

Rule change proposals - Association

Rule 6 - Freemen

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
6	...on the recommendation of the Central Committee.	...on the recommendation of the Management Committee.	Terminology change. To prevent confusion between the Central Committee (CC) and the Central Council (CC or CCCBR) it is proposed to change the name of the Central Committee to the Management Committee. Every incidence of this change is outlined below and in the Branch Rules and BRF Rules.

Rule 7 - Membership

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
7(ii)(a)	Membership shall take effect from the end of the meeting.	Membership shall take effect immediately following the vote.	To allow the full benefits of membership to start during the meeting at which they are admitted which is also current general practice.
7(iv)(a), (b)x2, (e)x2, (f), (g) 7(v)(a), (b), (c), (e), (f)x2 7(vi)(a), (c)x2, (d)x2, (e)x2, (f)x2 7(vii)(b), (d)	...Standing Committee...	...Standing Sub-Committee...	Correcting naming error. In the recent rule change, the wrong name was used for the Standing Sub-Committee, so this is being corrected. This only affects Rule 7.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule 9 - Officers

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
9 (opening)	...members of the Management Committee...	...members of the Central Committee...	Terminology change.
9 (opening)	...of the Association.	...of the Association. Descriptions of the duties of the Officers shall be set and published by the Management Committee.	Confirms that duties of the Officers will be set and agreed by the Management Committee rather than including them in the rules. We already have role descriptions which are more detailed than the existing rules and this provides a more flexible approach to setting the duties.
9(i) Master duties	A Master, whose duties shall be to promote the interests of the Association, to control all ringing activities at General Meetings or gatherings of the Association (other than Branch meetings or functions) and to deal with such other matters as may be provided for in these rules or as may be directed by the Central Committee.	A Master.	Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.
9(ii) General Secretary	A General Secretary, who shall keep the minutes of all General Meetings of the Association and of Central Committee Meetings, issue notices of all General Meetings of the Association and of the Central Committee, and carry out such other duties as may be directed by the Central Committee.	A General Secretary.	Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
9(iii) Assistant General Secretary	An Assistant General Secretary, whose duties shall be to assist the General Secretary and to act as directed by the Central Committee..	An Assistant General Secretary.	Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.
9(iv) Treasurer	<p>A Treasurer, who shall receive monies on behalf of the Association, paying them into the Association’s banking account.</p> <p>Accounts shall be kept as the Central Committee shall require and all official expenses (other than Branch expenses) shall be paid in connection with the Association's activities. Association funds shall be invested on instructions from the Central Committee. All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer and the General Secretary or such other Officers authorised by the Central Committee. At the first meeting in each year of the Central Committee an examined statement of accounts made up to the previous 31st December shall be presented.</p>	A Treasurer.	<p>Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.</p> <p>Removes detail on cheques as this will move to the Expenditure Policy – see Rule 16.</p> <p>Other items from here on accounts move to Rule 12.</p>
9(vi) Peal Secretary	A Peal Secretary, who shall receive peal fees and record all peals rung for the Association.	A Peal Secretary.	Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
9(vii) Archivist	An Archivist, whose duties shall include:- a) Making arrangements for the safekeeping and insurance of the Association’s assets, comprising:- i) The records of the Association, its Branches and Committees. ii) The Association’s handbells. iii) Other artefacts and assets of the Association. b) Ensuring the maintenance, recording and storage of the assets, including acquisition and disposal of items as necessary. c) Promoting, overseeing and facilitating their use.	An Archivist.	Detail of role to be set out in role description as agreed by the Management Committee.

Rule 10 - Transfer of Duties

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
10	Newly elected Officers and Committee Members of the Association and its Branches shall normally assume their duties at the end of the meeting at which they are elected. Retiring Secretaries and Treasurers shall be allowed one month in which to complete and hand over their books to their successors.	Newly elected Officers and Committee Members of the Association and its Branches shall normally assume their duties at the end of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers leaving their role shall be allowed one month in which to complete and hand over their records to their successors.	Makes provision for all Officers who have records to transfer rather than just secretaries and treasurers. Changes books to records to reflect reality. Removes reference to retiring as Officers can leave a role in other ways; wording made more generic.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule 11 - Central Committee

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
11 - Title 11(i), (iii), (v), (vi), (vii), (ix)x4, (x)	...Central Committee...	...Management Committee...	Terminology change.
11(iii)	The Central Committee shall normally meet three times per year: in February, as soon after the Association Annual Meeting as practicable, and in November. Other meetings of the Central Committee may be called by the General Secretary after consultation with the Association Master and the Treasurer.	The Management Committee shall meet at least three times a year when required.	Removes specific requirements for number of and timing of meetings. There is still a requirement for at least three meetings a year but no upper limit, nor for meetings to be held at specified times. Note, other rules require there to be a meeting soon after the AGM and also before the AGM to agree the Report, Accounts, etc.
11(iv)	The General Secretary shall immediately call a meeting of the Central Committee if a request is sent to him/her signed by ten members of the Central Committee, specifying the proposed business to be transacted.	<Deleted>	No longer required. Additional meetings can just be requested if required.
11(v) onwards			Renumbered 11(iv), etc
11(v) (to become iv)	The Chairman at meetings of the Central Committee shall be the Association Master or if he/she is not present, the Members attending shall elect a Chairman for that meeting.	The Chair at meetings of the Management Committee shall be the Association Master or if they are not present, the Members attending shall elect a Chair for that meeting.	Making gender neutral

