

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGES REGARDING SAFEGUARDING AND CONDUCT
AGM 2022**

ADD TO RULE 4:

4.

(v) Any person whose name appears on the Sex Offenders Register is not eligible to become or remain a member of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.

(vi) Members are expected to follow all such local guidance and safeguarding policies as required by any towers where they ring and to adhere to the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures of the Association and of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Failure to do so, even in the context of non-KCACR ringing activities, may result in termination of membership.

INSERT AFTER RULE 13:

14. The procedures by which a member whose conduct has brought the Association into disrepute may be suspended or removed from either elected office or membership shall be as follows:

(i) If in the unanimous opinion of all the principal officers (i.e., Association Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) any Officer or other elected official of the Association is unfit to hold office or fails to carry out their duties to its satisfaction, they shall have the power to suspend the Officer immediately, advising the reasons for suspension, and confirming in writing within seven days. If the Officer is also one of the principal officers, then the remaining principal officers must be unanimous.

(ii) If in the unanimous opinion of the principal officers a member has committed acts which have or are likely to damage the reputation of the Association, then their membership may be suspended with immediate effect, advising the reasons for suspension, and confirming in writing within seven days.

(iii) All suspensions shall be reviewed and confirmed or rejected at a Meeting of the General Committee, which shall be convened within 2 months of the suspension, whose decision shall be final. Members and Officers who are suspended may lodge an appeal and shall be invited to the meeting and given the opportunity to make representation to the Committee either in person or through an intermediary (who shall not be a member of the Committee) prior to the Committee making their determination on termination or reinstatement. Membership or Office shall be terminated if not less than three quarters of the Committee members present vote in favour. Terminated members shall forfeit any payment made to the Association.

All suspensions, terminations and re-instatements shall be recorded in confidential Minutes of the General Committee.

(iv) Terminated members may not seek re-election until at least three years after termination, or in the case of a custodial sentence three years after release, and then not until a formal application supported by at least two members has been considered by the General Committee and approved by not less than four fifths of the Committee members present. Those terminated members whose application to re-join has been approved must present themselves at a District Meeting for re-election and may not be re-elected under the terms of Rule 11 (i.e. by Belfry Election before a peal).

(v) Where an officer or elected official has had their office terminated under these rules, they shall not be eligible to stand for election to office for at least two years after termination, and then not until a formal application supported by at least two members has been considered by the General Committee and approved by not less than four fifths of the Committee members present. The consideration should include a review of their conduct in relation to the original causes of concern.

RENUMBER:

Rules 14 and 15 to become Rules 15 and 16 respectively.