

## GENERAL RULES

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## GENERAL RULES.

1. - The name of the Association shall be "The Hants and Dorset Amateur Rowing Association".
2. - The objects of the Association shall be to promote and regulate rowing and sculling and boat racing generally within the area covered by the members of the Association and to cooperate with other sporting associations in promoting the said activities and sporting activities generally.
3. - The Association shall consist of rowing clubs and Regattas willing to bind themselves to observe the Rules of the Association whose principal Headquarters are situate within the counties of Hampshire, Dorset, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. Other Clubs and regattas from outside the district named may be admitted under special circumstances but their membership may then be subject to special conditions and restrictions in accordance with such circumstances. Applications by clubs or regattas to join shall be submitted to the hon. secretary at least one month before the Annual General Meeting accompanied by the appropriate subscription or regatta permit fee (which shall be returned if not elected) and a majority of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at such a meeting shall be required to admit to membership.
4. - Every club or regatta on becoming affiliated shall send to the hon. secretary the name and address of its secretary or other proper officer to whom all communications shall be sent and shall promptly notify any changes and all notices sent by the Association to the name and address last given shall be deemed to have been properly sent whether received or not. If agreed by the Club, Regatta or Individual Electronic Mail is as an acceptable form of communication.
5. - Each affiliated club or regatta shall pay to the Association an annual subscription or regatta permit fee at the rates fixed annually at the Annual General Meeting such payment to be made before the first Regatta counting championship points or the 1st June which ever shall be earlier in each year. Any club in arrears shall lose its power to vote and shall not be eligible to compete at any regatta and any regatta in arrears shall be liable to have their permit to hold a regatta withdrawn.
6. - The management of the Association shall be invested in the officers namely the President, Chairman, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and a committee consisting of two delegates from each affiliated club and one delegate from each affiliated Regatta (hereinafter called the Executive Committee).
7. - The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year as a general rule in April to transact the following business and one months notice in writing of the date and place and time of the meeting shall be given with an agenda setting out the business to be transacted which shall include:
  - (a) To approve the minutes of the last AGM and any other general meetings and to deal with any matters arising.
  - (b) To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December last.
  - (c) To elect the officers and other members of the executive Committee and an Hon. Auditor.
  - (d) To elect racing officials comprising umpires, starters, judges and their assistants.
  - (e) To ratify Regatta dates
  - (f) To agree rates of subscriptions, permit fees and entry fees for the year.
  - (g) to deal with any other business authorised by the Executive Committee or requisitioned in accordance with these rules.
8. - The officers elected at the AGM shall hold office until the next AGM and shall be eligible for re-election except that the President shall not serve for more than two and the Chairman shall not serve for more than five years. Additional Officers may be elected at the discretion of the meeting to assist in the management of the Association who shall be entitled to attend all meetings and have one vote each. In addition honorary life members may be elected who shall be entitled to attend all meetings and take part in discussions but shall have no voting power unless empowered to do so under rules 6 or 9 hereof. Vacancies in officers arising during the year may be filled by the Executive Committee to hold office until the next AGM.

9. - At the AGM each club shall be entitled to have two additional delegates and each regatta one additional delegate to vote in addition to their members of the Executive Committee and they shall nominate at the meeting their members entitled to vote.

10. - A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held in the autumn of each year to review the past regatta season and matters arising there from and to consider any matters to be referred to the AGM, clubs and regattas wishing to have matters placed on the agenda shall notify the hon. secretary thereof before the 30th September and the hon. secretary shall give at least three weeks notice in writing of such meeting and the agenda. Unless determined at a previous meeting the date and place of the meeting shall be fixed by the hon. secretary.

11. - Additional meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by any two of them namely the President, Chairman, Hon. secretary or Hon. Treasurer or requisitioned in writing by three affiliated clubs or regattas, who shall deposit with the Hon. Secretary the sum of £20 or such other sum as the Association shall from time to time prescribe to cover the cost of the meeting, stating the objects of the meeting and the names of those requisitioning the same and the meeting may decide whether the circumstances for calling the meeting justified the whole or part of such sum so deposited being refunded.

12. - At all meetings voting shall be by a show of hands of those entitled to vote and no one shall be entitled to more than one vote save the Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes. Resolutions shall be carried or lost by a simple majority save that no rules of the Association shall be repealed or altered and no new rule shall be made save by a two-thirds majority of those voting at an AGM. Any proposed alterations to the rules shall be submitted to the hon. secretary in writing by the 28th February who shall circulate them at least six weeks before the AGM and any Club or Regatta wishing to submit an amendment to the proposed alterations shall give notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary and each affiliated Club and Regatta at least two weeks before the AGM. Any alterations or amendments so circulated in advance and passed at the AGM shall take immediate effect. Any amendment to the rules not so circulated in advance but passed by a two-thirds majority at an AGM shall take immediate effect and be binding on Clubs and Regattas but notice thereof must be given on the agenda of the next AGM and unless ratified there by a two-thirds majority shall thereupon lapse. At all meetings if the Chairman shall so decree or if ten members present and entitled to vote shall so request voting may be by secret ballot when voting cards shall be issued to those entitled to vote and two scrutineers shall be appointed to count the votes and the same rules as to a majority shall apply. Alterations or additions to the Associations Rules may be submitted for consideration at an AGM by any affiliated Club, Regatta, Executive Officer or Sub Committee of the Association.