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
11(viii)	Any Member of the Central Committee shall have the right to bring business before it provided at least twenty one days notice is given to the General Secretary, who shall include such business verbatim in the agenda for the next meeting of the Central Committee.	<Deleted>	Our normal processes (as will be set out in the duties of the General Secretary) allows all Committee members to add items to the agenda so this removes the rigid and unnecessary timing requirement which are a hangover from the time before email.
11(x) (to become viii)	<p>All meetings of the Central Committee shall be open to Members of the Association as observers subject to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members of the Association shall give at least seven days notice to the General Secretary of their intention to be present as observers. b) The Central Committee shall have power to exclude observers during the discussion of matters which in its view raises issues of confidentiality. c) No Member of the Association who attends as an observer shall address, or take part in the business of, the Central Committee. 	All meetings of the Management Committee shall be open to Members of the Association as observers.	Removes the unnecessary detail around observers. An observer just observes.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
11(xi)	All members of the Central Committee except those under the age of eighteen or otherwise disqualified by law are Trustees of the Belfry Repairs Fund and need to be aware of their responsibilities as Charity Trustees.	<Deleted>	Duplicates the BRF rule so not needed here.

Rule 12 - Accountability

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
12 - Title	Accountability	Accounts and Accountability	Detail on accounts moved from Rule 9(iv) to here so title needs amending.
12(i)	N/A	The Treasurer shall keep such accounts as the Management Committee shall require. Association funds shall be invested on instructions from the Management Committee.	Moved from Rule 9(iv) and shortened into this form. References to receiving monies removed as little/no cash is received. References to expenditure removed as now covered in Rule 16.
12 (now 12(ii)) x4	...Central Committee...	...Management Committee...	Terminology change.
12 (iii)	N/A	The examined statement of accounts made up to the previous 31st December shall be presented to the Management Committee each year at a meeting prior to the AGM.	Moved from Rule 9(iv). Reference to the first meeting after 31 st December removed as this may not be possible due to the preparation of the accounts and the examination process so this form of wording is proposed.

Rule 13 - General Meetings

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
13(iii)	A nomination for the election of an Officer shall name the office in question and contain the signatures of a proposer and seconder and of the nominee. In the event that no nomination has been received for any office by the due date, nominations for that office may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.	Nominations for the election of Officers shall be sent to the General Secretary with the agreement of the proposer, seconder and of the nominee. In the event that no nomination has been received for any office by the due date, nominations for that office may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.	Allows nominations by email instead of just post and removes the need for a physical signatures so long as some form of confirmation is provided by all three parties.
13(vi)x2	... Chairman...	...Chair...	Gender neutral term
13(vii)	A Special General Meeting may be called by the Central Committee when deemed necessary. The General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting upon receipt of a written notice signed by fifty Ringing Members. The written notice shall specify the business to be transacted at the meeting. A Special General Meeting shall take place within six weeks of the date of the Notice to the General Secretary. The General Secretary shall give at least three weeks notice of a Special General Meeting, the arrangements for which shall be made by the Standing Sub-Committee.	A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee when deemed necessary.	Changes Central Committee to Management Committee. See also 13 (viii) and (ix).

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
13(viii)	N/A – separated from 13(vii)	The General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting upon receipt of a notice by fifty Ringing Members; such notice shall specify the business to be transacted at the meeting. A Special General Meeting shall take place within six weeks of the date of the notice to the General Secretary.	Separates out the method of calling a SGM by the members from that of calling one by the Management Committee. Allows members to call a Special General Meeting by email as well as by written petition.
13(ix)	N/A – separated from 13(vii)	The General Secretary shall give at least three weeks’ notice of a Special General Meeting, the arrangements for which shall be made by the Standing Sub-Committee.	Separating the administration of calling a SGM from the two ways one can be called. Added a missing apostrophe.

Rule 15 - Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
15(ii)	...Central Committee...	...Management Committee...	Terminology change.

