



The Playmakers Rules¹

1. Title

- 1.1 The name of the society is 'The Playmakers'.

2. Objects

- 2.1 The object of the society shall be to further the interests of drama, dance, singing and music. To fulfil this objective, the society shall give amateur performances of operas, plays, musicals, etc; and also arrange lectures, discussions, play readings and other activities that will help to fulfil the objects.
- 2.2 The entire income and property of the society shall be used solely towards the promotion of the society's objects as described in rule 2.1. No money or property shall be paid by, or transferred from, the society to any person, by any means, except where such payment constitutes reasonable expenses or remuneration for professional services, and the expense has been authorised by the committee. If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the society, and after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, money or property remains, such assets shall be given to one or more non-profit making organisation with objects similar to those described in paragraphs 2.1. The members shall select such an organisation/s at the time of dissolution. If such an organisation/s cannot be found then the committee, as it exists at the time of dissolution, shall decide upon one or more charitable organisations to which the assets can be given. Under no circumstances, other than for an authorised expense, is any monies or assets to be paid to members.

3. Membership

- 3.1 All persons over the age of 16, who wish to further the objects of the society, shall be eligible for membership. In the circumstance that an event or production requires a person under the age of 16, then provided that the committee agree and [a parent or guardian is, or becomes, a member of the society²], that person may take an active part in the production.

4. Subscriptions

- 4.1 The [annual subscription fee [and show fees³] for the year ending on the last working Monday of March,⁴] is to be recommended by the general committee and agreed at the AGM⁵.
- 4.2 The subscription fee for new members[, pro-rated as appropriate for the remainder of the current subscription year,⁶] shall become due immediately the member has been cast in a production or until a period of one month has passed, whichever is sooner. [A 'new member' is one that has not paid subscriptions at any time up to the end of the Playmaker year prior to that in which s/he seeks to become a member⁷].
- 4.2.5 No subscription fees will be refunded, except in the most exceptional circumstances and where agreed by the committee.
- 4.3 Members who are students, or those over the current state retirement age [*and retired from full time paid employment*⁸], shall pay half the appropriate fee [unless a different amount is specified in accordance with rule 4.1.⁹]
- 4.3.5¹⁰ A 'show fee' of [£5¹¹] shall be payable by every member, permanent or temporary (including children) for any production where The Playmakers incurs either a venue fee (stage hire, hall hire, etc.) or performing rights fee, or both.
- 4.4 A fully paid up member may, upon request to the committee or treasurer, peruse and/or audit the accounts for the previous financial year.

5. Committee

- 5.1 The management of the society shall be in the hands of a general committee composed of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and a number of ordinary members.
- 5.2 The general committee shall be elected at an AGM and will hold office until the next AGM.
- 5.3 The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the committee, may not serve more than three consecutive years in the same office.
- 5.4 At all meetings of the committee, two-thirds of the elected members, including officers and ordinary members shall form a quorum. Every member of the general committee present shall be entitled to one vote on each issue. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second and casting vote.

- 5.5 If, for any reason, a casual vacancy occurs on the committee during a term of office, the committee may elect any member of the society to fill the vacancy until the next general meeting. If an officer's post becomes vacant, the committee may elect one of its own members to the post for the remainder of the term of office.
- 5.6 The general committee shall have power to:
- do all such things that aid in the attainment of the society's objectives;
 - appoint from their own members subcommittees for special purposes. The subcommittees shall have the power to co-opt members of the society who are not members of the general committee. The subcommittees shall be able to exercise the full powers of the general committee, except those of electing or expelling members and making, altering or revoking byelaws;
 - make, alter and revoke byelaws to aid in the management of the society. All such byelaws (unless revoked) shall be binding on all members of the society as if they were contained in these rules.
- 5.7 The general committee may recommend for election at an AGM, a President and Vice President of the society. Presidents or Vice Presidents, if not already members of the society, shall be given the status of Honorary Member of the Society.
- 5.8 Any officer or member of the general committee, who is absent from four consecutive meetings of the general committee, shall be deemed to have resigned from the committee.
- 5.9 Rule 5.8 may not apply where the absence is due to unforeseen, exceptional circumstances and has been agreed by the remaining committee.

