**Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers**

Web Site: http://dorsetcountybellringers.webs.com/

Email: dcacbr@gmail.com

Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers
Bell Restoration Fund is a registered charity. Charity number 294239

# Rules of the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers

Version 5.3 (as amended on 13th June 2026)

1. Name and Composition. The Association shall be called the 'Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers' and shall consist of a patron, ringing members and honorary members.
2. Objects. The objects of the Association shall be to encourage and assist in the ringing for the services of the Church, to provide instruction for learners and advice where it is needed and to hold meetings for ringing and for social purposes.
3. Area of operation. The area of operation shall be within the County of Dorset.
4. The Association Committee. The Association will elect members to serve on a governing committee as follows:
   (a) To fulfil the following Officer roles and Responsibilities; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Ringing Master, Training Officer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Public Relations Officer, Web Master and Data Protection Officer
   (b) The permitted number of Central Council representatives (according to our membership numbers submitted to Central Council for that year).
   (c) As many Ringing and Training Support Officers as required (providing that rules 5(d) and 5(e) are not breached).
   (d) No person shall hold more than four of these officer roles/responsibilities.
   (e) The total number of members serving on the committee shall be limited to fourteen.
   (f) The committee members shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting (in accordance with the Association's Standing Orders) and shall hold office for the ensuing year.
   (g) Where a position is vacant the committee can co-opt a member to fulfil that position until the next Annual General Meeting (providing that rules 5(d) and 5(e) are not breached).
   (h) The committee shall meet at least once a year, to consider any matter connected with the Association.
5. Annual examination of accounts. The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet as at 31st December in each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which shall be examined by an Independent Examiner elected by members of the Association at their Annual General Meeting and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Association first held after 31st December in which the fund's accounts are prepared.
6. New Members. New members can join the Association by completing the required application form and payment of the appropriate subscription.
7. Subscriptions. Honorary members shall be exempt from all subscriptions and shall have no voting rights. Ringing members shall pay a life membership subscription (at a rate agreed at each Annual General Meeting).
   At practices and meetings of the Association there shall be a steepleage levy on each member present which shall be placed towards the expenses of the Association.

8. Meetings. At least three weeks' notice of meetings must be given to the members of the Association. If any matter affecting the interests of the Association should require urgent consideration an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by five members of the Committee or fifteen members of the Association by giving four weeks' notice to the Secretary who shall give at least three weeks' notice to the members of the Association. For all General Meetings (Annual or Extraordinary) members who can't attend in person will be given the option of voting electronically upon the main items of business.
9. Quorums for meetings. A quorum for a committee meeting shall be 40% of the committee membership and for an Annual/Extraordinary General Meeting ten.
10. Absence of officers. At any meeting or practice, in the absence of the appropriate officer, a member shall be elected to act in their place.
11. Finance. Such bank accounts as may be required shall be opened in the name of the association. The definition of Banks shall include any UK financial institution authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
12. Peal Fees. Any member ringing a peal for the Association shall pay a peal fee for each peal rung, and it shall be the duty of the conductor to collect the money due, and to pay the same to the treasurer. Peal Fees are to go to the Association Bell Restoration Fund.
13. Peal Records. It shall be the responsibility of the conductor to ensure all association peals are recorded upon The Ringing World's Peal Recording Website (called BellBoard at the last revision of these rules).
14. Alteration of rules. No alteration, addition or deletion of these rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting of the Association or an Extraordinary Meeting of the Association especially called for this purpose. Notice of any proposed alteration, addition or deletion shall be given to the Secretary of the Association at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary Meeting.