Rule 16 - Expenses

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
16 (Title)	Expenses	Expenses and Expenditure	Rule to cover both expenses and expenditure of the Association.
16	<p>Travelling expenses shall be allowed to:-</p> <p>(i) Branch Masters and Branch Secretaries for travelling to their own Branch Business and Committee Meetings.</p> <p>(ii) The Account Examiners for attending the examination of the accounts.</p> <p>(iii) Central Council Representatives for attending meetings of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers including hotel expenses not exceeding two nights. This amount to be approved by the General Secretary prior to attendance.</p> <p>(iv) All other Members of the Central Committee for attending Central Committee Meetings.</p>	<Deleted>.	Specific detail on travelling expenses to be removed and covered in an Expenditure Policy to be agreed by the Management Committee. See Rule 16(i) to (v) for further detail.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
16(i)	N/A	<p>Delegation of Authority</p> <p>The Association delegates to the Management Committee the authority to establish, maintain, and amend an Expenditure Policy governing the approval, payment, and/or reimbursement of all Association expenses and expenditure.</p>	<p>Our rules current cover some types of expenses (i.e. travel) but not others and make some provision for payments by cheque but are silent on electronic expenditure whilst assuming the treasure handles cash. This proposal is to remove any detail on dealing with expenditure and expenses from the rules and delegate this responsibility to the Management Committee, who will set and maintain an Expenditure Policy. This will cover how payments are approved, and actually paid or reimbursed.</p>

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
16(ii)	N/A	<p>Scope of the Policy</p> <p>The Expenditure Policy must set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the categories and types of expenditure that may be incurred on behalf of the Association (whether by the Association or its Branches); • the individuals or roles authorised to incur expenditure; • the levels of authority required for approving expenditure, including any requirements for joint approval; • the procedures for submitting, approving, and reimbursing expenses; • any financial limits, thresholds, or restrictions that apply; • the documentation and evidence required to support claims for payment. 	<p>Sets out the scope of the Expenditure Policy so it is clear what must be covered within it whilst leaving the detail to be agreement and kept up to date by the Management Committee.</p> <p>Hopefully self explanatory.</p>
16(iii)	N/A	<p>Annual Review and Approval</p> <p>The Management Committee must review and agree the Expenditure Policy at least once every calendar year. The Management Committee will liaise with the Branches so far as the Expenditure Policy considers Branch matters.</p>	<p>Requires the annual maintenance of the Expenditure Policy.</p> <p>Ensures that the Branches are consulted on their expenditure (mainly as although they are represented on the Management Committee, some Branch Officers, such as the Treasurer, are not on the MC.</p>

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
16(iv)	N/A	<p>Publication and Member Access</p> <p>The current Expenditure Policy must be made available to all members.</p>	<p>Ensures all members can view the Expenditure Policy. This is likely to be on the website but it may be sent out by email or in another form.</p>
16(v)	N/A	<p>Compliance</p> <p>All members acting on behalf of the Association must comply with the Expenditure Policy. No expenses may be paid or reimbursed unless they are authorised in accordance with the Policy.</p>	<p>Confirms that Expenditure Policy will apply to all Expenditure and Expenses incurred by members.</p>

Rule 17 - Belfry Advisory Panel

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
17 x3	<p>The Central Committee shall have the power to appoint annually, at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, a Panel of Advisors headed by a Convenor. The Panel shall consist of members who in the Central Committee's opinion are competent to advise on all matters connected with rings of bells and to advise Church Authorities if so requested. All activities of the Panel shall be reported upon by the Convenor to the Central Committee.</p> <p>The expenses of the Panel shall be payable by the Authorities or others seeking such advice, unless the Parochial Church Council is affiliated to the Belfry Repairs Fund, in which case their expenses shall be met by the Fund.</p>	<p>The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint a Panel of Advisors headed by a Convenor. The Panel shall consist of members who in the Management Committee's opinion are competent to advise on all matters connected with rings of bells and to advise Church Authorities if so requested. All activities of the Panel shall be reported upon by the Convenor to the Management Committee.</p>	<p>Changes Central Committee to Management Committee x3.</p> <p>Removes the requirement to appoint the Convenor and Panel at the first meeting after the AGM. The Management Committee will be able to consider the panel convenor and members throughout the year. We would expect these to be confirmed during the course of each year.</p> <p>Detail on expenses removed. The Association rules should not dictate the expenses of the BRF (so this should be in the BRF rules if that is the right answer) and it was felt that if these should be covered by the Association, then the Expenditure Policy can set this out.</p>

Rule 18 - Peals

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
18(iii)	...he/she...	...they...	Gender neutral term.

Rule 19 - Safeguarding Contact

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
19 x3	...Central Committee...	...Management Committee...	Terminology change.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule 20 - Annual Report Editor

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
20	The Central Committee shall have the power to appoint annually, at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, an Annual Report Editor. The Annual Report Editor shall be a member who, in the Central Committee’s opinion, is competent to advise on all matters relating to the Association Annual Report. All activities of the Annual Report Editor shall be reported to the Central Committee, which shall have final approval over all content and costs associated with the production of the Annual Report.	The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint an Annual Report Editor.	Changes Central Committee to Management Committee. Detail of the role removed as to be covered by role description and Expenditure Policy.

Rule 21 - Dissolution

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
21	N/A – New rule	Upon dissolution of the Association and after all debts have been settled, any remaining assets shall be shared variously between the County Archive (records and physical assets only), other bellringing societies, charities with similar objects, or relevant Dioceses.	New rule to cover what happens to the assets of the Association if it were to be dissolved.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Association Rules

Rule 21 - Alteration of Rules

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
21	<Unchanged>	<Unchanged>	Rule 21 becomes Rule 22 following the insertion of new Rule 21 (Dissolution).