

SCOTTISH RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION (SRRA)



Justi et Aequi

GUIDE TO THE SRRA

MAY 2025

INTRODUCTION

This guide has been prepared in response to requests from members of the SRRA to better understand the purpose of the Association, structure and responsibilities.

The guide should be regarded as a starting point not an end. It is not possible in a document of this nature to cater for all of the miscellany of procedures and processes applicable to the SRRA. It is hoped though that the information is sufficient to provide a 'working' knowledge to those interested.

Hopefully it shall be of particular benefit to those 'new' to the role of SRRA Committee member. Members are encouraged to read the Constitution and to note that the SRRA Committee is responsible for the management and governance of the SRRA.

SRRA STATUS

The SRRA is an associated body and is a member of the Scottish Rugby Union and listed in the SRU Articles of Association. This is an important point to remember, as a member club the SRRA is able to vote at an SRU AGM. Referee Societies are not members of the Scottish Rugby Union and therefore have no voting rights. They can exercise a 'vote' in accordance with the SRRA Constitution at SRRA Committee meetings – more detail is included in the section covering Governance.

Equally important is the fact that the SRRA represents the Match Official (MO) community on a Scotland wide basis. With the exception of the Scottish Schools forum none of the other fora are Scotland wide. It is probably fair to say that the MO community is the largest operational unit serving Scottish Rugby.

PURPOSE

The SRRA is the association of all of Scotland's rugby match officials who are members of a rugby referee society and whose membership has been paid

The SRRA exists to represent the interests of all rugby match officials as expressed through their individual Referees' Societies.

The SRRA will work with Scottish Rugby and the Rugby Referees' Societies to further the recruitment, retention, development, training and all other matters concerning match officials in Scotland.

The SRRA does not exist to diminish the independence of Scotland's Rugby Referees' Societies or to encroach upon the affairs of the Rugby Referees' Societies.

SRRA GOVERNANCE

SRRA Committee

The Committee shall comprise:

- The current Chair or President of each Rugby Referees' Society, or his/her named representative;
- The then current SRRA Representative;
- One representative from each Rugby Referees' Society who shall be elected by that Rugby Referees' Society, or his/her named representative.
- The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

SRRA Forum

The SRRA Forum comprise the Chairs/Presidents of the Referee Societies and the representatives from each Referee Society. This was a determination made this year following an examination of the rules for the election of representatives to the Club Rugby Board (CRB). The rules state that 50% of forum members must vote in any election. Some fora are relatively small e.g. ten members and it was decided that in order to afford legitimacy to candidates seeking office then a minimum of 50% of members must participate in the vote – a not unreasonable stance. However, the SRRA Constitution calls for all members be given a free vote; if the 50% threshold was applied it wouldn't on past experience be possible to meet the 50% threshold and as such the SRRA would be unable to elect an SRRA Representative to the CRB. It was for this reason that the SRRA Forum was more strictly defined. Even so we continue to follow the Constitution and all members are afforded a free vote. Scottish Rugby was informed accordingly.

SRRA Committee Term

Each member of the Committee shall start their term following the appointment of officer bearers at the AGM and shall conclude at the time of the next appointment of office bearers at the following AGM.

The SRRA Representative shall serve on the Committee for the duration of their SRU Club Rugby Board term of office – three years.

Meetings of the SRRA Committee

The Committee shall meet at such times and places as is expedient for conducting the proper business of the SRRA at intervals of no more than two months at a time.

The quorum for each Committee Meeting shall be when at least the majority of Referees Societies actively engaged with the Association are represented.

The number of votes that can be cast during a Committee Term at Committee Meetings by each Committee voting member shall be determined by the number of SRRA members within each Rugby Referees' Society based on the following scale:

SRRA Members	Votes
1 -25 members	1 vote
26 -50 members	2 votes
51-100 members	3 votes
100+ members	4 votes

Any election, motion or proposal tabled at a Committee meeting shall be carried by a simple majority of weighted votes of Society representatives (or their nominated deputies) actually present (including virtually) at that Committee Meeting.