13. - The Officers present at a regatta together with one representative of each club and regatta present shall constitute an emergency committee to consider all matters of dispute referred to it by the organising regatta committee, the umpires and other racing officials of the day or any three clubs requisitioning the same by written notice to the senior officer present. Such emergency committee shall be empowered to withhold points from any or all championship races where the conditions do not conform to the best interests of rowing, make decisions about postponements and row-offs and exercise disciplinary powers against any competitors or club considered by it guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interests of rowing. If it is held a disciplinary offence has been committed the emergency committee shall have power to reprimand a competitor or club and/or suspend the offender from racing in future regattas until a meeting of the Executive Committee can be convened or impose a fine not exceeding £10 on a competitor or club or may refer the matter to the Executive Committee who may suspend or fine without limit. Any Club aggrieved by the decision of the emergency committee may seek a meeting of the executive committee under rule 11 by notice to the hon. secretary within seven days of the emergency committee's decision when the Executive Committee shall reconsider the matter as soon as possible and either ratify, reverse or amend the decision of the emergency committee.

14. - The quorum at a general meeting shall be 15 persons present and entitled to vote, at an Executive Committee Meeting 11 such persons and at an Emergency committee 7 such persons.

15. - The Executive Committee shall have full power to enquire into the conduct of any club regatta or individual in respect of whom a complaint has been made and for that purpose may require the attendance of specific officials and other persons and the production of all books, letters and other

documents. They shall have full power to deal with all offending or defaulting clubs regattas or individuals as they may think fit including imposing fines and suspensions or withholding championship points but any motion imposing such action shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

16. - The Association may delegate any of its powers to sub-committees or other bodies or to individuals from amongst its members or otherwise provided the powers so delegated are specified in each case.

17. - The Executive Committee may make byelaws which shall be binding on the Association until the next AGM at which they must be ratified in order to remain in force.

18. - The treasurer shall be responsible for the accounts and the funds of the Association and shall cause an audited account to be published for perusal at the AGM. No officer shall have power to incur expenditure or commit the Association to expenditure in excess of £30 without the consent of the Associations general meeting. All monies received on behalf of the Association shall be paid into bankers or building societies appointed by the Association and all cheques on and directions to the bankers shall be signed by the hon. treasurer or any two other officers of the Association.

19. - The Association may acquire property and may appoint not less than two or more than four Trustees in whom all property of the Association other than cash under the control of the treasurer shall be vested. The Trustees shall hold office until death resignation or removal from an office by a resolution passed at the AGM. The Trustees may deal with the property so vested in them by way of sale mortgage charge lease or otherwise as directed by the Association in general meeting.

20. - The Trustees shall be effectually indemnified by the Association from and against any liability cost expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in relation to the trusts of the property of the Association or in relation to any legal proceedings or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of the trustees.

21. - Neither the Association nor any officer or committee member there of shall be liable to any club regatta or individual whether a member of the Association or not for any loss or damage or injury to any property or person occurring from whatever cause in or about any property of the Association or in or about any event promoted by or held under the rules of the Association and any club or regatta staging any event held under the name of the Association shall display a notice to this effect in any programme or in a prominent position at the event.

22. - The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting, or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by, any officer club or regatta shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting.

23. - A motion to dissolve the Association may only be made at an Annual General Meeting and to effect a dissolution at least three quarters of the persons present and entitled to vote must vote in favour of dissolution and if carried the property and surplus funds of the Association shall be returned to the original donors, distributed amongst the affiliated clubs and regattas or donated to some other association having its main objects the promotion of rowing and other sporting activities as such Annual General Meeting may decide.

24. - The Association Rules for boat racing and regatta rules and conditions governing the Associations championship trophies shall be an integral part of these Rules and all amendments and additions there to shall be made in accordance with these General Rules.

25. - If clarification or interpretation of any of the existing Association Rules as they stand is required then such clarification or interpretation will be made by the Executive Officers of the Association, that is the President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary any three of the four Executive Officers being able to make such a decision.

26. - Priority is given to any organising committee for the sale of clothing and memorabilia to raise funds for the South Coast Championships Regatta each time it is held under the auspices of the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association. This does not preclude Clubs or Regatta's raising funds at their own events.

