



# Membership Policy

WEF 20 January 2020

## **Mission statement**

The Emerald Warriors RFC's vision is to be the leading inclusive rugby club, not only in Ireland, but in the world, leading by example and achieving success as players, coached and supporters through our pathway development and training.

## **Scope of policy**

The Emerald Warriors RFC recognises its responsibilities in respect of ensuring that its policies and procedures benefit not only its members but also its stakeholders including the wider community, sponsors, the LGBT+ community and other partners. The committee of the club is responsible for the implementation of this policy, however, the success of it depends on the commitment of all members and potential members. In this regard, this policy document applies to all members and potential members of the Emerald Warriors RFC.

## **Policy objectives**

- To provide clear direction for members and potential members on matters relating to membership.
- To ensure that a standardised approach for managing membership applications and charges is upheld.
- To demonstrate that a fair and equitable approach to the management of membership charges is in place for all members.

## **Types of Membership of the Emerald Warriors RFC**

There are a number of different types of membership of the Emerald Warriors RFC. In section six of the club's constitution three types of membership are outlined. These are general membership, full membership and honorary life membership. These are further sub-divided into eight membership categories below for the purposes of administrative ease and user friendliness.

The following is a list of all membership sub-types and a description of each:

### **1. Player (Returning)**

This membership option is for persons who intend on playing for the Emerald Warriors RFC and have previously been a playing member of the club.

### **2. Player (New Member)**

This membership option applies to person(s) who intend on joining the Emerald Warriors RFC for the first time as players. Note that members or potential members may only avail of this membership option for one season.

### **3. Player (Student)**

This option is available to persons in full-time education. The education programme can be at any level as long as it is full-time. Proof of the full-time education programme must be submitted to the club's secretary by the person applying for this membership type and it must clearly confirm the full-time status of the course. Members and potential members in part-time education are excluded from this membership option.

### **4. Player (Unemployed)**

Players who are unemployed on a full-time basis for more than six weeks at the time of applying for membership can avail of this membership option. Persons who are working part-time, have retired, or are self-employed do not qualify for this membership type. Confirmation of unemployment status must be submitted at the time of application for membership and must take the form of letter from the Department of Social Protection or copy of receipt of unemployment benefit.

## 5. Pavilion

Pavilion membership involves full membership for non-playing members of the club. This membership option includes the same benefits of playing membership including voting rights with the exception of the entitlement to play for the club.

## 6. Pavilion (Student)

This membership option is available only to individuals who are in full-time education and do not wish to play for the club. To qualify, persons applying for pavilion (student) membership must provide confirmation of the full-time status of their course to the club's secretary at the time of making the application for membership. Members and potential members in part-time education are excluded from this membership option.

## 7. Pavilion (Unemployed)

Pavilion (unemployed) membership is available to persons who do not wish to play for the club and are unemployed on a full-time basis for more than six weeks at the time of applying for membership. Persons who are working part-time, have retired, or self-employed do not qualify for this membership type. Confirmation of unemployment status must be submitted at the time of application for membership and must take the form of letter from the Department of Social Protection or copy of receipt of unemployment benefit.

## 8. Honorary Life Member

A full description of honorary life membership is outlined in section 6.8 of the club's constitution. An honorary life member is "an ordinary member, who in the opinion of the Committee has rendered exceptional service to the Club, may be proposed by the Committee at an AGM for election as an Honorary Life Member". There is a requirement for honorary life members to ensure that consent forms and contact details retained by the club are up to date and this is to be completed at least once every five years.

## **DECISION MAKING**

With regards to the decision-making process on applications for various forms of membership, the Club's Committee reserves the final decision on all applications and approval of same. The Committee also reserves the right to approve evidence provided in relation to unemployment or student status which accompany applications for membership or renewal of membership.

## **REPRESENTING THE CLUB**

Only persons registered as members of the Club can represent the Emerald Warriors RFC in any official capacity. This includes playing on behalf of the Club at league level or at any other fixtures including the Hadrian Cup, Union Cup or the Bingham Cup. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and other fixtures may include events organised by any IGR affiliated teams.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

The club holds itself to the highest standards of data protection and commits to upholding the privacy of its members, in full adherence to the standards set out in the General Data Protection Legislation (GDPR). The club recognises the sensitive nature of information provided in relation to membership and membership applications, this information will be handled with sensitivity and care under the duty of the Club Secretary. For further information, please see the EW RFC Data Privacy and Protection Statement.