6. General Meetings

- 6.1 An AGM of members of the society shall be held once a year when the following business shall be conducted:
- The presentation and, if accepted, the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year (the accounts having first been independently audited).
 - The election of officers for the next year's general committee.
 - Approval of subscriptions for the coming year as determined in accordance with rule 4.1.
 - Any other items for the agenda given to the Secretary.
- 6.2 The general committee may convene an extraordinary general meeting at any time.
- 6.3 The Secretary shall, at least fourteen days before an AGM or EGM, ensure that every fully paid up member receives notice of the time, date, venue and business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 6.4 A quorum at a general meeting shall be half of the paid up members.
- 6.5 A review of the regular members shall be carried out before an AGM or EGM.
- 6.6 All members, excluding honorary members and those in arrears with subscriptions, shall be entitled to one vote upon any question. In the event of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second and casting vote.
- 6.7 Voting at a general meeting shall be by show of hands or some other method as the chair may direct.

7 Discipline

- 7.1 Notwithstanding that only the general committee has the power to revoke membership, the director and stage manager of a production can discipline any member as may be deemed necessary.

8 Productions

- 8.1 All members, whether part of a roster system or otherwise, are responsible for clearing up after club meetings or every night of productions.
- 8.2 Members who have taken tickets to sell for a production, must return all unsold tickets to the box office manager by the final dress rehearsal. Any tickets not so returned, will be required to be paid for by the member concerned.
- 8.3 No member taking part in any production shall be permitted into the auditorium before, during or after a performance, wearing stage costume or make-up unless directed to do so by the director or stage manager.

9 Alterations to the Rules

- 9.1 Notwithstanding rule 9.2, these rules may from time to time be amended, repealed or replaced by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those present, and entitled to vote, at an AGM or EGM.
- 9.2 Rule 2.2 (objects of the society) shall not be amended, repealed or replaced such as to permit the distribution of funds to any other than a non-profit making organisation with objects similar to the society.

Bye-Laws

1. The Society shall not accept liability for the loss or damage of personal items belonging to members of the society unless the item has, on request, been loaned to the Society for a production.
2. Members booking tickets for an outing or party will be required to pay for them before the outing. There will be no refund should they not be used.
3. After performances, presentations on stage shall be restricted to members and any other persons for whom the General Committee have given permission prior to the presentation.
4. Any items used from the wardrobe must be returned, to the nominated person, immediately after a production has finished.
5. Any of the society's assets may be leased at the discretion of the committee who will agree an appropriate charge.
6. Absolutely no monetary claims shall be honoured unless prior authorisation has been received from the chair and treasurer. A receipt must accompany all such claims.
7. For every production performed by the society there will be a formal audition held for each of the main characters. The panel will be selected by the committee and will consist of the Director and two others (plus a reserve in the event that panel members wish to audition). At an audition, unless directed otherwise, members may not read for more than three parts. Members may be offered a part for which they have not read, although there will be no obligation to accept the offer. All members of the panel must be fully paid up members and have a broad experience of the performing arts of not less than two years duration.
8. There must be at least two signatories for the Society's bank accounts.
9. Members wishing to use or hire their own costumes for productions will not be reimbursed unless prior authorisation has been obtained from the committee. Cleaning or repair of such items will only be paid for by the society if advance agreement has been obtained from the committee in advance.

AMENDMENTS

- ¹ Following the EGM held on 22 July 2002, this version revoked and replaced the Playmakers rules on 5 November 2002.
- ² Wording amended AGM 21/03/2016
- ³ Wording inserted AGM 27/03/2017
- ⁴ Wording amended to clarify 'Playmaker year' AGM 21/03/2016
- ⁵ Membership rates increased to £25.00 (12.50 Students/OAP's) [plus less than yearly rates] EGM 26/07/2004. Increased to £30 AGM 27/03/2017
- ⁶ Wording inserted AGM 21/03/2016
- ⁷ Wording inserted and less than yearly membership rates deleted AGM 21/03/2016
- ⁸ This wording was inserted at the AGM held on 30/03/2009
- ⁹ Wording inserted EGM 26/07/2004
- ¹⁰ Rule inserted EGM 26/07/2004
- ¹¹ Show fee increased from £5 to £10 at the AGM held on 30/03/2009. Reduced to £5 AGM 21/03/2016.