It is worth pointing out given that the maximum votes a society may have at its disposal is four that it is not possible for any one society to dominate the committee. Irrespective of the committee position an individual seeks to fill and irrespective of the parent society he/she belongs they will need votes from other societies to succeed in their endeavours.

GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SRRA

6.1 Annual General Meeting

All SRRA members shall be entitled to attend an AGM, to be held between 1 April and 31 May in each calendar year.

All SRRA members shall be given not less than 28 days' written notice of the date, time and location of each AGM. Such notice shall include any motions framed by the Committee to be voted on at the AGM and shall request that SRRA members lodge any motion they themselves wish to be voted on at the AGM.

The AGM shall receive and consider reports on the business of the SRRA during the year. The AGM will also receive and, if the meeting agrees, shall adopt the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 March.

The quorum for each AGM shall be the lesser of twenty SRRA members or ten percent of the SRRA total membership

6.2 Special General Meetings

An SRRA Special General Meeting (“a SGM”) may be requested at any time by any SRRA member. Such notice shall include any motions they wish to be voted on at the SGM. All timeframes for a SGM shall follow those defined for an AGM.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SRRA CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the Constitution can only be made through a motion at an AGM or SGM.

Amendments to the Constitution shall be carried by a two-thirds majority in favour of the amendment by those SRRA members actually present at the AGM or SGM using a show of hands, and also those members who have cast their votes by postal or electronic means.

It should be noted that motions cannot be amended at an AGM or SGM. Members may submit an amendment to a motion in advance if procedures permit. In such circumstances the amendment is voted upon first and if successful the original motion is discarded. In those circumstances where it is not possible to submit an amendment then the only option is to vote on the motion as it stands – two-thirds majority, motion carried; less than two-thirds, motion defeated.

ELECTION OF THE SRRA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SRU CLUB RUGBY BOARD

The SRRA Representative shall be elected for a three-year term with effect from the date of the SRU AGM immediately following the election.

In any year in which a SRRA Representative election is required, the Secretary shall send each eligible SRRA member one nomination form after 1 April in the relevant year.

If only one nomination for SRRA Representative is received, such nominee shall be declared elected as SRRA Representative on 1 May in the year in

question. The Secretary shall, via the Society secretaries, advise all SRRA members of the same in writing on the first working day following the 30th April.

If more than one competent nomination for SRRA Representative is received a ballot shall be conducted. The Secretary shall send notification and all nomination forms and accompanying documents to all Referees' Societies Secretaries for transmission to all eligible SRRA members. within their Society as soon as reasonably practicable. Votes must be returned, completed by eligible SRRA members, to the Secretary by May 28 in the relevant year. The candidate receiving most votes shall be declared elected and advised to the Referees' Societies as soon as reasonably practical thereafter

DISSOLUTION OF THE SRRA

The SRRA can only be dissolved through a motion at an AGM or SGM. A motion to dissolve the SRRA shall be carried by a two-thirds majority in favour of the motion by those SRRA members actually present at the AGM or SGM using a show of hands. Postal or electronic votes will be allowed in relation to such a motion.

DECISION MAKING

Criticism has been directed toward the SRRA, more accurately the SRRA Committee for failing to clearly articulate what it does and what it has achieved. It is probably fair to say that some criticism is warranted but there have been notable exceptions where the MO community has benefitted as a result of SRRA engagement. It does however require clear focus and co-operation – given referee societies are autonomous then it is at times challenging to create a sense of common purpose.

Perhaps more importantly is the fact that referee societies and the SRRA are often presented with complex and time consuming matters not readily understood or easily resolved with the associated resultant frustration. Looking to the future all parties may benefit from improved communication, better understanding of the issues and quicker determination of which matters are worth tackling and most importantly ensuring that energy and resources be channelled for the benefit of the match official community.