

South Coast Championship Regatta Council

– Rules and Recommendations.

Including all additions and amendments up to 01/01/09.

[Published with the approval of the South Coast Council]

As amended by the South Coats Council Meeting of 01/01/09.

RULES

The Regatta

1. The Regatta shall be called:- **“South Coast Championship Regatta”**

The Administration

2. A Council shall be formed of three delegates from each Association, Coast ARA, Hants & Dorset ARA and the West of England ARA, to be responsible for the general arrangements, and to act as Trustees for the trophies. There shall be one vote per delegate. The Honorary Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by the Council in addition to the nine delegates and shall be present in this capacity at all meetings but shall not have the power to vote. He shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-election.
3. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in January each year. The Council shall elect a Chairman to take the Chair for a three year term on rotation between the three Associations. The Chairman shall have control of the meeting, and shall retain the power to vote, but shall not have a casting vote. In the event of equality of votes, the motion shall be deemed to be “Not carried”.
4. The three Council members representing each Association shall be nominated by their respective Associations at their Annual General Meetings and shall hold office for the ensuing year. In the absence of a nominated Council Member, his Association may provide a substitute who shall be entitled to exercise his voting right.
5. A special meeting of the South Coast Championship Regatta Council shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary of the Council on the written request of any one Association. The date, place and time of the meeting to be announced within four weeks of the written request and held within six weeks.
6. Each Association is to be responsible for the expense of running its own Championship Regatta, but the three Associations shall share the cost of insuring the trophies equally. In the event of the Championship Regattas ceasing, the trophies shall be returned to the association donating same.
7. The Championship Regatta shall be held in four year cycles, twice in the West of England and once each in the Coast and Hants & Dorset. The actual order or sequence and the site of each Championship Regatta shall be approved by the Council. The proposed venue shall be notified to the Honorary Secretary to the Council two months before the Annual General Meeting two years in advance of the Championship Regatta to enable any representations from Clubs to be considered at the Annual General Meeting. At each Annual General Meeting of the Council, the organising committee on behalf of the host Association organising the Championship Regatta two years hence will submit a written resume, with a chart of the course, tides, start time and date of the Regatta. The Championship Regatta will be advertised to be held no later than the second weekend in September. Failure to submit these details will result in the next Association in rotation being offered the event.
8. The Council in General Meeting may make recommendations generally as guidance for local organising committees on all matters relating to the organisation of Championship Regattas, and may also as a condition for approving the venue of a particular Championship Regatta issue directives to

the local organising committee of that Championship Regatta relating to such organisation; and if the organising Championship Regatta committee considers they are unable to comply with such general recommendations or directives, they should notify the Honorary Secretary to the Council in writing with their reason, and thereupon the Honorary Secretary shall notify the Council members, and if requested, under Rule.5. call a Special Meeting.

9. Each Association shall contribute £250.00 per annum, or such sum as shall be unanimously be agreed agreed by the three Associations at the previous Annual General Meeting, to the South Coast Championship Regatta Council fund by 30th May, which shall be banked by the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Council in a deposit account. The Secretary of the Association organising the Championship Regatta can claim up to the total of £375.00 from this fund towards the cost of that year' s Championship Regatta without reference to the Council. The remaining funds from the contributions are to be used to offset the cost of insuring the trophies and for the Council' s administration.

10. Any sums not claimed, and any interest, may be disbursed at the discretion of the South Coast Championship Regatta Council.

11. All correspondence shall go through the Honorary Secretary to the Council.

The Championship Regatta arrangements

12. (a) The Championship course and supporting races shall be a straight 2000 metres (one and half miles) maximum, 1650 metres (one mile) minimum, with stake boat start where conditions permit. Championship events will be held for Men's Senior, Men's Junior/Senior, Men's Junior, Ladies' Senior, Ladies' Junior coxed fours and Veteran coxed fours. The draw for positions for the Championship races shall be made on the Friday evening preceding the Championship Regatta. (b) Before any crews are boated for the Championship Regatta, separate and adequate safety boats shall be on station and no race shall commence until such time as they are ; and all safety aspects detailed in the South Coast Championship Regatta Water Safety Guidelines and the ARA Water Safety Code, are adhered to.

13. Both the start and finish lines WILL BE clearly marked by two posts, securely fixed ashore, clearly visible to all competing crews, starters and judges respectively.

