The (S)Constitution

Constitution written by SCONES founders, Henry Thomas & Louise Flockhart, September 2026

The Scotland and North-East University Bouldering series (SCONES) is a student-focused bouldering competition aiming to fill the gap in the university competition climbing market in these geographical areas. SCONES at its forefront is a community driven, high energy and inclusive event for all students and recent alumni.

1. Aims

1.1 Celebrate and empower the climbing community in the North-East and Scotland

1.2 Raise the level of competition of university climbing in the North-East and Scotland

1.3 Build bridges between university climbing clubs/societies

1.4 Create opportunities for local creatives

1.5 Be accessible to all

2. Objectives

2.1 Maintain minimum attendance of 150 persons per competition round

2.2 Maintain a maximum total entry cost of £10 per round

2.3 Provide volunteer opportunities through which students may gain relevant industry experience

3. Format

3.1 SCONES will be held annually during the academic year with each competition cycle being referred to as a "season"

3.2 The Season's name will be officially described by the years it occurs in with the first season being the "'26/'27 SCONES Season"

3.3 A season will consist of 4 rounds with a grand finale being held on the final round of the given season

3.4 All venues must be in the country of Scotland or the geographical region of the North-East of England categorized by SCONES as the ceremonial counties of: Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham. Plus, the local authorities of: Stockton-on-Tees, Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough

3.5 Each season must include at least one competition round in Scotland and at least one competition round in the North-East of England.

3.6 SCONES is a series of 4 different competitions with individuals scoring contributing to their individual, institution and nation scorecard

3.7 There will be 3 categories for individuals to compete in: Open, Female and Novice, for individuals who have not previously participated in organised climbing competitions.

4. Rules of the Competition

4.1 A ruleset will be provided for competitors to adhere to as a part of a disciplinary policy

4.2 The rules and policies will be reviewed each year as a component of the AGM process

4.3 Rule changes during a season may only be approved through an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) convened for that purpose

4.4 A disciplinary commission will be decided each year from the committee to oversee all disciplinary procedures

5. Safety and Wellbeing

5.1 SCONES will ensure access barriers to sporting participation are lowered and limited as much as possible

5.2 SCONES will only host rounds at venues with public liability insurance, accessible facilities and built to modern health and safety policy

5.3 SCONES will be holistic and proactive at preventing misconduct and fostering a positive competition environment

5.4 SCONES will assign at minimum one individual within the committee as a Safety and Wellbeing lead with adequate training to do so

5.5 SCONES will maintain clear reporting channels for misconduct, harassment, discrimination, or behavior that compromises welfare and safety

5.6 SCONES will endeavor to respond effectively and appropriately to any incident that threatens someone's safety and wellbeing

5.7 The Safety and Wellbeing policy will be publicly available before the competition and will outline all policy and procedures relating to Safety and Wellbeing at SCONES

5.8 The Safety and Wellbeing policy will be reviewed and changed as needed as a part of the AGM process

6. Governance

6.1 SCONES operates a committee model that will meet as required, but not fewer than four times per calendar year.

6.2 The Committee shall have no fixed size, provided that all required roles are fulfilled; elected members must be active, participating, and constructive.

Core Roles

6.3 The core roles that must be undertaken by committee members are:

6.3.1 Chair: Who will chair general and committee meetings

6.3.2 Secretary: Who will be responsible for minutes, clerical duties, and communications

6.3.3 Treasurer: Who will be responsible for maintaining accounts

6.3.4 Disciplinary Lead: Who will be responsible for maintaining and enforcing disciplinary standards

6.3.5 Safety and Wellbeing Lead: Who will be responsible for maintaining and actioning safety and wellbeing policy

6.3.6 Media Lead: Who will be responsible for all media duties in the organization

6.3.7 Head(s): The strategic lead(s) of SCONES responsible for organisational oversight, long-term development, partnerships, and ensuring the objectives and values of SCONES are upheld.

6.4 SCONES do not have to match singular committee members per role, and a committee member may hold more than one role, provided the Committee is satisfied that all associated duties can be carried out effectively.

