



Eastbourne Bonfire Society Limited

Rules



We are part of the long tradition of Bonfire in Sussex and in Eastbourne. As newcomers, the reformed Eastbourne Society is proud of this heritage and intends to maintain high standards. To this end we have definite expectations of our Members and visitors.

Application for Membership of the Society includes an undertaking to adhere to these Rules, as amended from time to time by the Committee of the Society in accordance with the Constitution of the Society.

Contravention of these rules will lead to immediate exclusion from any procession, and may be followed by implementation of the Societies disciplinary procedures.

1. Processions

- 1.1. Only Members of the Society, or Members of other recognised Societies who have been invited by an Officer of the Society, may walk with us. Members must not invite their friends to join in without first asking an Officer. The Society will not accept responsibility for people marching with us who are not members of the Society.
- 1.2. Whenever in a procession with the Society, we will walk in orderly ranks of three, (one on each side of the road, and one in the middle), unless otherwise decided on the Grounds of Safety by the Captain of Marshals. This not only presents the Society at its best but also allows space for easy movement of marshals, torch runners and other officials.
- 1.3. The Marshals, under the leadership of the Captain of Marshals, will organise the forming of the ranks of the procession and maintain them throughout. Members who disregard the instructions of a Marshal will be considered to be in contravention of these Rules.
- 1.4. An adult, that is a person of eighteen years or older, will be responsible for carrying the Society Banner

2. Torches

- 2.1. Flaming torches are an important and spectacular part of the procession. You will be supplied with a torch at the beginning of the procession.
- 2.2. Your torch should be kept with you, and not handed on to anybody else. Under no circumstances must torches be given to Members of the public.
- 2.3. DO NOT light up until instructed to do so. Once you have a lighted torch then use it until it is spent. Only when a torch is spent may it be discarded into the gutter for collection. If quench tanks are provided then Marshals will control them, and may accept unextinguished torches for quenching. DO NOT throw lighted torches into the gutter unless they are dangerous to continue carrying.
- 2.4. Take care to avoid mini-bonfires, and do not drop torches where there are large numbers of spectators, or near parked cars. Torches should be carried upright and above head height. They must not be carried in such a manner that they are likely to cause damage to other Members, spectators, buildings or property.
- 2.5. Torches must not be swung around. Take care with torches when near to banners.
- 2.6. Torches being carried under the provision of these rules by children must be passed to an adult for correct disposal. The child is not expected to be responsible for this.
- 2.7. Torches distributed to children by their parent or other responsible adult (all of whom are Members) may be required to be surrendered to an official of the Society at the discretion of that official or other authorised individual.

2.8. Under No circumstances must ANYBODY go ANYWHERE near private property, adjoining but not part of the route, with a torch whether lighted or not. Offenders will have the torch confiscated and may be subject to Society disciplinary proceedings.

2.9. Where so provided for, all Members will throw their torches onto the bonfire together. DO NOT throw torches onto the bonfire until the signal to do so.

3. Fire Site

3.1. Nobody is to enter the Fire Site at any time without the express permission of the Captain of the Fire Site.

4. Firework Range

4.1. The Firework Range is completely out of bounds except with the permission of the Captain of Fireworks. The Captain of Fireworks may decree a cordon area within which mobile telephones and radio transmitters will be forbidden. This cordon may also exclude emergency services radios. STAY AWAY from fireworks and set pieces unless you are directly involved with them.

5. Costumes

5.1. The Societies Smuggler's hoops (striped jumpers) are to be strictly knitted in compliance with the requirements laid down by the Captain of Costume in the society colours of navy blue, cream and claret. Hooped jumpers must be worn with white trousers only.

5.2. Members should process in strict ranks of three. The 1st Pioneer costume of the society is Pirates. The 2nd Pioneer costume of the society is Vikings. Any other costumes can be worn but these must be agreed with the Captain of Costume and the majority of the committee 7 days in advance and those wearing these must walk at the back of the society.

5.3. Members are encouraged to display Society colours in their costume.

5.4. No wearing of nylon fabric, no cheap fancy dress costumes, no rucksacks/backpacks or plimsol bags, these are dangerous as they melt in heat or fire. You are advised to fire retard all materials for your own safety; this includes any bags of suitable natural fabrics that are in keeping with the rest of the costume.

5.5. Sturdy shoes or boots are a requirement. No costume design will be permitted to override this rule, other than for medical conditions.

5.6. Regardless of what Members choose to wear they MUST be in costume. Marching will not be permitted otherwise.

5.7. No LED's on any costumes. Small children may carry smaller versions of adult torches with static white/warm glow LED's wrapped around.

