

Membership Terms & Conditions

Legal Restrictions

Membership of the Credit Union is available to any person over the age of 16 whom fulfils the common bond qualification for Membership.

A member is required to hold at least a £1 share

A member is entitled to one vote in the democratic proceedings of the Credit Union.

The Credit Union will not require Members to hold a sum greater than £5 as a condition of retaining Membership.

Regulatory Controls

The Credit Union is part of the Financial Ombudsman Service. Members can request a copy of internal procedure on complaints handling if dissatisfied with our services.

The Credit Union will maintain rigorous identification and verification processes when new Members apply to join, to ensure that the Credit Union is not used to launder money.

The number of non-qualifying Members shall not be permitted to exceed 10% of the total Membership of the Credit Union.

Rulebook Requirements

All applicants for Membership are required to apply for Membership and have their Membership approved under the procedure established by the Credit Union.

The terms and conditions of an individual's Membership are set out in the Credit Union's rulebook.

Members may voluntarily withdraw from Membership by applying for a withdrawal of their shares and settling any outstanding debts.

The Credit Union reserves the right to expel Members from Membership in the credit union.

If a member leaves the common bond, they are able to remain in Membership of the Credit Union as a non-qualifying member (subject to the 10% rule).

Relatives who live within the same household as a qualifying member are able to join the Credit Union.

Young people under the age of 16 are able to join the Credit Union

Applying for Membership

An applicant for Membership shall complete the Membership application online form.

An application for Membership shall include:

- Evidence that the common bond qualification is met
- Proof of address
- Proof of identity
- Date of birth
- £5 share subscription
- £5 one off membership fee

Smart Search

Each application shall be digitally signed (esign).

A successful applicant for Membership will be approved in our system and automatically notified of successful application.

Each member shall have only one Membership number, regardless of the number of accounts opened.

A new member shall be advised on their options for paying money into the Credit Union.

No person shall be denied Membership on the grounds of race, gender, or disability.

Where a person is not legally able to enter into a contract, the Credit Union will accept the signature of a lawful representative.

Members' Accounts

Protecting Members' Accounts

All member accounts are confidential.

Information on a member's account will only be provided to another party following the prior provision of the agreement of the member and within the legal constraints of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Information on a member's account will be provided to a specified third party if a member defaults on their loan. In this instance, information on the member's account can be provided to other agency/courts to enable recovery action to occur.

Accessing Members' Accounts

Members calling into the office in person will be required to answer relevant identity questions and confirm their address prior to information being provided on their account.

Members calling into the office by telephone will be required to confirm their date of birth, Credit Union Membership number and provide us with relevant information on their account prior to information being provided on their account. If there is any doubt concerning the member's identity, the Credit Union shall refuse to provide information on the account in order to protect the member.

Statement of Accounts

Members may request a statement of their account at any time, subject to suitable identification being provided.

Share Savings Sub Account

This account is a flexible and easily accessed savings account. It is not connected to any credit arrangement that the member may have with the Credit Union.

Unless in the event of default.

Money can be saved in this account and withdrawn by request.

The member will be informed of any notice period currently in force and required to be given as a condition to withdrawing from this account.

Regular Savings & Loan Account

This account may be linked to any credit arrangement that a member may have or come to have with the Credit Union

The purpose of this account is to help a member build up a credit record with the Credit Union.

A member may be eligible for a loan linked to this account. Eligibility for a loan may be linked to other conditions such as the ability to repay the loan, the amount of their savings, a requirement to continue saving with the Credit Union or the inability to access savings that are already in this account which will be held against the value of any loan advanced in case of default. A member shall be informed of the terms of this account when it is opened.

Joint Accounts

Any two Members of the Credit Union can hold a joint account.

Each account holder named as a joint account holder is equally responsible for the joint account

Each account holder has equal rights to withdraw, deposit, conduct transactions and receive statements on the joint account

Each account holder is required to sign a mandate to confirm their agreement to the terms of operating the account, e.g., that any one signature can operate the account.

The terms of the joint account mandate can only be amended with the consent of both account holders.

Both account holders' signatures are required to remove a party from the joint account.

In instances where disputes arise between the account holders, the Credit Union will not become involved or conduct any transactions upon the account until such time as the account holders agree on the transaction required.

On the death of one account holder, the account will revert to a single account, and become the property of the survivor.

Junior Savings Accounts for under 16s

Children under the age of 16 who fulfil the common bond qualification can open a Junior Savings Account with the Credit Union. A birth certificate for the child must be produced as identification.

This is purely a savings account. A loan shall not be made to anyone under the age of 18 years.

When opening the Junior Savings Account, a beneficiary shall be identified as the person responsible for the child's account. Anyone can set-up a Junior Account, irrespective of their relationship to Junior, so long as the Parent/Guardian of the Junior is aware & agrees to the Junior Account being opened.

The identity of the Junior must be determined at the point of opening the account, by whomever is opening the account for the Junior.

Permission to open the Junior account must be provided in Writing by the Parent/Guardian and attached to the account for reference.

This requirement is in relation to GDPR and AML considerations.

The person who opens the account has sole control of the account, unless the Credit Union has a Policy to the contrary.

Ownership of the account will pass to the Junior when they become an Adult.

The age at which a Junior becomes an Adult is determined by Rule 9.1 of the SLCU Model Rules

Children under the age of 12 shall be required to have their beneficiary consent to make a withdrawal from their savings account.

Letter to Beneficiary

Dear Beneficiary,

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for looking after our juvenile's savings account.

The young person is now reaching the age of 16. At the age of 16 you are considered to be an adult member, although the service offered is that of share deposit until the age of 18, when they will be able to apply for a loan.

Going forward, the juvenile will now become responsible for their credit union account. We would advise you to take the necessary steps to conclude your business with the account and advise the juvenile of such action. The account will have to be forfeited.

If you have no desire to advise the juvenile, then we would suggest that you make the arrangement to have the juvenile account closed.

If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Member Services

Regulatory Controls

If a member has a complaint about the services offered by the Credit Union, the policy on Member Complaints should be consulted and the internal complaints handling procedure should be followed.

Rulebook Requirements

An annual general meeting of Members provides an opportunity for Members to provide feedback to the Board of Directors on the services provided by the Credit Union. Members are able to exercise their influence by submitting motions and/or nominating Members to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

Schedule of Fees & Charges

Minimum Shareholding

The minimum shareholding required to be a member of the Credit Union is £1 although £5 must be held at all times.

NOTE: Under Rule 10c of our rulebook the Credit Union has the discretion to remove a member from Membership if they do not obtain the minimum shareholding required within three months of admission to Membership.

Loan Interest

Interest on loans is charged at no more than 1.5% per month on the reducing balance of the loan.