14. The host Association shall specify the type of boat to be used (i.e. coastal or river) and these shall be used in the Championship races and in all supporting events. Championship crews may row their own boats or make their own arrangements to borrow boats for use in practice and for Championship races provided such boats are constructed in accordance with the class of boats specified for use in the Championship. If any crew has difficulty in finding a boat of Championship standard they should notify the organising committee by the closing date for entries, and it shall then be the responsibility of the promoting Association to ensure that a suitable boat is available for them, and for practice during Championship Regatta week, and that the club is notified of the boat allocation at least ten days before the Championship Regatta.

15. Priority shall be given to Championship races to ensure that they are rowed when conditions are most favourable, and on time as stated in the programme.

16. All supporting races to be non-status, restricted to the three Associations. The Invitation Novice races are to be rowed where possible, and Clubs shall enter Novices as defined in the Rules of their Association, but any oarsperson who has won either the Men's or Ladies' Invitation Novice Fours shall not be eligible to compete in either race in subsequent years. The local organising committee shall have the power to restrict the number of entries from each club in the supporting races if necessary.

17. The three members of the South Coast Championship Regatta Council nominated by the Association responsible for organising a Championship Regatta shall be Ex-Officio members of any local organising committee appointed by such Association to ensure that arrangements are in

accordance with these Rules and in particular to advise on and approve the order of rowing and timing of events in the programme.

18. The Council members of each Association shall appoint a representative of each Association to inspect all boats together with the Championship Water Safety Adviser as soon as practicable, at the discretion of the organising committee but before going afloat, on the morning of the Championship Regatta; and in the event of finding a boat unfit or unsuitable shall have the power to prevent a boat going afloat until suitable repairs have been made and the boat has been re-inspected and found to be satisfactory.

19. The Council members together with the organising committee shall meet on the Friday before the Championship Regatta and if necessary at 7.00 a.m. on the Championship Regatta day at a venue fixed by the Honorary Secretary or the Chairman of the Council. The Championship Regatta day meeting shall be announced on the Friday evening before the Championship Regatta. If unsettled weather conditions exist on the Friday and are likely to extend to the Championship Regatta day, the meeting shall then be called to deal with alterations and use of alternative Championship Regatta courses, and to give notice to crews travelling on the Championship Regatta morning.

20. In the event of the need to use the alternative course, then it shall be used on the same day as announced for the Championship Regatta. In the event of neither course being rowable on the Saturday, the meeting referred to in Rule.19. shall only then discuss rowing as many of the events as possible on the Sunday. On Sunday the Council shall meet prior to the alternative Championship Regatta at 7.00 a.m., or such as is convenient.

21. Each Association shall nominate Four Officials to act at the Regatta as; one starter who will together with the other Associations' Starters, start all Championship and Open races; one Judge, who will together with the other Associations' Judges, judge all races; one Championship Umpire, who together with the other Associations' Umpires, umpire all Championship races and together with one Non-Championship Umpire from each Association, will assist the Championship Umpires with the Open races.

22. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to the Council to forward to the local organising committee by 31st May each year a copy of these Rules and any Recommendations or directives in force thereunder.

Entry conditions

23. (a) Oarspersons rowing in Championship events shall be barred from competing in the supporting events, but are allowed to compete in more than one Championship event if selected by their Association. No crew or oarsperson is allowed to enter for more than one supporting race, and no late entries will be accepted. But crews can be switched if affected by Championship results after the closing date for entries. Any crew entered in the supporting events, before being selected to represent their Association in the Championship events, shall be entitled to a full refund of their supporting event entry fee.

(b) The Junior Regatta shall be regarded as a separate regatta in which competitors will be permitted to enter more than one event but will be subject to meeting the regatta timetable. Entrants in the Junior Regatta may also enter the Championship Regatta but will be subject to the conditions laid down in Rule.23.(a).

24. The entrance fee for the Championship races shall be £2.50 per seat. For supporting events the entrance fee shall be £4.00 per seat including a levy of £0.50 per seat. The levy shall be collected by the organising committee, and paid to the South Coast Championship Regatta Council.

25. (a) Each Association has the right to nominate the crews that will represent them in the six Championship events, and are not bound to nominate their Champion crew or runner-up. Crews must come from Clubs affiliated to the Association that they are representing and must all be registered

members of that Club. In the event of a crew in a Championship race becoming incomplete before the start of the Championship Regatta, the Association concerned shall have the right to nominate a substitute oarsperson from the same Club, or to replace the entire crew by another crew from another Club.

(b) That all crews in the Championship events must have competed in at least three Championship Regattas within their Association for the Club that they are representing to qualify for entry into the South Coast Championship Regatta.

(c) That all crews in the Open events must have competed in at least three Championship Regattas within their Association or have been a registered Association member for 12 months for the Club that they are representing to qualify for entry into the South Coast Championship Regatta.

