



2017

GMB Northern Region Road Traffic Fund Rules

Rule 1: Name, Place of Business and Objectives

- 1) This Fund shall be called the GMB Northern Region Road Traffic Fund.
The objects of the Fund are the provision of a legal defence fund and discretionary hardship grant for members who are drivers of road haulage, road transport and members with occasional driving duties in the course of their employment.

Rule 2: Membership

- 1) Only members of the GMB Northern Region are eligible to join the Fund. Anyone ceasing to be a member of the aforesaid Union shall, ipso facto, cease to be a member of the Fund.

Rule 3: Contributions

- 1) All members shall pay a contribution of 10p per week/44p per month or such other sum as the Management Committee shall decide.

Rule 4: Assistance

After 27 weeks consecutive contributions, members shall be entitled to receive the following assistance: -

- 1) **Representation in Court by solicitors appointed by the Union subject to the following conditions: -**
 - a) At the time of the traffic offence the driver must be engaged in following their employment.
 - b) Any member of the Fund receiving a summons for an alleged offence and who wishes to plead "not guilty" must pass the summons onto their Branch Secretary, together with their contribution card and a brief statement of the offence.
 - c) If the Unions Legal Advisors are of the opinion that a "guilty" plea is appropriate then the Union will not give representation.
 - d) However it must be noted that where a "not guilty" plea is entered and the Union provides representation, the member is responsible for 50% of costs.
 - e) Should there be a case, however wherein it is proved that the necessity for legal assistance has been caused by drunkenness, wilful neglect of duty, or by any criminal act on the part of the member, this assistance shall not be granted.
 - f) **Parking.** In the case of Parking Offences, no Hardship Grant will be considered.
 - g) Should a members case be taken up and lost in consequence of members own false statements, the Union shall not accept liability for the cost of defence of other costs.

- 2) **Discretionary Hardship Grants**

A member of the Fund may apply to the Management Committee for a grant to relieve hardship suffered by the members following conviction by a Court for a motoring offence. Such grants shall be

payable at the discretion of the Committee who may require the member to provide such information as it deems appropriate, and in particular: -

- a) The nature of the offence.
- b) The date and place of conviction.
- c) Particular of any loss of earnings suffered by the member.
- d) Any effect of the conviction on current and future employment prospects.
- e) The amount of any legal costs incurred.
- f) The amount of any fine imposed by the Court (receipt to be produced).
- g) Any other information the Committee required the member to submit.

Without prejudice to the discretion of the Committee to decide whether or not to make payment of a Hardship Grant and to determine the amount of such Grant in a particular case, the Committee may resolve to be guided by such guidelines as it may deem suitable to ensure consistency and fairness in the consideration of applications (PROVIDED that no Hardship Grant shall exceed the sum of £100.00)

Rule 5: Violations

- 1) Where a member of the Fund is guilty of frequently violating the Road Traffic Acts, the Management Committee shall have the right to determine their membership of the Road Traffic Fund. In such circumstances the member will have the right to appeal to the Regional Committee.

Rule 6: Management

- 1) The Fund will be managed by a Management Committee appointed by the Regional Committee every four years.
- 2) Upon dissolution all Funds shall be vested in the Management Committee which shall have power to deal with them in such a manner as the Committee shall in its absolute discretion think fit.
- 3) Expenses will be paid in line with GMB expense policy for attendance at meetings.

Notes for Members:

- 1) No member can join the Road Traffic Fund without also becoming a member of the GMB
- 2) We rely on members when joining to give the correct information upon entry otherwise there is a risk of having to forfeit assistance.
- 3) Members should acquaint themselves generally with the Rules and especially the Rules relating to conditions of entry, etc., with regards to claiming and receiving assistance.
- 4) The responsibility for the payment of contributions rests with the member.
- 5) Always keep yourself Financial in both the Union and Road Traffic Fund, as failure to do so might mean the refusal of assistance.
- 6) We ask you to pay particular attention to Rule 4.
- 7) Any member who falls sick or has an accident before qualifying for assistance cannot qualify for assistance during incapacity.

Management Committee

W Coates – Regional Secretary
M Hutchinson – Chairperson
G Emmerson
T Metcalfe