

## **Comparison: LMSC Constitution 2019 vs 2026 (v1.3, updated)**

### **Overall Structure**

The 2026 version is longer and more detailed than the slim 3-page 2019 document. This is intentional and helps members to better understand the purpose and intent of each part of the document. It introduces formal sections, an Addenda, and a committee membership nomination form. The 2026 version separates the core constitution (requiring AGM/EGM approval to change) from the Addenda (which the committee can amend independently).

### **Purpose & Title**

The 2019 version simply aimed to “further the sports” of hang gliding and paragliding. The 2026 version reframes the purpose around ‘member interests and site guardianship’, explicitly referencing site sovereignty and the BHPA site database. Inclusivity language (gender, ethnicity, neurodiversity etc.) is new. The addenda to the constitution starts with a club mission statement that can be reviewed and reframed by each new committee.

### **Membership**

The 2019 constitution had broader membership classes including non-flying and joint/family membership. The 2026 version replaces these with a more structured set: Flying, Training, Honorary and Life membership. Key changes include:

‘*Training members*’ are a new defined class, explicitly limited in voting rights until they achieve CP rating

‘*Joint/family* and *non-flying* membership’ have been removed

‘*Honorary membership*’ is clarified and now explicitly linked to the Club President role

The minimum membership age is now 18, placed in the Addenda so the committee can adjust it without a general meeting. Setting it at 18 means all members are legally adults under UK law, which removes the club’s obligation to have formal safeguarding policies and procedures in place for members.

BHPA membership is now an explicit condition of club membership — lapsing BHPA membership automatically ends club membership

A 30-day duration of prior membership rule for voting eligibility is new and clearly defined

## **Membership Subscriptions & Fees**

The 2019 version was brief on this. The 2026 version explicitly states that committee members have their subscription waived and adds a special resolution requirement for fee increases of more than 20% in any single year.

## **Misconduct & Complaints**

The 2019 constitution simply said issues would be “formally communicated” and allowed a 28-day appeal. The 2026 version introduces a formal four-stage Sanction Process (Informal Warning → Formal Warning → Membership Suspension → Permanent Exclusion) with defined durations and escalation criteria. A separate Complaints section establishes a structured investigation process using three uninvolved elected committee members, with one recusing themselves to manage any appeal.

## **Committee Structure & Governance**

This is where the most significant changes lie:

The 2019 quorum was a straightforward 60% of committee. The 2026 version introduces a more nuanced quorum of 5 elected members with at least one senior officer present. It also introduces *special resolutions* requiring a two-thirds majority (minimum 7 members) for significant decisions such as constitutional changes, spending over 25% of assets or £5,000, and structural changes to the Club.

- The 2026 version explicitly lists 11 named committee roles and clarifies that the Safety Officer and Chief Coach are appointed rather than elected
- Conflict of interest rules are significantly expanded, now requiring declaration on nomination forms
- The 2019 version allowed proxy voting with 7 days' notice. The 2026 version removes proxy voting when online facilities are available, and adds detail on how online attendees participate
- The 2026 version introduces a ‘*Resignation Between General Meetings*’ section, clarifying how vacated roles are covered
- Committee member attendance obligations are formalised — poor attendance must now be declared on re-election nomination papers
- The election process is greatly expanded, introducing secret ballots, approval voting options, a 3-minute candidate speech allowance, and a 6-month minimum membership requirement for proposers/seconders

## **Accounts**

The 2019 version required a formal annual audit by a nominated person. The 2026 version softens this to an *informal audit* by a competent person nominated by the Treasurer. It also introduces the option of a savings/contingency account.

## **EGMs**

The 2019 version was silent on member-initiated EGMs. The 2026 version allows members to call one with support from 20% of current club members or 10 members (whichever is greater), in writing.

## **Dissolution**

The 2026 version adds a 30-day notice requirement before any dissolution vote can be held. The destination of assets upon dissolution is also clarified—to a neighbouring club or to the BHPA.

## **The Addenda (New in 2026)**

The Addenda contains items the committee can amend without member approval, including the Club Mission Statement, the minimum membership age (now 18), detailed committee role responsibilities, AGM procedures, the election process, the nomination form, and club communications policy.

This two-tier structure gives the committee operational flexibility while keeping core constitutional principles protected by member vote.