



The Boathouse, Albion Dockside, Bristol. BS1 6TR  
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# City Of Bristol Rowing Club Rules and Byelaws

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## **Rules and Byelaws.**

City of Bristol Rowing Club is hereafter referred to as 'the club'.  
The Amateur Rowing Association is referred to as the A.R.A..

The Trustees, as defined by the Club Constitution and hereafter referred to as the 'Club Committee' shall have power to decide on any point or question not provided for in these rules.

In addition the Committee can nominate the following roles:

Safety Advisor, Boathouse Captain, Assistant Men's Captains, Assistant Women's Captains, Novice Men's Captain, Novice Women's Captain, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretaries, Welfare Officer, Head Race/Regatta Secretary, Learn to row Coordinators, Veteran's Captain, Junior Coordinator, Junior representative, Regatta Entries Secretary, Social Secretaries, Marketing Team, Club Ambassador, Boathouse Development Team, Equipment Officer, Kit Ordering.

The interpretation of the rules, also of the byelaws shall rest solely with the Club Committee.

### **1. Colours.**

The club colours shall be white and green. The club badge or motif shall be the City of Bristol arms with crossed oars behind.

### **2. Aims.**

The club aims shall be:

*"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of rowing, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the greater Bristol region."*

More specifically:

- The encouragement of rowing on the Bristol Harbourside, amongst amateurs according to A.R.A definitions.
- To support all Members in the achievement of their objectives and in the conduct of their activities within the sport.
- To ensure that the talents and resources of all Members are utilised to the full and that no one receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, disability, marital status, creed, social class, colour, ethnic group, age or sexual orientation, or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance.

### **3. Sub-committees.**

The Club Committee may from time to time appoint from amongst their number such sub-committees as they deem necessary and may depute or refer to them such duties as they may determine. Such a sub-committee shall periodically report their proceedings to the Club Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Club Committee.

#### 4. Licensed Clubs

The City of Bristol Rowing Club ('the Licensor') is there for all the people of the greater Bristol region who wish to row, and who find it convenient to do so at this location. It is a club in which rowers of all ages and all levels of experience are welcome. We also welcome affiliated clubs, who wish to share our facilities, but these clubs are bound by the rules and conditions of the Licensor as set out in these Rules & Bye-Laws and in the License document.

#### 5. Membership.

The annual subscription shall be determined each year by the Annual General Meeting.

Members' subscriptions fall due on the 1st October in each year.

The club's financial year end is the 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Membership of the club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of rowing on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

The club has different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

Applicants for membership and members renewing their membership will be asked to sign a form agreeing to abide by the Rules and Byelaws of the club and the sport of rowing.

If it is considered by the Club Committee that the granting or renewal of membership would be detrimental to the aims and objectives of the club, by virtue of conduct or character likely to bring the club or the sport of rowing into disrepute or for some other similar good cause, the Club Committee shall be entitled to refuse or withdraw such membership. In doing so the Club Committee shall provide full reasons for their decision and grant a right of appeal to the members.

The membership categories are:

- **Full** members being persons aged 18 years or over.
- **Junior** members being persons under the age of 18 years. (for the purposes of subscriptions: under 18 on the 1 September preceding the start of the subs year)
- **Student** members being persons aged 18 years or over, in full-time education
- **Non-Rowing** members being persons aged 18 years or over.
- **Coxing** members.

Members wishing to transfer from one membership category to another shall make application in writing to the Secretary, and any such application shall be laid before the Club Committee who, if satisfied that the candidate for transfer is qualified for such membership in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this rule, shall grant the same to take effect from such date as they shall think proper.

Full, Non-Rowing and Coxing Members shall be eligible for election as officers or trustees. Junior or Student Members (with the exception of post graduate students). shall not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting or be eligible for election as officers or trustees.

In the event of a vacancy occurring at the Annual General Meeting amongst the Officers of the Club, or amongst the other members comprising the Committee, the Committee at their discretion shall fill any such vacancy

Any member shall be entitled to introduce visitors to the club subject to such regulations as shall be made from time to time by the Club Committee, and every visitor shall be considered the guest of and be accompanied by the member introducing them.

**Declaration:**

Each member upon first joining shall sign the following declaration:

To be accepted as a member of City of Bristol Rowing Club you must sign this declaration (together with your parent or carer if you are under the age of 18 years). Rowing and its associated training can be a strenuous activity. You should therefore be in good health and have no medical or physical condition precluding heavy exercise. **If there is any doubt you should first consult your doctor.** Some conditions such as asthma and diabetes, for example, do not prevent individuals participating in the sport, but you do have a **duty to declare any condition that might put yourself or others at risk.** Likewise you have a **duty to declare any change** in personal health whilst a member of the Club that may put yourself or others at risk. It is important therefore that you inform those around you e.g. coaches and crew members, of any condition they may have to deal with in the event of an emergency.

For your own safety it is important that you are a competent swimmer. At a minimum you must be able to swim 100 metres in light clothing. To be accepted as a member of City of Bristol Rowing Club you must sign this declaration (together with your parent or carer if you are aged 17 or under).

*"I have read and understood both the Personal Health and Swimming Ability statements above and declare that I can / cannot\* meet the minimum swimming requirements and I have no need to seek medical approval / have been passed medically fit\* to row.*

*I agree to inform the club, coaches and crew of any change in my personal health or swimming proficiency that may put myself or others at risk.*

*I give consent for any supervising personnel to give emergency medical attention should the unlikely need arise."*

\*(Delete as applicable)

Applicant's Signature ..... Date.....

