

Guernsey Rowing Club LBG

Club Rules

(As amended at the AGM held on 17 December 2016)

CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL

1. The Club shall be called the Guernsey Rowing Club.
2. The object of the Club is to teach and encourage the amateur sport of offshore rowing in Guernsey.
3. The funds of the Club shall be used for the aims and objects of the Guernsey Rowing Club and in the event of the dissolution of the Club, any funds remaining in hand shall be devoted to any Guernsey based organisation with similar objectives or in default to the R.N.L.I.
4. The Club shall be managed by the Committee, which shall consist of: -
 - a) The seven executive officers, namely Captain, Vice-Captain, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Race Secretary and Assistant Race Secretary ("Executive Officers"), the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Race Secretary roles to be filled, as required, at the discretion of the Committee; and
 - b) At least five other Club members ("Ordinary Members")
5. All Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") and shall (subject to rule 10 below) hold office until the AGM at which they shall be eligible for re-election.
6. Seven Committee members shall constitute a quorum for Committee meetings.
7. There shall be a Committee meeting at least once a month and at such other times as the Captain shall deem fit on giving not less than 24 hours notice to all Committee members.
8. Simple majority shall make decisions at Committee meetings with the Captain (or in his/her absence, the Vice-Captain) having a second casting vote.
9. The Committee shall have the power: -
 - a) To fill any casual vacancies that occur in the Committee until the next AGM; and
 - b) To increase the number of Ordinary Members of the Committee.
10. A Committee member shall retire from the Committee if: -
 - a) (S)He fails to attend three consecutive Committee meetings without good reason; and/ or
 - b) (S)He is requested to do so by the Club at a Special General Meeting ("SGM").
11. Notice of the AGM shall be communicated to each member not less than one month before the meeting.
12. The AGM shall be held not later than 31st December of each year to transact the following business:
 - a) To receive the accounts for the past financial year and to nominate Auditors for the next financial year; and

- b) To elect Committee members for the next year. In the event of there being more than one nomination for any Executive Officer's post or more than five nominations for Ordinary members, the election shall be by ballot; and
 - c) To transact any other business; and
 - d) To fix membership subscriptions.
13. The Financial Year End is fixed at 30 September unless so changed by resolution of the Club Members.
 14. Only fully paid up members may vote at the AGM and at a SGM. Each club member shall have one vote and decisions shall be by simple majority with the Captain (or in his/her absence the Vice- Captain) having a second or casting vote.
 15. A SGM may be called by the Committee at any time and shall be called if requested in writing by any twelve members of the Club.
 16. Fourteen days written notice of a SGM shall be given to all Club Members.
 17. The business conducted at a SGM called other than by the Committee shall only be one or more of the following:
 - a) Alteration of or addition to rules; and/or
 - b) Removal of all or any committee member(s) and filling the consequent vacancies; and/or
 - c) Dissolving the Club.
 18. The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel a member of the Club whose conduct, in its opinion, warrants such action: a two-thirds majority shall authorise the suspension or expulsion. A member so suspended or expelled may appeal, and on receipt of such an appeal, the Committee shall convene a SGM within 21 days. A majority of two-thirds by ballot of those present shall be requisite to confirm the suspension or expulsion.
 19. The misuse of drugs Byelaws made from time to time by the Amateur Rowing Association shall apply to all club members.
 20. The Club will appoint a Child Protection Officer.
 21. All Club Members shall be bound by these rules.
 22. No alterations or additions shall be made to these rules except at an AGM or a SGM. Any proposals must be sent in writing to the Secretary for submission to the Committee and the Committee shall bring the matter before the next AGM, or if in the Committee deems it necessary, before a SGM.

SCRUTINEERING

23. Scrutineers, as appointed from time to time by the Committee, will inspect racing boats for compliance with Safety Equipment Rules prior to races. All competitors are obliged assist Scrutineers when undergoing scrutineering. Compliance is judged at the discretion of the Scrutineer and all such decisions are final. Competitors, where appropriate, may be requested to correct deficiencies or prohibited from racing by the Scrutineer.

