

Rule change proposals - Branch

Rule 1 - Branch Officers

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
1(i) x 2	...Chairman...	...Chair...	Gender neutral terminology.
1(i)(a)	He/she shall...	They shall...	Gender neutral terminology.
1(i)(d)	A Treasurer whose duties shall be to collect the subscriptions of all members in the Branch, pay official expenses connected with Branch meetings, to ensure that the accounts are up to date and at the end of each year, to send the same, together with the balance of monies received, to the General Treasurer.	A Treasurer whose duties shall be to collect the subscriptions of all members in the Branch, manage official expenses in accordance with the Expenditure Policy as per Association Rule 16, to ensure that the accounts are up to date and at the end of each year, to send the same, together with the balance of monies received, to the Association Treasurer.	Change to reflect the Expenditure Policy in Association Rule 16. As the Association Treasurer will generally make all payments (Branch Treasurers no longer dealing in physical cash), the term 'pay' is changed to 'manage'. General Treasurer changed to Association Treasurer for clarity.

Rule 2 - Transfer of Duties

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
2	Newly elected Officers and Committee Members of the Association and its Branches shall 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.	<Deleted>	This duplicates Association Rule 10, which already covers Branches so can be removed with no change of effect.

Rule 3 - Branch Committee

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
3	...Chairman...	...Chair...	Gender neutral terminology.
3 (fourth para onwards)	<p>All meetings of Branch Committees shall be open to members of the Association registered by name as Ringing Members within the Branch in question, subject as follows:</p> <p>a) A Ringing Member within the Branch shall give reasonable notice to the Branch Secretary of his or her intention to attend the next meeting of the Branch Committee as an observer and the Branch Secretary shall thereupon inform such Ringing Members of the date and time of the forthcoming Branch Committee meeting and reasonable accommodation for the attendance of observers at such meetings shall be provided.</p> <p>b) The Branch Committee shall have power to exclude observers during the discussion of a matter which in its view raises an issue of confidentiality.</p> <p>c) No member of the Association who attends a meeting of a Branch Committee as an observer shall address or take part in the business of the Branch Committee.</p>	<p>All meetings of Branch Committees shall be open to members of the Association registered by name as Ringing Members within the Branch in question, as observers.</p>	<p>Simplifies the rule. Branch Committee meetings are open to observers who can observe.</p>

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - Branch Rules

Rule 4 - Ringing Stewards

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
4	Branch Committees may nominate for election at a Branch Meeting such number of Ringing Stewards as the Branch Committee deems necessary, such Ringing Stewards to retire at the following Branch Annual Meeting. The duties of the Ringing Stewards will be to assist the Branch Ringing Master in the co-ordination of ringing and instruction in the Branch, and such Stewards shall be under the direction of the Branch Ringing Master.	<Deleted>	Role no longer used so can be deleted.

Rule 5 - Branch Meetings

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
5(i)	Three Business meetings of each Branch shall be held in the year, at which new members shall be elected in accordance with Association Rules and any other necessary Branch business transacted. The last meeting in each year shall be the Branch Annual Meeting at which the Officers of the Branch shall be elected. Practices may be arranged as desired.	At least one Business meeting of each Branch shall be held in the year, at which new members shall be elected in accordance with Association Rules and any other necessary Branch business transacted if required. One meeting in each year shall be the Branch Annual Meeting at which the Officers of the Branch shall be elected.	Reduces the minimum requirement for meetings from 3 to 1. The AGM can be any meeting within the year, so need not be the last one. Meetings need not include any other business than the election of members; allows a quick meeting at a practice for electing new members. Arrangement of practices need not be stipulated in the rules.

Note - As Rules 2 and 4 are to be deleted, Rule 3 becomes Rule 2, and Rules 5 and 6 becomes Rules 3 and 4 respectively.