5.8. Society costume must be the outer layer, non-costume should not be visible, for example – hoodies or raincoats.

5.9. Except for special occasions eg Christmas events and Pride, no tinsel, neon fabrics or accessories.

5.10. No baseball caps – hats to be in keeping with your costume.

6. First Aid

6.1. Trained First-aiders will be available at points throughout the route. Officers, Marshals and Members of the emergency services will be able to locate them if required.

7. Bands and Dancers

- 7.1. Any Bands or Dancers within the procession are there as a favour to the Society, to help make our event more entertaining. Members are asked to remember that musical instruments and uniforms are expensive, and every care MUST be taken to avoid fire or heat damage to them. DO NOT pass close to such groups, nor walk through their ranks. Such harassment of entertainers will be considered a contravention of these rules.

8. Emergency Services

- 8.1. The emergency services are there to help the Society to put on a good show and to protect Society Members and the public. The directions of emergency services personnel must be followed at all times, even if this deviates from published plans. The Officers of the Society will be responsible for liaison with the emergency services and for making any necessary decisions.

9. Fireworks

- 9.1. You are reminded that the discharge of fireworks in a public place is a criminal offence.
- 9.2. The Society accepts no responsibility for any arrest, charge, prosecution or subsequent judgement, or any loss incurred or insurance claim against any Member, who chooses to break the law in this way.
- 9.3. The Society specifically does not accept the throwing of fireworks, anywhere, at any time, or in any circumstances.
- 9.4. Within designated firework areas, the Society and the Sussex Bonfire Council do not permit any 'bangers' larger than a 'rookie', 'Spanish number two' or 'small Chinese' or their equivalent.
- 9.5. Any projectiles, other than those that are part of an organised display, are prohibited.

10. Outmeetings and other events

- 10.1. Members will be expected to behave in the same way at any event to which the Society is invited, as is provided for in these Rules, and as the Society would expect visitors to its events to behave. Members should remember that they would be representing the Society and the Town.
- 10.2. In the absence of an Officer of the Society at an outmeeting, then a Member will have been designated to take responsibility to ensure the safety and integrity of the Society. That Member will be considered to be acting with the full authority of the Society.

11. Children

- 11.1. Children are the responsibility of their Parent or other responsible adult. During an event an adult MUST accompany each child at all times. The adult is responsible both for the well-being and for the behaviour of the child. Should a child act in a dangerous manner, or in one that might bring the Society into disrepute, then the parent or responsible adult will be subject to the Societies disciplinary procedure.
- 11.2. At no point will the "responsible adult" in charge of a child at any meeting or event become intoxicated to a point of not acting in a responsible way thus compromising their role as a "responsible adult".

12. Bringing the Society into disrepute

- 12.1. Behaviour in a manner that will bring the Society into disrepute will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action being brought against the Member responsible. Examples of bringing the society into disrepute include but are not limited to being under the influence of illegal drugs and/or excessive alcohol use endangering others, abusive or threatening behaviour. This applies at all times, where a member is wearing any costume of the society or at a society event or event where they are representing Eastbourne Bonfire Society.

13. Disciplinary Rules

- 13.1. Disobedience of the Societies Rules as laid out here, or contravention of the Societies Memorandum and Articles Association, or of the provisions of its Constitution will lead to the invocation of the Societies disciplinary procedure. If the offence occurs at an event, then it may lead to ejection from and/or refusal of permission to take part in, the event.
- 13.2. Members will be expected to obey the instructions of any Officer of the Society, and appointed Captains, Marshals and Stewards.
- 13.3. Any Officer or Captain may ask a member to leave an event if they believe that the Member is behaving in an unsafe or unreasonable manner.
- 13.4. Following such an action a disciplinary meeting will be held at which the Member concerned will be invited to attend. Following a finding that a contravention of the Rules has occurred then the Member concerned may be reprimanded, excluded from one or more further events, or asked to resign. If resignation is requested and not forthcoming, then the Board may resort to expulsion. The disciplinary Board must comprise a minimum of five Officers or Captains. If fewer than five Officers and Captains are in post, then additional ordinary Members not related to the Member being examined may be co-opted onto the disciplinary Board. Members have the right to appeal should they feel that they have been unfairly treated, and the Society may, at its discretion, then request the assistance of the Sussex Bonfire Council to reach a satisfactory resolution. Member Societies of the Sussex Bonfire Council have agreed to refuse Membership to anyone who has been required to resign from any other Member Society.

14. Amendment

- 14.1. These rules may be amended by a properly moved amendment in accordance with the Constitution of the Society. Nothing in these Rules may diminish or contradict the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Eastbourne Bonfire Society Limited Company.

END

November 2001 – Amended March 2004, March 2005, February 2007, May 2019. August 2024, November 2024

Ratified by the AGM on November 18th 2024

_____ Chairperson _____ Officer

Note that the Numbering of these Rules is not part of the Rules, and any reference to these Rules should include the wording of the Rule referred to for the avoidance of doubt.