Parent/Carer's Signature ..... Date.....

**N.B. This declaration should be completed before any activity is undertaken**

## **6. Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures**

An individual or member with a complaint about treatment by the Club should set out their grievance, in the first instance to the Club Chairman. The Club will seek to deal with complaints in a fair and timely manner, with reference to the ARA's Guidelines on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures in Rowing. Concerns of a personal nature should be referred to the Club Welfare officer.

## **7. Equipment.**

Use of club equipment is governed by the Club Captain and Squad Captains. Any member or members who cause damage to property belonging to the club shall immediately report same to a captain. The question of damage being or not accidental shall be decided from such evidence as they might be able to obtain, and if they decide that such damage has been done willfully, or by gross negligence, such member or members shall bear the cost of renewal or repairs.

## **8. Competition.**

No member shall compete for any public prize under the name of the club without the consent of the captain, nor shall any member use the name of the club in connection with any function without first obtaining the consent of the trustees.

## **9. Child protection.**

The Club accepts the policy and procedures relating to Child Protection and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults as set out by the A.R.A., and requires all members to accept them as a condition of membership.

## **10. Rowing Rules.**

- i. The boats of the club shall be for the use of the full rowing members, at the discretion of the Captain or Squad Captains.
- ii. No visiting oarsman shall be permitted to row in a club boat to the exclusion of a member of the club.
- iii. Any dispute concerning rowing in any particular boat or boats shall be settled by the Captain or in his absence the Squad Captains.
- iv. The selection of crews to train and be entered for regattas shall be entrusted to the relevant captain.
- v. Every member on landing from a boat must assist in washing and housing the same under the direction of the stroke. The last crew on the water shall ensure that all equipment is stored and the boat houses are secured.
- vi. In the absence of a coach, the steersman in any boat shall have charge of the crew.
- vii. Any member wishing to house a private boat must obtain the sanction of the Club Committee who shall decide what fee, if any, is payable.
- viii. No private boat for which permission has been granted for housing in the boathouse shall be used without the consent of the owner.

- ix. Should payment not be received by the due date for any private boat housed in the boathouse the owner shall be informed in writing by the Captain that the boat in question will be removed from its rack and placed outside the boathouse unless payment is received within 14 days. The letter shall explain that the Club accepts no responsibility for any damage caused to the boat by its moving or any third party. Should payment not then be received within a further 14 days the Captain will once again write informing the owner that the Club will place the boat under its own insurance and make the said boat available for use by all club members until full payment is received. Should payment not be received by the end of the financial year the Captain will write informing the owner that the boat will be sold via auction to members. Should the boat not sell it is to be offered to a recognized boat builder for sale. The club will then reimburse the owner all monies made after removal of costs of sale and storage fees.
- x. Orders to tradesmen shall only be given by persons expressly authorized by the Club Committee.
- xi. Each member shall be entitled to a key of the boathouse, which must be surrendered to the secretary when his membership ceases. A deposit is charged for this key.
- xii. A prize of not equal division shall be the property of the club, but the crew shall take a prize capable of equal division.
- xiii. All members rowing in the club boats in any rowing event MUST wear current club kit. ( Novice beginners can wear matching t shirts as an alternative)
- xiv. Without first obtaining the permission of the Captain no member shall be allowed to row for any other club.
- xv. The Club Committee may refund out of club funds the whole or any part of the expenses of crews competing at regattas.
- xvi. No member shall compete in any race if his subscription to the club or entrance fee for that particular race remains unpaid at the time of entry.
- xvii. Any member having a complaint concerning the conduct of any servant of the club must state it in writing to the Secretary.
- xviii. Guests and visitors shall leave the club premises before or at the same time as the members introducing such guests or visitors.
- xix. No bicycles may be brought into the boathouse or the annex.
- xx. No coxswain under the age of 18 is permitted to cox until the written consent of their parent or guardian has first be obtained and they have confirmed the ability to swim 100m in light clothing.

- xxi The stroke of the crew shall at all times except as hereinafter mentioned be responsible for:
- The safety of coxswains whilst afloat and for their transportation to and from regattas.
  - Ensuring that all coxswains are properly dressed when representing the club at regattas or similar competitions.
- xxii The Captain of the Club shall be responsible for the general control and discipline of coxswains in matters not specifically referred to above, PROVIDED THAT on such occasions as the Captain of the Club may be absent or unable to undertake them, the responsibility shall rest upon the stroke of the boat for which the services of the coxswain are at that particular time being provided.
- xxiii All boats wishing to be afloat before sunrise, or after sunset, shall display suitably bright steady WHITE lights to be seen clearly fore and aft; two lights fore and one light aft.
- xxiv The number of boats permitted on the water is regulated by the Harbour Authority. In order to comply, the club operates a white board; all crews shall sign out and give an expected time of return before leaving the dockside. On return the crew shall wipe the record of the outing off the board.
- xxv Rowers should, at all times where possible, acknowledge other water users, and fishermen, and groups on the banks of the river. A nod, a smile, or a wave – recognition of the presence of others - reduces potential friction. The club is totally dependant on the goodwill of the other water users; we alone are allowed to go well beyond the speed limit, and are often on the wrong side of the river with inexperienced crews struggling with uneven power. Rowing boats have no right of way and should give way to all other water users.

### **11. Safety.**

The Officers and club Committee, under the guidance of the Safety Advisor, have primary responsibility for safe practice within the club and for adopting the minimum standards advised by the A.R.A.

### **12. These Rules**

A copy of these Rules shall be displayed prominently in the clubhouse and on the Club's website at all times and made available on request to any Member.