



## **Belfast Rowing Club**

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### **BELFAST ROWING CLUB**

**founded 1880**

## **CLUB RULES**

### **1. CLUB COLOURS**

The Club colours shall be red, white and Cambridge blue and they shall be shown and worn as follows

**(a) Flag**— The flag of the Club shall be a tricolour of red, white and Cambridge blue (horizontal) bands with the letters B.R.C. in black on the white centre band.

**(b) Rowing colours and Clothing** — The racing vest/top shall be white with horizontal red (on top) and Cambridge blue bands. Short or long sleeve white T-shirts may be worn underneath. Shorts shall be navy blue or black. Each crew is to be uniform.

During competition the rules of Rowing Ireland relating to clothing must be adhered to

**(c) Oars**—Sculls and sweep blades shall be painted Cambridge blue with bands of red and white on the loom where it meets the spoon with the white being between the red and Cambridge blue.

**(d) Club Crest**— This shall be the arms of the City of Belfast set on diagonally crossed oars with the letters “B.R.C.” spaced between the letters at the top of the crest.

**(e) Club Tie** — This shall incorporate the crest and colours of the Club as determined by the Committee and may be worn by all classes of Club members including Honorary Vice-Presidents.

**(f) Club Jacket or Blazer**— Applications to wear a club blazer shall be made to the General Committee for consideration.

### **2. AFFILIATION OF CLUB**

The Club shall be affiliated to Rowing Ireland and Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Every candidate for membership shall satisfy the following conditions

(a) He or she must be an amateur oarsperson as defined at the time of application by the Rules of Rowing Ireland.

(b) The Applicant must sign a Declaration that he or she can swim at least 50 metres or they shall sign a Declaration absolving and indemnifying the Club from any liability arising through their inability to swim.

### **4. USE OF BOATS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**

No member may use any Club boat or other rowing equipment without the express permission of the Captain or his or her authorised deputy (which shall include the Coach of any particular crew, if such Coach has been allocated such equipment as enables him or her to

choose between boats and equipment allocated to him or her and the crew under his or her direction.

## **5. DAMAGE TO BOATS AND EQUIPMENT**

Members shall be responsible personally for any damage negligently caused by them to the property of the Club through improper use thereof and shall be liable to be required either individually or as a crew to make payment for the repair of such damage except in such case as the Committee shall decide that the damage was not due to negligence of the member or members concerned.

## **6. SELECTION AND COACHING OF CREWS**

**(a) Responsibility** — Responsibility for selection shall be that of the Captain acting on the advice of the Coach or Chief Coach as the case may be.

**(b) Coaching and Training**—This shall be the responsibility of the Coach allocated to the particular crew by and at the invitation of the Captain. The Captain shall appoint Coach or Coaches for portion or the whole of the ensuing Club year within one month of the Annual General Meeting, and the term of commission of any particular Coach shall be clearly defined between the Coach and the Captain so that details thereof may if necessary be reported to the Committee on request.

**(c) Competition** — Crews shall compete in events as agreed by the Captain on the advice of his or her Coach or Coaches and if there is disagreement in this matter between the Captain and the Coach or Coaches then such Coach or Coaches shall resign their commission to coach and the Captain shall within one week make the appointment of alternative Coach or Coaches to enable such crew or crews to be suitably coached for the remainder of the Club year and the Captain shall inform the Committee accordingly.

**(d) Allocation and use of Equipment**—None but members nominated or selected in a crew by the Captain shall be permitted to go out in Club racing boats and to use other Club equipment. The Captain shall agree with the crew Coach and/or crew Captain at the time of their appointment the equipment to be used by the particular crew and for what period it may be used.

## **7. DISCIPLINE AND COMMAND**

**(a) Duty of crew Captain or Stroke** — Except in the case where the Coach will appoint a crew Captain other than Stroke the Stroke of any crew shall be the crew Captain and shall be responsible for the following matters

- (i) To report any damage to equipment to the Coach and the Captain.
- (ii) To report damage caused due to the negligence of any member pursuant to Rule 5 hereof.
- (iii) To arrange for a suitable substitute if any crew member is not available to row for whatever reason and the Coach cannot be contacted before the scheduled outing and if possible such arrangement should only be made after consultation with the Captain.
- (iv) To inspect all equipment weekly and to report any damage or wear likely to lead to damage to the Captain end to be responsible to the Coach for the repair thereof.
- (v) To organise in conjunction with the Captain and to delegate powers as necessary for the conveying of equipment to and from Regattas and training locations and to be responsible for the safety of same in transit and the assembling and disassembling of same with the necessary

tools and the safety of equipment at these other locations whilst equipment is not directly under the control of the Coxswain.

**(b) Duty of Coxswain**—The Coxswain (or the Stroke or crew Captain where there is no Coxswain) shall have sole command of the boat and crew from the time when the craft is lifted off the boat racks for an outing to the time it is returned to the said racks and he or she will (except where the Coach or Captain permit otherwise) act as spokesperson for the crew Captain and crew. He or she shall require silence in the boat and implicit obedience to his or her commands and any person or members of a crew who shall disobey any request or order shall be reported by him or her to the Captain with a full explanation of the occurrence and recommendation as to action to be taken by the Captain and/or the Committee.

The Coxswain shall be responsible to the Coach and Captain and Committee for the care of equipment whilst in his or her charge and shall immediately report to the Captain details of any damage to equipment which has occurred during his or her command of any crew.

## **8. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

**(a) Status**— These officers are respectively the senior ranking officers of the Club and they shall be afforded the courtesy and respect appropriate to that office by all Club members.

