Comparison of the existing Constitution (as amended in 2019) with the new Constitution to be proposed at the 2026 AGM.

Article 1		
CURRENT The Club shall be called "Mullingar Harriers and Athletic Club".	1	**PROPOSED** The Club shall be called "Mullingar Harriers and Athletic Club".
Rationale: No change.		
Article 2		
CURRENT The Club shall be affiliated to the Athletic Association of Ireland.	2	**PROPOSED** The Club shall be affiliated to the Athletic Association of Ireland and Athletics Leinster.
Rationale: Addition of Athletics Leinster.		
Article 3		
CURRENT The main object of the Club is to promote and encourage the sport of Athletics. It shall be non-political, non-sectarian, non-racist and non-discriminatory.	3	**PROPOSED** The main object of the Club is to promote and encourage the sport of Athletics. It shall be non-political, non-sectarian, non-racist and non-discriminatory. Not limited to, but primarily through the field of Athletics the Club shall endeavour to promote the welfare of the community.
Rationale: Addition to include promotion of welfare of the community.		
Article 4		
	4	**PROPOSED** The main Club premises will be located at The Athletics Grounds**,** Grange, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 FV50.
Rationale: New article to include address.		
Article 5		

CURRENT The Club colours will be maroon with a white band. Club colours must be worn when representing the Club in open competition.	5	**PROPOSED** The Club colours will be maroon with a white band. Club colours must be worn when representing the Club in National Championships, Provincial Championships, and open competition with the exception of endurance events longer than 10km where weather conditions may warrant appropriate alternatives.
Rationale: Addition of Championship events Addition of exception for longer endurance open competitions.		
Article 6		
CURRENT The Club shall consist of the following classes: (a) Adult members, (b) Senior and Masters Athletes, (c) Junior Athletes (i.e. under 19 and under 20) (d) Juvenile athletes (under 18 and younger, who will be non-voting members of the Club)	6	**PROPOSED** The Club shall consist of the following classes: (a) Adult members including Life Vice-Presidents. (b) Senior and Masters Athletes. (c) Athletes Under 20, including U19. (d) Juvenile athletes (under 18 and younger, who will be non-voting members of the Club).
Rationale: Addition of Life Vice-President, and re-naming Junior to under 20.		
Article 7		
CURRENT Membership shall be determined by the completion of a membership application form and, on payment of an appropriate subscription, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting. The acceptance to membership, application or the renewal of membership shall be at the discretion of the Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Committee. Renewal of membership shall date from the first day of January and membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if the subscription is not paid within two calendar months.	7	**PROPOSED** Membership shall be determined by the completion and acceptance by the Treasurer of a membership application form *(either hard or soft copy)* and on payment of an appropriate subscription, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. The fee set by the Executive Committee shall be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting. The acceptance to membership, application or the renewal of membership shall be at the discretion of the Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Committee. Renewal of membership shall date from the first day of January and membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if the subscription is not paid within three calendar months.
Rationale:		

Consolidation of previous Articles 7, 8 and 9 into a new Article 7.
Addition of ratification of annual fees set by the Executive Committee at the next AGM.
Extension of time to renew annual membership from 2 months to 3 months.

Article 8

CURRENT	8	**PROPOSED**
No change shall be made in these rules except by agreement of a two-thirds majority of members attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Written notice of Motion, signed by the Proposer and Seconder, shall be given to the Secretary at least two weeks before such meeting and the Secretary shall inform each member entitled to vote of the Proposal.		No change shall be made to these rules except by agreement of a two-thirds majority of members attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Written notice of Motion by email or in hard copy, signed by the Proposer and Seconder, shall be given to the Secretary at least two weeks before such meeting and the Secretary shall inform each member entitled to vote of the Proposal. The notice of motion shall be posted on the official club notice board in the clubhouse and or emailed to the paid-up members not later than 10 days before the AGM.

Rationale:
Addition of submission of motions allowed by email
Addition of publication of motions on notice board and / or email to members.