Elections

6.5 Committee members shall serve a one-year term commencing on 1 May and ending on 30 April of the following year.

6.6 At the end of their term a committee member can stand for re-election for an additional year which must be voted on by standing committee members

6.7 If a committee member fails to be re-elected internally or decides to step down an election will open for their place which individuals from university in the region may nominate themselves for

6.8 Committee member role **6.3.7** is exempt from **6.5-6.6** and can resign at the end of any competition year but must give notice by January 31st of the year of resignation

No Confidence

6.9 All committee members can be removed via vote of no confidence.

6.10 Votes of no confidence can only be triggered by an official vote of no confidence form with committee and participant variants of this form

6.10.1 Participants can motion a vote of no confidence by submitting a participant no confidence form however this can only be actioned if the form contain signatures of OCs equal or greater than 10% of the total number of participants from the prior year and must include signatories from at least five separate higher education institutions.

6.10.2 Committee can motion a vote of no confidence by submitting a committee no confidence form gaining 3 signatures from active committee members

6.10.3 After a form is successfully completed, an EGM will be called, and a vote of no confidence shall pass if supported by a simple majority of eligible voters present

6.10.4 Upon a successful vote of no confidence, the committee position shall become immediately vacant, and an election shall be held at the earliest practical opportunity.

Elections

6.11 Nominated members gain committee status through elections. Nominees are free to flyer and advertise if it remains within active SCONES policy and are to give a 5-minute speech at an AGM where voting will also take place

7. General Meetings

7.1 There will be one Annual General Meeting (AGM) per year where all members have a chance to give feedback and suggest changes to the running and rulings of SCONES. AGMs will also contain elections and their corresponding elections and votes

7.2 Extraordinary general meetings (EGM) will be used in urgent cases to resolve ongoing issues and elect committee mid competition

7.3 A quorum for an AGM or EGM shall be 20 Official Competitors (OCs) or 10% of active OCs, whichever is lower. No constitutional amendments, elections, or votes of no confidence may take place without a quorum being present.

7.4 All Official Competitors (OCs) are entitled to vote at AGMs, EGMs, elections, constitutional amendment votes, and votes of no confidence unless currently suspended under disciplinary procedures.

8. Finances

8.1 An account will be maintained on behalf of the competition.

8.2 For a payment over £50 to be made it will require two approved signatories

8.3 The Treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records and provide financial reports to the Committee as required, and at least annually to the AGM.

8.4 All money raised on or behalf of SCONES is only to be used to further the aims of the group

8.6 The approved Signatories shall be those persons acting in the roles specified in clauses 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3 and 6.3.7.

9. Population and Membership

Population

9.1 SCONES operates as a regional competition with a primary target population of higher education students in the North-East of England and the country of Scotland. The competition itself is not region locked to these areas, meaning students from all areas can enter.

10. Membership (Official Competitors)

10.2 SCONES do not operate a traditional membership model requiring annual subscription to participate nor use the term "members" for actively participating individuals utilizing the term "official competitor (OC)" instead. For an individual to become an official competitor they must attend a single round paying the entry cost for said round. Official Competitor (OC) status exists solely to identify individuals who have participated in a SCONES event and to facilitate lawful administration and data management.

Ceasing status as an Official Competitor

10.3 Individuals will cease status as an OC through one of three mechanisms. Ceasing OC status will trigger irrecoverable deletion of all data deemed not legally necessary for the organization

Automatic timeout

10.4 OC status will automatically cease after one whole competition year passes without a single competition entry

Disciplinary Removal

10.5 OC status can be revoked through disciplinary actions as per our disciplinary policy

Voluntary Retirement

10.6 OC status can be ceased through notifying the SCONES committee of retirement

11. Data Handling

11.1 All data will be held according to the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

12. Amendments

12.1 Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraodinary General Meeting.

12.2 Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of the meeting.

12.3 Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote

13. Conflict of Interest

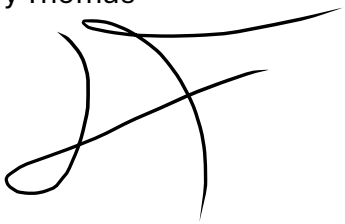
13.1 Committee members must declare any conflict of interest and may be excluded from voting where such a conflict exists

13.2 All disciplinary leads and judges must declare any academic affiliation before judging

This constitution was agreed upon by the founding members of SCONES on the 09/09/2026

Name Louise Flockhart

Signature

Name Henry Thomas

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