RACE RULES

24. Each race shall have a Race Secretary or in their absence an assistant race secretary. The presiding Race Secretary shall be responsible for starting and the conduct of the race, making all judgements in relation to the Race Rules (rules 26-40) with all such decisions being final.
25. Any breach of the rules may lead to penalties up to and including disqualification from the race and subsequent deduction of any or all points awarded for that race.
26. All rowing competitors in races organised by the club shall be amateurs and at least 16 years of age. All competing crewmembers must be fully subscribed to the Guernsey Rowing Club unless they are part of an overseas contingent specifically invited to race by the Guernsey Rowing Club. Youths are able to Cox in Guernsey Rowing Club races, subject to experience and parental consent.
27. Youths aged 14 to 16, having received parental consent are permitted to train and row in specially organised sessions provided that: GRC safety persons and guard boats (When possible) are in attendance for the whole duration of the session, and that the parents/guardians of the youths are either in attendance or have agreed in writing to the participation.
28. Indicative Course maps may be handed out before races and shall be strictly binding, however Admiralty charts should be used for true courses.
29. Once the race has begun, no crewmember may leave their boat with the direct intention of gaining advantage.
30. Any crew that finishes a race without the same crew (both in number and composition) in the boat that started the race shall be disqualified from that race. In exception to this, crew members may leave to receive medical attention or in attempting to prevent endangerment to themselves or their craft.
31. No crew may receive assistance from either on shore or another boat, to gain an advantage, if so that crew shall be disqualified from that race.
32. No competing coxswain may row once an event has begun; should (s)he do so the entire crew shall be disqualified.
33. Boats losing their numbers between the start and the finish of a race risk disqualification.
34. For races started by class (typically Championship races), the Race Secretary shall determine the starting order in consideration of the fleet composition, weather conditions and other factors as appropriate.
35. For handicap races:
 - a) The handicap is given to the rowing boat, race number and the rower(s) as a unit,
 - b) If a rower or crew have more than one boat they must have a different race number for each boat.
 - c) Scratch crews (i.e. crews not previously registered) entering handicap races will start at the fastest time listed for the class of the scratch crew.

- d) Handicap times are calculated to a method agreed from time to time by the Committee but which will always be consistent within a given season.
- 36. A crew shall retire from a race if ordered to do so by the Race Secretary or a person acting on behalf of the Race Secretary.
- 37. All competitors shall take reasonable steps to ensure their safety on the water in consideration of the hazards inherent in maritime activity.
- 38. Any crews or individual competitors deemed to have behaved recklessly with respect to their own safety or that of others may be disqualified at the discretion of the presiding Race Secretary and may, at the sole discretion of the Committee be suspended from further races.
- 39. Overtaking during a turn in the course must be undertaken on the outside. A faster boat approaching on the inside of a turn must yield, in good time, to boats on the outside until the turn is complete.
- 40. Except to aid propulsion, electronic aids will be permitted (Subject to approval by the Scrutineer).
- 41. No points will be awarded for retirement or disqualification.
- 42. Crews may drop one race score from their points total for aggregate championship races (note point 49) Crews that complete every aggregate race will have their worst race points deducted prior to the final results being announced.
- 43. In the event of a tie for an aggregate trophy, the crew with the most wins during the season will be awarded the trophy.

PROTEST

- 44. All protests against other competing crews must be made in writing and handed to or emailed to a member of the Committee within 24 hours of an incident and must be notified by the Secretary/ Assistant Secretary in writing to any crew involved within 7 days of the incident.
- 45. The Committee shall summon one member of each crew involved in the incident to a meeting at which each crew representative will have the opportunity to speak. The committee will notify the crewmembers attending the meeting of their decision within 7 days of the meeting.

The Committee may:

- * Disqualify any crew/s
- * Impose a time penalty
- * Award a time gain
- * Take no action
- * Do any or all of the above to the protesting crew, if it is felt the protesting crew is at fault

- 46. The Committee has the power to suspend a crew from further races in the season and to make any deduction or additions to points as it deems fit and its decision shall be final.
- 47. All protests against race decisions made by the Race Secretary must be made in writing and handed to or emailed to a member of the Committee within 24 hours a decision of the Race Secretary, and must be notified by the Secretary/ Assistant Secretary in writing to any crew involved within 7 days of the incident.
- 48. The Committee may request any further information as it deems necessary from any party related to the protested decision.

49. The Committee may:

- * Set aside the protested decision
- * Amend the protested decision
- * Take no action

50. All decisions taken by the Committee in relation to protests are strictly binding and final.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

51. A firmly fitted and adequate towing ring and rope, minimum diameter 6mm with a minimum length of 40' to be fixed in place for the duration of the race. Adequate buoyancy must be fixed in place so as to support the boat crew on an even keel if waterlogged. Minimum buoyancy 5 gallons air volume per crewmember.
52. A list of compulsory safety equipment shall be made available in the 'Safety Equipment Checklist' under the administration section of the Guernsey Rowing Club website. This will be updated from time to time by the committee with adequate notice of such changes being given to all members.
53. Safety Equipment rules apply to Members rowing registered rowing boats at any time within the Bailiwick of Guernsey, not only during organised events.