(d) No oarsperson who transferred between two Clubs less than four weeks before the published date of the South Coast Championship Regatta will be allowed to compete in any Open or Invitation event at the Championship Regatta for their new Club.

(e) Any crew selected by their Association to represent them, but the crew refuses, that crew will not be accepted in any other race at that Championship.

26. All Clubs are responsible for putting in their own entries (together with entry fee) for all Open races before the closing date for entries set by the organising committee. The closing date for the Open entries must not be earlier than three weeks prior to the date of the Championship Regatta. The organising committee shall notify each Association Secretary of the closing date, so that each Association can submit its selected Championship crews (together with entry fee) before the closing date for entries. Clubs entering crews in supporting events before selection to represent their association shall be entitled to a refund of the entry fee on having to withdraw from the supporting event on being selected and the Championship entry fee being paid by the Association.

27. Any oarsman who has raced for Championship points for one Association during the season, shall not be permitted to represent another Association at the South Coast Championship Regatta unless he has transferred his membership from one Club to another in accordance with the Rules of the Associations. This shall not affect the right of crews from Clubs affiliated to two Associations to be selected by either Association to represent them at the South Coast Championship Regatta.

28. The Open Veteran coxed fours for The Sidney De Haan Cup shall be open to male and/or female rowers over the age of forty on the day of the published date of the Championship Regatta. Entries from composite crews will be permitted but any composite crew must include at least three oarspersons registered with the same Club.

29. The Championship Veteran coxed fours shall be for male and/or female rowers over the age of forty on the day of the published date of the Championship Regatta. Entry shall be in accordance with Rule.25.

30. Changes to crew personnel and crews scratched after the closing date for entries must be notified to the organising committee on an official form provided. Only two changes per crew allowed and changes in crew personnel for Championship events must be notified before the draw for positions. Changes to crew personnel in the Open events must be notified before the Captains' Briefing on regatta morning. Only in exceptional circumstances will Council consider changes to crew personnel after these deadlines.

Racing Rules and procedures.

Preparation

31. All Clubs shall register their Club colours and designs with the Championship organising committee. All competitors must race in these registered coloured vests and any waterproof undergarments to be worn under the racing vests, must be in accordance with their own Association

rules. The race officials shall disqualify any incorrectly attired oarspersons. The Championship organising committee shall publish these colours and designs in the programme.

32. At every Championship Regatta there shall be a Captains' Briefing, of all pre-race information, immediately after the early morning Council meeting. It shall be mandatory that Captains of competing Clubs, or a nominated representative from the same Club, attend the Captains' Briefing. Where the Championship Regatta and the Junior Regatta are held on different days a separate Captains' Briefing will be held for each regatta at which attendance shall be mandatory at both meetings for Captains of competing Clubs or their nominated Club representative. Failure to attend will automatically disqualify a Club from competing in the relevant regatta. However, on payment of a penalty of £25 to

33. All boats must race in the position that they are drawn, the No 1 position counting from the starboard/right hand side.

34. All crews must go afloat wearing their correct numbers, which must be clearly visible bow and stern, securely fixed with either safety pins or ties. These numbers, which will be printed in the programme, will be supplied by the Championship organising committee and will be individually numbered, so that crews will use that number throughout the Regatta. All coxswains must wear lifejackets when afloat and Clubs will be responsible for supplying these to water safety standards. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that their coxswains are capable of performing their duties adequately and with safety.

35. All crews shall be allocated a lane number. Each Club shall be responsible for ensuring that their competing crews go afloat bearing the correct lane number plainly visible. This number shall be clean and firmly affixed to the bow of the boat. Numbers shall be made of wood, metal or other solid material to a maximum of 9 inches (228mm) and a minimum of 8 inches (203mm) square, painted on both sides with day-glow yellow numbers 6" high x 1" wide (153mm high x 25mm wide) on a black background or black numbers on a white background.

36. A crew is allowed to make only two changes to personnel, provided that these changes are notified in writing as per Rule.30. No other substitutions are allowed.

The Start

37. All crews must come under Starter's orders no later than 5 minutes before the published start time of their race and any crew arriving late shall be liable to disqualification by the Starter, whose decision shall be final.

38. The Starter shall have full control of the start, with power to disqualify. If the starter considers the start false he shall at once recall all the boats to their stations and any boat refusing to start again shall be liable to disqualification.

39. The Starter shall raise the red flag, two feet by two feet square, to notify crews to come under starters orders and any boat not at the start at this signal being given shall be liable to be disqualified and/or the race started in their absence. Any boat taking up a position other than as advertised in the programme or directed by the Starter or Umpire shall be liable to be disqualified.

