# Constitution of the Central Criminal Court Bar Mess

*To be confirmed, November 2026*

**RULES OF THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT BAR MESS**

## PART I : MESS RULES

### 1. PERSONS ELIGIBLE

**1.1** Membership of the Mess is open to all independent practising Barristers or solicitor advocates The election of Members shall be by the Committee upon payment of the annual subscription as determined by the Mess Committee.

**1.2** The Committee shall be empowered to elect Honorary Members of the Mess.

**1.3** Every Member and Honorary Member upon joining the Mess shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by the Rules of the Mess.

### 2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**2.1** The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the June Sessions of the Court, a notice thereof being placed in the Mess Room at least 21 days in advance.

**2.2** Members who wish matters to be included on the Agenda of the Meeting shall send the necessary particulars in writing to the Junior at least 14 days before the date of the Meeting.

### 3. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

**3.1** An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Mess shall be called by the Junior at the request of the Committee or at the request of ten or more Members of the Mess. A notice of the Agenda of the Meeting shall be screened in the Mess Room at least 14 days before the Meeting.

### 4. THE COMMITTEE

**4.1** The governing body of the Mess shall be the Committee which shall consist of the Mess Chairman who shall be First Senior Treasury Counsel, ex officio, two Senior Treasury Counsel, ex officio, the Junior, the Honorary Treasurer, the Admissions Secretary and upto Thirteen Ordinary Members.

**4.2** The Members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve a term of three years. Members of the Mess who wish to stand for election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting shall submit their names and the names of their Proposer and Seconder in writing to the Junior at least seven days before the Meeting.

**4.3** The Committee shall have power to co-opt Members to the Committee for a particular purpose.

**4.4** There shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting a member of the Committee to serve for three years on the Circuit Committee of the South Eastern Circuit.

### 5. ACCOUNTS

**5.1** The Mess Treasurer shall submit audited accounts to 31st December each year to the Annual General Meeting next ensuing. The accounts shall be audited by two members of the Mess.

### 6. BREACH OF THE RULES

**8.1** The Committee shall have power to deal with breaches of the Rules and Bye-Laws by suspension from the privileges of the Mess, or any of them.

### 7. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

**9.1** A Member of the Mess shall cease to be a Member of the Mess:-

(a) By resignation.

(b) By failure to pay his subscription.

(c) By the decision of the Committee that they have conducted themselves in connection with their profession as a barrister in a manner unbecoming a Member of the Mess. Provided that no such decision shall be taken by the Committee until the Member shall have been given an opportunity to be heard in their own defence.

### 8. ALTERATION TO THE RULES

**10.1** No change shall be made to these Rules except by:

(a) A General Meeting of the Mess, or

(b) The Committee, provided that Notice of the proposed alteration is screened for twenty eight days without objection. If objection is taken by more than five Members in writing, the proposed alteration shall only be made as in (a) hereof.

## PART II : BYE-LAWS OF THE MESS

### BYE-LAW 1 Registration

The Central Criminal Court Bar Mess shall be registered as a club for the purpose of licensing law, and its address shall be the Mess Room of the said Bar Mess.

### BYE-LAW 2 Temporary Honorary Membership

In addition to Members and Honorary Members of the Mess persons may be Temporary Members of the Mess. Such Temporary Members shall not be called upon to pay any entrance fee or subscription

Persons eligible:-

(a) Any person who is awaiting his election to membership.

(b) Any pupil of a Member for the period of his pupillage and for three months thereafter.

(c) A Member of the Bar briefed in a case at the Central Criminal Court, who does not normally practice at the Court, for the duration of the case;.

### BYE-LAW 3 Guests

A Member of the Mess may invite into the Mess as a guest

(a) Any member of the English Bar who has not been excluded from membership under Rule 9.1.

(b) Any Temporary Member under Bye-Law 3.

(c) Any distinguished visitor to the building, provided that the consent of a Member of the Committee shall be obtained for the introduction of such guest.

### BYE-LAW 5 Alteration to the Bye-Laws

No change shall be made to these Bye-Laws except by:

(a) A General Meeting of the Mess, or

(b) The Committee, provided that Notice of the proposed alteration is screened for twenty eight days without objection. If objection is taken by more than five Members in writing, the proposed alteration shall only be made as in (a) hereof.