

Gayzelles: Governing Constitution

Article I: Name

1.1: Name

The name of the unincorporated association is Gayzelles Sporting Club (from here on referred to as “Gayzelles”).

1.2: Purpose

The purpose of Gayzelles is to provide a central hub for LGBTQ+ sports and recreation in South East London. We aim to:

1. **Foster Community:** Create a safe, inclusive, and visible space for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to connect through physical activity,
2. **Improve Access:** Develop and maintain a variety of local sports and recreation sub-groups – beginning with climbing and running – to ensure the local community has diverse options for staying active,
3. **Promote Wellbeing:** Support the physical and mental health of our members by removing barriers to participation in sports,
4. **Expand Local Provision:** Gradually introduce new sporting disciplines based on community demand, ensuring South East London is a well-serviced area for LGBTQ+ inclusive sports.

Article II: Membership

2.1 Eligibility

Membership is open to any person who:

1. Is an already active group member who has attended at least 3 events or activities organised by Gayzelles and is known to at least 1 member of the Management Committee,
2. Identifies as part of the LGBTQ+ community or is a committed ally,
3. Supports the purposes of Gayzelles,
4. Is aged 18 or over.

2.2 Membership Categories

The association may offer different tiers of membership to suit the community's needs:

1. **Full Member:** Entitled to attend all sessions, vote at General Meetings, and stand for Committee positions, subject to paying membership fee,

2. **Association Member:** Entitled to attend all sessions, but without voting rights and ability to stand for committee positions.

2.3 Application & Fees

1. Individuals become members upon completing a registration form,
2. The annual membership fee will be reviewed and agreed again yearly during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be payable by Full Members. This fee will go towards covering the administrative costs associated with running the club,
3. Full Membership will begin as soon as the registration form and annual payment has been received. The annual Association Membership fee from April 2026 to March 2027 is £5.00. A list of all Association Members will be kept by the Management Committee.

2.4 Code of Conduct

All members must abide by the **Gayzelles Code of Conduct**. This includes:

1. Respecting the diversity of all members regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or ability,
2. Adhering to the safety guidelines set out for specific activities (e.g., climbing safety protocols),
3. Acting in a way that does not bring the reputation of Gayzelles into disrepute.

2.5 Health & Liability

1. Members acknowledge that participation in sports and recreation involves inherent risks,
2. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure they are physically fit for the chosen activity,
3. Members participate at their own risk, and the association is not liable for personal injury or loss of property.

2.6 Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated if:

1. The member gives a written notice of resignation,
2. The member fails to pay dues for a period of 3 months,
3. The Committee determines (by a majority vote) that the member has seriously breached the Code of Conduct. The member has the right to appeal this decision at an Appeal meeting attended by at least 3 committee members,
4. Membership fee is non refundable.

Article III: The Committee

3.1 The Management Committee

The affairs of Gayzelles shall be managed by a Committee of at least three. This Committee is responsible for the day-to-day running of the association. Any of these roles may be filled by more than one person.

3.2 Officer Roles

The Committee must, at minimum, elect the following "Officers":

1. **President:** Presides over meetings and acts as the primary contact, looks after general planning and supervision of the group. Arrange quarterly committee meetings,
2. **Secretary:** Handles membership, records meeting notes (minutes), and handles correspondence,
3. **Treasurer:** Manages the bank account, tracks activity fees, and reports on the group's financial health.

3.3 Activity Leads

Optionally may appoint the following roles:

1. **Running Lead:** Responsible for mapping running routes, managing running programs, and ensuring run leaders are present for different pace groups.
2. **Climbing Lead:** Responsible for climbing sessions and verifying that members are following gym safety protocols,
3. **Hiking Lead:** Responsible for mapping routes and arranging the social venue.
4. **Trail/Long Run Lead:** Responsible for mapping routes and organising runs, ensuring run leaders are present for different pace groups and assisting with transportation planning where required,
5. **Sports Development Lead:** A dedicated role to scout for the next sport (e.g., swimming, football, or yoga). They gauge community interest and find local venues to partner with and support the lead for the new sport/activity.

3.4 Community & Growth Roles

1. **Communications & Social Media Officer:** Manages the communication channels that members of Gayzelles use. Their job is to make sure South East London's LGBTQ+ community knows who the Gayzelles are and what they do,
2. **Welfare & Inclusion Officer:** Acts as a point of contact if a member has a concern or a "safe space" issue. They ensure the club remains inclusive.

3.4 Powers of the Committee

The Committee has the power to:

1. Open and operate a bank account in the name of Gayzelles Sporting Club,
2. Apply for funding or grants,
3. Organise events, buy equipment, and manage social media,
4. Set "Standing Rules" (e.g., specific rules for the climbing group) without needing to change the whole Constitution,
5. Decisions made by the committee are made with a simple majority vote,
6. Ability to create a volunteer role (or subcommittee of volunteers) for an agreed purpose.

3.5 First Committee:

The initial Committee members shall be appointed by the founders. These individuals shall serve until the first AGM, at which point all positions will be vacated and subject to election by the membership.

Article IV: Elections & AGM

4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Once every calendar year, Gayzelles will hold an AGM. All Full Members are invited to:

1. Hear the annual report from the Chair,
2. Review the accounts from the Treasurer,
3. Elect the Committee for the following year,
4. Vote on constitution amendments.

4.2 Decision Making (Voting)

1. Every Full Member has one vote,
2. In the event of a tie, the Chair has a "casting vote" (the tie-breaker),
3. A "quorum" (the minimum number of people needed to make a vote legal) shall be 10% or 10 members.

Article V: Finance

5.1 Non-Profit Status

All funds and assets of Gayzelles shall be used solely to promote the purpose of the association as set out in Article I. No portion of the association's income or property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members of the association, except for the reimbursement of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses.

5.2 Bank Account

1. An account shall be maintained in the name of “**Gayzelles**” at a bank approved by the Committee.
2. All payments and transfers shall require the authorisation of at least **two** designated Committee members (usually the Treasurer and either the Chair or Secretary).

5.3 Financial Year

The financial year of the association shall run from 1st April to 31st March to align with standard UK tax and grant cycles.

5.4 Records and Reporting

1. The Treasurer shall keep proper records of all income and expenditure,
2. A financial report for the preceding year shall be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting,
3. The accounts shall be available for inspection by any Full Member upon reasonable notice.

5.5 Expenses

Committee members or volunteers may be reimbursed for pre-approved expenses incurred on behalf of Gayzelles (e.g., purchasing communal chalk for climbing or booking a running track). Receipts must be provided to the Treasurer.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of Gayzelles Sporting Club on:

Date: Sunday 10th May, 2026

Names, signatures and roles during this meeting:

Matthew Andersen, President

Daniel Brittle, Secretary

Dongshen Li, Treasurer

Pheng Taing, Co-secretary