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WHAT IS A COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB?

The Community Amateur Sports Club (“C.A.S.C”) scheme was designed to support grass root sport. It recognises that sports clubs play a vitally important role to their communities by distinguishing between clubs and businesses for rates and tax purposes.

By gaining C.A.S.C. status, a club can take advantage of a number of money-saving benefits. At the time of writing these are:

- 80% mandatory business rate relief (local authorities can offer more at their discretion);
- Ability to raise funds from donations under Gift Aid (although this does not presently apply to all types of donations);
- Tax-free income from interest and capital gains (used for qualifying purposes);
- Exemption (up to a certain threshold) from corporation tax on trading income and gross income from property; and
- C.A.S.C.s whose income does not exceed those thresholds will no longer be required to complete an annual Corporation Tax return.

Thus, both property and non-property owning clubs can benefit significantly from the scheme.

There are however, certain eligibility requirements in order to have C.A.S.C. status. A club must:

- Be community focused and open to all without discrimination;
- Have a core purpose in the promotion of amateur sports recognised; and
- Reinvest any income back into the club.

Can a club registering or already register with Model Rules also qualify as a C.A.S.C.?

Ideally clubs wishing to incorporate as a C.A.S.C. should use the ASA model rules for C.A.S.C.s as these have been approved by HM Revenue and Customs (the governmental department responsible for C.A.S.C. registration).

There are key differences between these and other governing documents, including those model rules already produced by the A.S.A. for non-C.A.S.C. clubs.

Thus whilst it may be possible to amend the club’s existing constitutional rules, it may be easier to simply adopt the new ones instead.

As with any change, the region to which the club is affiliated will have to approve the constitution before the change can take effect.



Does the adoption of the C.A.S.C. compliant rules guarantee the club will always have C.A.S.C. status?

Whilst the model rules (below) have been approved by HM Customs and Revenue as C.A.S.C. compliant, this is not a cast-iron guarantee that when a club seeks to use them their application for registration will be automatically approved. This is particularly true where clubs have sought to make additions/alterations to the model's provisions.

Do a C.A.S.C.'s volunteers' expenses attract any relief under the scheme?

C.A.S.C.'s may of course reimburse expenses which are proper, reasonable and evidence to the volunteers who assist them. However, should a volunteer seek to forego those expenses to which he/she is entitled, they would not qualify as Gift Aid. Should the volunteer be a UK taxpayer, the expenses can be reimbursed to the volunteer who can then make a qualifying Gift Aid donation to the C.A.S.C.

This is only suitable for volunteers are eligible to make Gift Aid donations.

Should this situation arise clubs may wish to take appropriate tax advice.

What happens if a club changes its mind about C.A.S.C. status?

There is no provision in the applicable legislation to allow a club to de-register as a C.A.S.C. Clubs must therefore be very sure that it is the right decision before they proceed with C.A.S.C. status.

Clubs may wish to review the other forms of governing documents which the A.S.A. produces before proceeding.

What happens if a club fails to comply with C.A.S.C. rules?

HM Inland Revenue does have the power to de-register a club if it considers the club to have committed a serious transgression of the C.A.S.C. rules. The club would then cease from that date to enjoy the benefits of being a C.A.S.C., which could result in substantial tax being owed.

For further Information:

Clubs interested in becoming a C.A.S.C. are strongly recommended to visit the C.A.S.C. website (run by the CCPR) at: <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk>

Information is also available from HM Revenue and Custom's website at: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/CASC/>

To become a C.A.S.C.:

The A.S.A. model C.A.S.C. constitution for affiliated clubs (and supporting guidance notes) is available on the British Swimming website.

Clubs will also need to register with HM Revenue and Customs. The required forms are available from here: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/CASC/casc-forms.htm>