Northamptonshire County Badminton Association

Committee Governance Review Minutes

Emergency Governance Consultation Process – by email

May 2026

Purpose of Record

These minutes are intended to formally record the governance review actions undertaken by the Committee during preparations for the 2026 AGM following identification of constitutional and governance ambiguities relating to AGM processes and voting provisions.

Given the limited time available prior to the AGM notice deadline, the Committee agreed that an electronic consultation process would be undertaken to ensure:

- transparency,
- collective input,
- and an appropriate governance audit trail.

1. Governance Concerns Identified

The Chair reported that during preparation of AGM documentation, a number of governance and constitutional ambiguities had been identified relating to:

- AGM electorate definitions
- Affiliated club and affiliated school recognition
- Committee voting rights
- Quorum requirements
- Constitutional amendment procedures
- Constitutional records relating to the 2023 merger process

The Chair also noted that historic AGM operational practice appeared, in some areas, to differ from the wording or clarity of the current constitution.

2. Governance Review Documentation Issued

The following documents were circulated to Committee members:

- Governance Review Summary
- Current Constitution
- Governance Consultation Form (Google Forms)

The purpose of the consultation was explained as:

- identifying whether governance concerns were recognised,
- gathering Committee views regarding appropriate next steps,
- and ensuring decisions were collectively considered and documented.

It was confirmed that the consultation process itself was not intended to implement unilateral constitutional amendments or immediate rule changes.

3. Committee Consultation Responses

A total of 9 Committee responses were received.

The responses demonstrated:

- broad recognition that governance ambiguities currently exist,
- strong support for transparency and procedural fairness,
- support for future constitutional review and regularisation,
- and differing views regarding whether immediate action should be taken prior to the AGM.

The consultation also identified differing interpretations regarding:

- historic AGM voting practice,
- committee voting rights,
- and the interpretation of Constitution Clause 7.4.

4. Guidance Referenced From Badminton England

Some Committee members advised that verbal guidance had been sought from Badminton England.

This guidance was reported by those members as advising:

- that no substantive changes should be made immediately prior to the AGM,
- and that the AGM should proceed using the published agenda and existing arrangements.

It was noted that this guidance was verbal and reflected timing and procedural considerations.

5. Key Governance Findings From Consultation

The consultation process identified the following broad themes:

- Governance ambiguities are recognised by Committee members.
- The current constitution does not appear to provide complete clarity in several governance areas.
- Committee members broadly support future constitutional review and regularisation.
- There is broad support for maintaining procedural continuity for the 2026 AGM.
- There is support for ensuring all future governance decisions are transparently minuted and communicated where appropriate.

6. Interim Governance Position For 2026 AGM

Having considered:

- the timing of the AGM,
- the consultation responses,
- historic operational practice,
- and the guidance referenced from Badminton England,

the Committee agreed that:

- the AGM should proceed using historic operational practice and the published agenda,
- no substantive constitutional amendments or procedural changes would be implemented immediately prior to the AGM,
- and governance concerns identified would instead be formally recorded for future constitutional review.

7. Future Constitutional Review

The Committee agreed that a future constitutional review and regularisation process should be considered following the AGM, including review of:

- affiliation definitions,
- AGM electorate provisions,
- committee voting rights,
- quorum requirements,
- amendment procedures,
- and constitutional records relating to the 2023 merger process.

Any future constitutional amendments would be subject to the Association's formal constitutional processes.

8. Transparency & Governance Commitment

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to:

- transparency,
- accountability,
- procedural fairness,
- and the continued improvement of governance practices within the Association.

Recorded on behalf of the Committee
Northamptonshire County Badminton Association
May 2026