40. The raising of an arm by a crew member or coxswain on the start is an indication to the Starter that the crew considers it is not ready to start for some reason, but the decision when to start rests entirely with the Starter, who will state his intention to start with the command "Hands Down".

41. When the Starter is ready after he has satisfied himself that all the boats are in their proper positions and that the crews are ready, the starter shall lower the red flag and replace it by raising a yellow flag, two feet by two feet square. The race shall be started by a pistol, cannon or a suitable audible device, coinciding with the dropping of the yellow flag, which will be accompanied by a verbal command of "Set - Go". The "Go" to coincide with the dropping of the Yellow flag and the firing of

the pistol, cannon or suitable audible device. The dropping of the Yellow flag being the overriding signal.

42. If after the yellow flag has been raised and the line shall become unsatisfactory or an obstruction shall appear on the course, the red flag will be re-hoisted and the yellow flag lowered to indicate that the start is delayed and all crews must obey any instructions given by the Starter or Umpire or the crew/crews may be liable to disqualification.

43. Any boat failing to obey any instructions by the starter to get back behind the starting line or Starting over the line or starting to row before the dropping of the yellow flag, the offending crew or crews will be given an " Official Warning " and that crew must acknowledge this warning by the raising of a hand. Only one "Official Warning" will be given per crew, any further "Official Warning" to that crew during the event will lead to immediate disqualification without appeal. The crew must then immediately leave the course, failure to do so is a disciplinary offence reportable to the South Coast Championship Council.

44. Once the race has started to the satisfaction of the Starter, the control of the race shall pass to the Umpires.

The Race

45. Each boat shall keep to its "own water" throughout the race. A boat's "own water" is the parallel course from its assigned station at the start until the finish. The Umpire shall be the sole judge of a boat's "own water" during the race. But providing the crew allows at least one length of clear water it may cross the path of a competitor, but any boat failing to keep to its own water does so at its own risk in the event of a foul or interference occurring. If a boat whilst in the water of another boat comes into contact with, or impedes another boat, it shall constitute an offence of impediment to that boat.

46. It shall be considered a foul when after the race has started, any competitor by oar, boat or person comes into contact with an oar, boat or person of another competitor, unless in the opinion of the Umpire it will not influence the result of the race.

47. The Umpires may caution any competitor when they consider there is a possibility of a foul occurring and may give warnings of any obstructions on the course, but the Umpires shall not therwise during a race direct the course of a competitor.

48. The Umpire shall have power to disqualify any boat committing a foul or otherwise deliberately interfering with the proper course of other competitors and they shall be the sole judge of a boats proper course during a race. The jurisdiction of the Umpires shall extend over the whole race, from the start to the finish and their decision shall not be overruled, but they may reconsider their decision following representations being made, but once they have announced their decision on such representations it is absolutely final, without further appeal.

49. If the Umpires have disqualified a crew or is otherwise dissatisfied with the proper conduct of a race they shall hoist a red flag in which case the Judges shall make no announcement of the result until the decision of the Umpires has been notified to them.

50. Every boat shall abide by its accidents, but if during a race a boat shall be fouled or interfered with or the course otherwise obstructed, the Umpires shall have the power to ;

- a. Disqualify the offending crew or crews and allow the race to continue.
- b. To stop the race and order the crews other than any that they have disqualified, to return to the start to re-row at a time determined by the Regatta Controller.
- c. If they are unable to reach an immediate decision, they may allow the race to continue and consider any representations made to them at its end, when they may exercise their power to disqualify and/or order a re-row, but they should always reach their decision as quickly as possible and avoid deferring their decision.

51. During a race, crews must not be raced by other boats outside the race or receive outside instructions other than the Umpires under Rule.46. and any crew receiving any extraneous assistance may be disqualified. Extraneous assistance shall include help given to crews once a race has started, to empty out or re-launch, or replace equipment other than handing over spares or tools for the crew to carry out all repairs themselves.

The Finish

52. The whole course must be completed by the competitor before they can be held to have finished a race, unless they are prevented from doing so by damage resulting from a foul, then the Umpires shall have the discretion to deem them to have completed the course. Boats shall have completed the course when the bow reaches the finishing line. If a competitor other than a coxswain falls out of a boat, that crew may still be placed, but if the coxswain leaves the boat the crew will be deemed to have not completed the course.

53. A dead heat for first place in a final shall be decided by a row-off between the dead heated crews, to be rowed on the same day over the same course at a time laid down by the Regatta Officials and any competitor refusing to re-row shall be adjudged to have lost the re-row.