**(b) Social Function**—

**(i) At Club** (including events organised by Club outside premises).

The President (or if the President for any reason is not available) the Vice-President shall (except when the Committee decide otherwise due to unusual circumstances) have the right and shall be invited by the Captain to preside at all social functions of the Club but the President may delegate this function to the Vice-President and both of these officers may at their discretion delegate this function to the Captain.

**(ii) At Regattas**

The President and / or Vice-President as the Senior Club officers shall be entitled to socially represent the Club at Regattas but this representation must not contravene the executive authority of the Captain at such events.

## **9. NON-EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The Committee may from time to time invite (subject to the approval of the Club at the next General Meeting thereof ) a person or persons to accept the position of Honorary Vice-President who shall have no voting rights or executive powers but who shall be entitled to be invited to all sporting and social functions of the Club.

## **10. OPERATIONAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**

All members of Committee shall be liable to attend during the scheduled time of rowing outings and at such outings and as are stipulated by the Committee and it shall be the duty of such Committee members to acquaint themselves with the general and crew activity and with the identity of the members and new members of the Club and to afford them any information or assistance which they may require and further to support and assist the Captain in the execution of his or her duties at the Clubhouse.

## **11. COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Any member who feels aggrieved about any matter or any infringement of the Club Constitution or Rules or has any suggestion to make in relation to the running of the Club may lodge such complaint or suggestion in writing with the Secretary, who shall retain that persons name in confidence and introduce this information to the next meeting of Committee

when the matter or matters shall be considered and action decided by the Committee and such person or persons making complaint or suggestion shall be entitled to receive a written reply to their letter to the Secretary containing the terms of decision of the Committee in the matter.

## **12. HOUSING OF PRIVATE BOATS**

Boats which are the private property of members may be accommodated in the Boathouse at the discretion of the Captain and Committee at a rate agreed by the Committee provided always that there shall be sufficient accommodation for the Club equipment and the equipment of agreed tenants of the Club, but a member owning such a boat or boats may be required to remove same from the Boathouse if there is insufficient accommodation for Club equipment and after the matter has been reported with recommendation by the Captain to the Committee, and the Committee have decided to make such request.

## **13. VISITORS**

Every Ordinary, Life, Student or Temporary member shall be allowed to introduce visitors on to the Club premises subject to the following provisions:-

- (a) Every visitor shall be under the direction and control of the senior officer or member of Committee then present and shall abide by the Rules of the Club whilst on Club premises.
- (b) The same visitor, except where that person is a parent, wife or child of a member, shall not be admitted as a visitor to the Club premises on more than twenty days in any period of twelve months.
- (c) A visitor shall immediately on his or her admission to that part of Club premises designated by the Committee as the area where intoxicating liquor may be served (hereinafter called "the designated area") enter his or her name and address in a book which shall be kept for that purpose and such entry shall show the date of the visit and the member introducing such visitor shall also sign his or her name in the book.
- (d) A member introducing a visitor to any part of Club premises shall be responsible to the Committee for his or her good behaviour.
- (e) No visitor shall remain on the designated area after the member introducing him or her has left
- (f) No persons shall be introduced as visitors who shall have been expelled or suspended from membership or whose previous conduct or presence shall be considered by the Committee as prejudicial to the interests of the Club.

## **14. INTOXICATING LIQUOR ( current NI Clubs licencing rules will apply)**

- (a) Intoxicating liquor may at the discretion of the Committee be served within the designated area but only subject to the following provisions and within the following times of day
  - (i) On weekdays (excluding Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday) from 10.00 am. to 2.00 p.m. and from 4.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
  - (ii) On Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday from 12.00 noon to 2.00 p.m. and from 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
  - (iii) Late Licences up to 1.00am to be applied for by the Secretary in accordance with NI Clubs Licencing Regulations.
- (b) No intoxicating liquor may be supplied to any person (which shall include any member) under the age of 18 years.
- (c) No intoxicating liquor shall be served on any part of Club premises other than in the designated area.

- (d) A visitor shall not be supplied with intoxicating liquor unless upon the invitation and in the company of a member.
- (e) Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied to persons who are not members of the Club for consumption outside the designated area or outside the Club premises.
- (f) Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied to members of the Club for consumption outside the designated area or outside the Club premises except where the liquor is supplied in such quantities and during the hours fixed by these Rules and on such days as the Police service NI acting for the district in which the Club premises are situated may authorise in writing.
- (g) A notice in plain type shall be exhibited in a conspicuous part of the Club stating the hours during which liquor may be supplied in the designated area.
- (h) Members or visitors may not bring into the Club premises private supplies of intoxicating liquor of any sort for consumption on the premises.

#### **15. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING and REGISTRATION OF CLUBS ORDER 1996**

After audit of Club accounts a copy of such audited accounts shall be sent to the Police Service NI within three months of the financial year end to which the accounts relate. Details of those empowered to purchase alcohol for the bar / suppliers / those handling money and those lodging money to be submitted to the Police Service NI as soon as possible after the Annual general meeting.

#### **16. CONSTITUTION AND RULE BOOK**

Every member on joining the Club shall be provided with a copy of the Constitution and Rules.

#### **17. CODE OF ETHICS (Child protection)**

The club agrees to abide by the Policies and Procedures set by Rowing Ireland in all matters relating to vetting and the Code of Ethics.

#### **18. ADDITION, ALTERATION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES**

The Committee shall have 'power to add to or alter any of the foregoing Rules from time 'to time as the interests 'of the Club may demand provided always that such alterations shall be approved as amended by the Club at the next General Meeting thereof provided always that such addition and alteration shall be valid and enforceable until such approval is made.

The foregoing Club Rules were made by the Committee at a meeting held on 28th September, 1976 and approved by the Club pursuant to Clause 8 (a) (i) of the Club Constitution at the Annual General Meeting held on 28th October 1976. Updates have been added to November 2009