Article 9

CURRENT	9	**PROPOSED**
The administration of the Club shall be in the hands of a President and Executive Committee consisting of a Vice-President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Elected Committee (up to 10), all of whom shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Club (up to a maximum of 18). Should there be 2 or more candidates for any position, then the selection of same shall be decided by election (see Article 11 below). In reaching these totals (maximum 10 ordinary Committee members, maximum 18 in total on Executive Committee), gender balance is desirable, where practicable. No officer shall hold more than 2 positions in any year. No officer shall hold the same position for		The administration of the Club shall be in the hands of a President who shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting and an Executive Committee consisting of a Vice-President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Elected Committee, all of whom shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. The committee's overall number shall be a minimum of 12 in so far as is practicably possible and not more than 20 in total. Should there be 2 or more candidates for any position, then the selection of same shall be decided by election among those paid-up members present who are over 18 and in good standing with the club. The club will strive to achieve gender balance that complies with the current guidelines issued by Sports Ireland.

more than 7 years in any 12 year period. No more than 2 members of the same family may hold the position of officer in any one year.		No officer shall hold more than 2 positions in any year. No officer shall hold the same position for more than 7 years in any 12 year period. No more than 2 members of the same family may hold the position of officer in any one year. A person must be present or at least have confirmed in writing by email or letter to the Chair and or the Secretary in advance, that they are willing to take up a role as an officer or committee member that they are nominated for at the AGM. ***NOTE:*** The role of club officers and club captains are set out in **appendix 1** to the constitution document. Appendix 1 is separate to the constitution and may be amended by the Executive Committee in line with best practice as applied by member clubs of the Athletic Association of Ireland.
Rationale: Consolidation of previous Articles 10 and 25. Addition of the minimum and maximum size of the Executive Committee. Roles of Officers and Club captains added as an Appendix.		
Article 10		
CURRENT The Club shall elect annually at the Annual General Meeting: (i) Four Trustees who shall have been members of the Club for at least five years. The Trustees shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee and shall not serve for more than ten consecutive years. Under the direction of the Executive Committee they shall be authorised to be the agents of the Club in respect of all Capital contracts, commitments and charges. Consequent to this direction at least three signatories shall be required for the completion of same. Such authorisation shall require an 80% majority vote of the Executive Committee (excluding *ex-officio* members). (ii) Up to 3 Child Officers in accordance with the *"Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland"*. These Child	10	**PROPOSED** The Club shall elect annually at the Annual General Meeting: (i) Five Trustees who shall have been members of the Club for at least five years. The Trustees shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee and shall not serve for more than seven consecutive years. Under the direction of the Executive Committee, they shall be authorised to be the agents of the Club in respect of all Capital contracts, commitments, and charges. Consequent to this direction at least three signatories shall be required for the completion of same. Such authorisation shall require an 80% majority vote of the Executive Committee (excluding *ex-officio* members). (ii) Club captains, one female and one male, shall be nominated at the AGM. These are non-executive roles within the club. The club captains will be invited to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee. (iii) Likewise, there shall be nominated up to 3 Children's Officers in accordance with the "*Code of Ethics and Good Practice for*

officers shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may appoint Honorary Life Vice-Presidents by a 75% majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. These Honorary Life Vice-Presidents shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee.		*Children in Athletics*". These Children's Officers shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee. In the absence of a Child Officer, the Club Chair shall fulfil the role while seeking a qualified Child Officer. (iv) The Executive Committee may propose the appointment of Honorary Life Vice-Presidents by a 75% majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. These Honorary Life Vice-Presidents shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee.
Rationale: Consolidation and expansion of previous Articles 10 and 26. Number of trustees increased from 4 to 5, to serve a maximum term of 7 years, a reduction from 10. Club Captains to be nominated at the AGM. Executive Committee to propose appointment of Honorary Life Vice-Presidents to AGM.		
Article 11		
CURRENT The Annual General Meeting shall take place in the month of January each year or as soon as practicable thereafter, and shall be conducted by the Chair or Vice-chair, or in their absence a person nominated by the members present. The Chair, or their nominee, shall preside at other general meetings of the Club, which may be called from time to time, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.		**PROPOSED** The Annual General Meeting shall take place in the month of January each year or as soon as practicable thereafter and shall be conducted by the Chair or Vice-chair, or in their absence a person nominated by the members present. The Chair, or their nominee, shall preside at other general meetings of the Club, which may be called from time to time, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
Rationale: No change to text. Re-numbering		
Article 12		
CURRENT Notice of an impending Annual General Meeting shall be published in the local press.		**PROPOSED** Notice of an impending Annual General Meeting shall be published in the local press and prominently on the club website and social media platforms not later than three weeks before the date of the AGM.
Rationale: Addition of publication of notice of AGM to include website and social media and setting a time. Re-numbering.		
Article 13		