RACING CLASSES

54. Standing classes shall be (all sliding seat): Mens Single, Ladies Single, Mens Double, Ladies Double, Mixed Double, Mens Quad, Ladies Quad, Mixed Quad.

Other classes (including those for fixed seat boats or open classes) shall be created or continued on a season to season basis at the discretion of the Committee.

55. A women's crew shall consist of 1, 2 or 4 women rowers and shall not contain any man (excluding the cox).
56. A men's crew shall consist of 1, 2 or 4 men rowers and shall not contain any woman (excluding the cox).
57. A mixed crew shall consist of an equal combination of men and women rowers (excluding the cox).

CREW

58. Crew selection is established prior to the first race by registration on membership form. No crew may change more than 50% including the Cox from the first race. Should they do so they will be regarded as a new crew. No relief crew may be carried. Substitutes within the 50% threshold must be notified on the Race Registration Form.
59. All registered crew members must be full racing Members of the Club.
60. All crew substitutes must be either full racing Members of the Club or Day Members
61. A crew shall be deemed to be a new crew if it changes boat more than once during the season, except as a result of damage being sustained by their boat.
62. In all cases a coxswain may be of either sex and at least 14 years of age, if less than 16 years of age parental consent must be obtained in writing.

CLUB BOATS

63. The Club shall insure all Club Boats and each crew allocated a Club Boat shall jointly and severally indemnify the Club for the premium paid and for any damage subsequently caused to the boat or any Third Party (including personal injury) by an act or omission by any crewmember where such damage is not covered by the policy insurance. The crew will be jointly and severally liable for any excess paid by the Club in relation to any insurance claims made for damage caused by use or handling of the allocated Club Boat by the crew.
64. The Committee shall allocate the Club Boats. Priority will be given to new rowers with no previous rowing experience, applications to be received by the Secretary in writing not later than 1st March each year, after this date any unallocated boats may be offered to those who have rowed previously on a first come first served basis. The Committee's decision shall be final.
65. Wherever possible one-half of all the club boats in each class shall be allocated to female crews.

BOAT SPECIFICATIONS

66. All fixed seat boats must have a minimum internal depth of 15" garboard to gunwale and the maximum length including rudder will be 16' for singles and 20' for pairs, these boats having a minimum of 25% of their length as beam and the minimum beam being 3'6". All seats to be fixed except in the open class. Fours and Open class boats to have a maximum length excluding rudder of 30' and minimum beam of 3'6".
67. Fixed seat single boats have to have either two pins on each gunwale or two holes into which rowlock can be slipped (subject to scrutineer's satisfaction).
68. The Fours class shall be open to boats with up to four rowers using one or two oars.
69. In all fixed seat classes, except the open class, rowlocks must be fitted to the gunwales within 1" of the outer skin.
70. The dimensions of sliding seat boats shall be as follows: -
 - a) Singles :
 - Length 6 metres maximum excluding rudder
 - Beam 0.75 metres minimum
 - Min weight 35kg
 - Horizontal measurement (X) 27.5cm
 - Vertical measurement (Y) 19.0cm
 - b) Pairs :
 - Length 7.5 metres maximum excluding rudder
 - Beam 1 metre minimum
 - Min weight 60kg
 - Horizontal measurement (X) 35.0cm
 - Vertical measurement (Y) 23.0cm
 - c) Others :
 - Length 10.7 metres maximum excluding rudder
 - Beam 1.3 metres minimum.
 - Min weight 140kg.
 - Guidance Note: this is for FFSA events. For FISA Regulated events the minimum weight is 150kg so additional ballast may be needed.*
 - Horizontal measurement (X) 45.0cm
 - Vertical measurement (Y) 30.0cm

- d) The hull shapes for all sliding seat classes will follow the prevailing French Rowing Federation specifications. (X) Measured horizontally from the hull centreline at its widest point the hull must intercept a point less than the vertical measurement (Y) above the bottom of the hull.
71. The Open class shall be open to boats that fall outside the classes established in rules 24 to 30 above.
72. Race numbers must be displayed (1) on both sides of the boat in black on a white background and (2) on the decking in black on an orange background. It is recommended that all race numbers to be at least 10" high and at least 2" in thickness. Numbers that do not fall within these guidelines will need to be approved by the scrutineer.
73. All (GRC) boats must be registered with the St Peter Port Harbour authorities; the allocated registration number must be displayed on the upper sides of the hull in letters no smaller than 50mm high. The scrutineers at the first race of a season will also request a copy of the official Harbour authorities registration document as evidence of registration.

