are HDCA members
- The Tournament Controller (s)
- One other member appointed from amongst the Trustees.
- One representative from each club in the league, with full committee membership.

**Parameters:** The subcommittee remains responsible and reports to the Trustees, as it is a Charity Committee. It will not be authorised to agree any funding commitments, nor to discuss anything other than that contained with the HDCA playing rules.