CURRENT An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called if requested by two-thirds of the members and/or three quarters of the Executive present in a notified meeting		**PROPOSED** An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by: (A) not less than 50 signatures of paid-up members, in writing, stating the purpose of such a meeting, and lodged with the secretary. OR (B) by not less than 75% of the Executive Committee attending a notified committee meeting. The purpose of such an EGM to be committed to writing at that committee meeting. An EGM shall be held not later than 28 days from the date of such request being officially completed. No other business outside of that specified in the notice for the EGM shall be transacted at an EGM.
Rationale: Change to the mechanism to call an EGM. Time limit to hold EGM and business of EGM limited to that specified in the notice. Re-numbering		
Article 14		
CURRENT The Executive Committee shall have power to establish rules and regulations for the ordering of their business, and also to establish any such as they think fitting for the proper regulation of the affairs of the Club.		**PROPOSED** The Executive Committee shall have power to establish rules and regulations for the ordering of their business, and to establish any such as they think fitting for the proper regulation of the affairs of the Club.
Rationale: No change to text. Re-numbering.		
Article 15		
CURRENT A Quorum for ordinary Club Executive meetings shall be 50% plus 1 of the elected Committee (excluding *ex-officio* members). The Quorum for an ordinary Club Executive meeting which gives a Trustee authorization shall be 75% plus 1 and for the Executive Committee to give such authorization to the Trustees then 80% rounded up to the nearest whole number (excluding *ex-officio* members) must be in agreement.		**PROPOSED** A Quorum for ordinary Club Executive meetings shall be 50% plus 1 of the elected Committee (excluding *ex-officio* members). The Quorum for an ordinary Club Executive meeting which gives a Trustee authorisation shall be 75% plus 1 and for the Executive Committee to give such authorisation to the Trustees then 75% rounded up to the nearest whole number (excluding *ex-officio* members) must be in agreement.

Rationale: Change in Trustee authorisation. Re-numbering.		
Article 16		
CURRENT The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint other officers and sub-committees for special purposes. Such officers and sub-committees must act as directed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power of co-option to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.		**PROPOSED** The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees for special purposes as determined by the Executive Committee. Such sub-committees will be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee and must act as directed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power of co-option to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
Rationale: Consolidation of previous Articles 16 and 17. Sub-committees to be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee.		
Article 17		
CURRENT The Committee shall have the power to appoint and dismiss staff and to decide the remuneration and functions of such staff.		**PROPOSED** The Committee shall have the power to appoint and dismiss staff and to decide the remuneration and functions of such staff.
Rationale: No change to text. Re-numbering.		
Article 18		
CURRENT The Club shall be supportive of the policies and regulations of the Athletic Association of Ireland and the Irish Sports Council.		**PROPOSED** The Club shall be supportive of the policies and regulations of the Athletic Association of Ireland and Sports Ireland and/or their named equivalent bodies.
Rationale: Change of name from Irish Sports Council to Sport Ireland. Re-numbering.		
Article 19		
CURRENT		**PROPOSED**

Copy of Club Constitution and rules and regulations shall be publicly available.		Copy of the Club Constitution and rules and regulations shall be placed on the official notice board in the clubhouse. The secretary shall retain a copy of the club constitution and rules and regulations which shall be made available to any paid-up member on request.
Rationale: Copy of Constitution, Rules & Regulations placed on notice board in Clubhouse, and a copy made available to paid-up members, on request. Re-numbering.		
Article 20		
CURRENT The Executive Committee shall have full power to discipline, as they deem necessary, any member who brings themselves or the Club or the sport into disrepute. Such discipline shall be subject to the rules, sanctions and guidelines of the Athletic Association of Ireland, the Irish Sports Council and the International Association of Athletics Federations. Such member shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Committee, who may put an arbitration process in place should it be deemed necessary.		**PROPOSED** The Executive Committee shall have full power to discipline, as they deem necessary, any member who brings themselves or the Club or the sport into disrepute. Such discipline procedures shall be subject to the rules, sanctions and guidelines of the Athletic Association of Ireland, Sports Ireland, and the International Association of Athletics Federations *(otherwise known as World Athletics)*. Such member shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Committee, who may put a mediation process in place should it be deemed necessary. ***NOTE:*** The disciplinary procedures are set out in **appendix 2** to the constitution document. Appendix 2 is separate to the constitution and may be amended by the Executive Committee in line with best practice as applied by member clubs of the Athletic Association of Ireland.
Rationale: Re-naming Irish Sport Council to Sport Ireland and reference to World Athletics. Addition of a mediation process. Addition of Disciplinary Procedure as Appendix. Re-numbering.		
Article 21		
		PROPOSED A grievance of a member shall be dealt with subject to the rules, sanctions and guidelines of the Athletic Association of Ireland, Sports Ireland, and the International Association of Athletics Federations *(otherwise known as World Athletics)*. Such member shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Committee, who may put a mediation process in place should it be deemed necessary.

		NOTE: The grievance procedures are set out in **appendix 2** to the constitution document. Appendix 3 is separate to the constitution and may be amended by the Executive Committee in line with best practice as applied by member clubs of the Athletic Association of Ireland.
Rationale: New Article to provide a Grievance Procedure.		
Article 22		
CURRENT The Executive Committee shall operate a bank account to which all monies received and issued on behalf of the Club shall be credited and debited. All decisions with regard to the raising and expenditure of funds shall be made by resolution of the Executive Committee. All financial surpluses and gains shall be used for the benefit of the community, especially in the field of athletics. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the main		**PROPOSED** The Executive Committee shall operate a bank account in the Name of the Club to which all monies received and issued on behalf of the Club shall be credited and debited. All decisions regarding the raising and expenditure of funds shall be made by resolution of the Executive Committee, with derogation to the Treasurer for the payment of ongoing expenses associated with membership of AAI, competition entry fees, and day to day running expenses of the club, subject to all such matters being presented and recorded at the subsequent Club Committee meeting. All material payments made shall be in strict adherence with standard accepted financial and accounting security measures in common practice at that time. The Executive Committee, with the approval of the Trustees, may invest funds surplus to both current revenue expenditure requirements and in addition surplus to Current Liabilities in low-risk investments by means of Financial Institutions registered with the Central Bank of Ireland (e.g. Deposit/Savings Accounts covered by the Government Guarantee Scheme) OR by the Irish Government itself or its agents (e.g. Government Certificates / Bonds – including Prize Bonds). All such Accounts and Investments shall be in the name of the Club. Any individuals needing to be named with or in conjunction with said accounts/investments (e.g. for postal address purposes etc.) shall sign a written statement disclaiming any claim by them or their estate to said funds. Copies of such disclaimer statement(s) shall be retained by the Club officers and Trustees. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the main

object(s) as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the Club's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the Club. No officer shall be appointed to any office of the Club paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of: a) Reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the Club (not being an officer) for any services rendered to the Club; b) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by an officer or other members of the Club to the Club; c) Reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Club (including any officer) to the Club; d) Reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club; and e) Fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.		object(s) as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the Club's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the Club. No officer shall be appointed to any office of the Club paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of: a) Reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the Club (not being an officer) for any services rendered to the Club. b) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by an officer or other members of the Club to the Club. c) Reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Club (including any officer) to the Club. d) Reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club; and e) Fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.
Rationale: Consolidation of previous Articles 15 and part of Article 4. Bank account to be in the name of the Club. Routine payments delegated to the Treasurer. Adherence to accepted accounting and financial security measures. Investment of surplus funds.		
Article 23		
CURRENT If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Club. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under or		**PROPOSED** If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Club. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under or by

by virtue of the Income and Property clause hereof. Members of the Club shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.		virtue of the Income and Property clause hereof. Members of the Club shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.
Rationale: No change to text. Consolidation of part of previous Article 4.		
Article 24		
CURRENT No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the provisions of the main object clause, the income and property clause, the winding up clause, the keeping of accounts clause or this clause of the Constitution for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners. Where requested by the Revenue Commissioners, accounts will be audited.		**PROPOSED** No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the provisions of the main object clause, the income and property clause, the winding up clause, the keeping of accounts clause or this clause of the Constitution for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners. Where requested by the Revenue Commissioners, accounts will be audited.
Rationale: No change to text. Consolidation of part of previous Article 4.		