54. The Judges shall decide the order the boats cross the finishing line and such decision shall be final and without appeal, but they may reserve or reconsider their decision in the same manner as the Umpires.

55. A crew wishing to protest regarding an incident during the course of the race shall notify the Umpires immediately at the conclusion of the race before going ashore or if this is not possible, one member of the crew protesting accompanied by the Club Captain or another senior official of the Club concerned shall immediately notify the Judges, who shall communicate the same to the Umpires for their decision. Any protest accompanied by abusive language or other improper conduct may be rejected without consideration.

56. All winning crews must report to the Judges at the finish immediately after the race before coming ashore for the recording and verification of crew names. If this is not possible then the crew must report to the judges immediately upon coming ashore.

57. Any crew disqualified for whatever reason in a heat of an event or otherwise is disqualified from taking any further part in that event.

58. In the Open and Invitation events involving heats the draw for lanes should take place after the completion of the heats by drawing the club names and should not be predetermined by the position they finished in the heat. The draw should be undertaken by the Judges.

59. A post-Regatta meeting is to be held no later than 30 minutes after the last race. All Council Delegates and the officials of the day are to attend. Life Members of Council may attend.

Trophies, prizes and medals

60. The medals and ribbons produced by the Council shall be awarded for the Championship events only and awarded to the winning crew including the coxswain. Past winners shall not be entitled to purchase the same. Each Association shall purchase from the South Coast Championship Regatta Council enough medals to cover their hosted Championship Regattas. Championship pennants will be provided by the organising committee for both Championship and Open events.

61. The Bass Aggregate Shield shall be presented annually to the Association whose Clubs score the most points on the basis of five points for a win, three points for a second, and one point for a third, in the Championship races only.

62. The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sesquicentennial Trophy shall be presented annually to the Club scoring the most points on the basis of five points for a win, three points for a second, one point for a third, in the supporting races only.

63. In the event of a re-row following a dead-heat, the winner of the re-row shall be awarded the five points, the second three points, and the third in the re-row or third in the original final, the one point towards the respective aggregate trophies.

64. The Mayor of Bideford's Cup will be presented annually to the winners of the Ladies' Invitation Junior coxed fours. This race is open to Junior Ladies.

Discipline.

65. Any crew reported for a breach of discipline at a Championship Regatta shall be called to account for their actions by the full committee of the South Coast Championship Regatta Council. Any motion to suspend or fine a crew or individual from competing in South Coast Championship Regattas must be passed by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance and entitled to vote. Any crew or individual reported to the South Championship Regatta Council for a breach of discipline, the individual, their Club and Association must be given at least four weeks notice of the meeting at which the proposed motion of sanction will be considered, with reason for the proposed sanction and must be given the opportunity to attend the meeting to present their case.

The spirit of the Rules.

66. These Council Rules encompass the Championship events, the Open and Invitation events and any Junior (Under 18) Regatta held in conjunction with the South Coast Championship Regatta. In the event of ambiguity, Council will make a final decision in the spirit of these Rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. If bad weather could cause cancellation, preparations should be made for an alternative course, and details published before the Championship Regatta.
- B. Sufficient non-Championship boats should be available from the Monday preceding the Championship Regatta to enable the crews to train over the Championship Regatta course.
- C. If the course is not completely straight, facilities should be available for coxswains/strokes to be taken over the course prior to the Championship Regatta.
- D. In the supporting events not more than eight crews should be started in a heat where possible.
- E. In the supporting events priority should be given in the following order to Men's Open Senior coxed fours, Ladies' Open Senior coxed fours, Open Veteran coxed fours, Men's Open Junior/Senior coxed fours, Men's Invitation Junior coxed fours, Ladies' Invitation Junior coxed fours, Men's Invitation Novice coxed fours, and Ladies' Invitation Novice coxed fours. Additional events should only be included if these will not interfere with the remainder of the programme. The core events of the Junior Regatta should be Boys' Under 16 coxed quadruple sculls, Boys' Under 14 coxed quadruple sculls, Girls' Under 16 coxed quadruple sculls and Girls' Under 14 coxed quadruple sculls.
- F. The West of England ARA should provide boats where possible capable of being rigged Coast side.
- G. In accordance with Rule.6. any additional funds should be raised within the host Association, and the other two Associations should not be asked to sell raffle tickets, etc.
- H. A draft copy of the draw for a Championship Regatta, including time of heats and the names of crews participating in those heats and the date, time and venue for the Captains' Briefing to be in the post at least seven days prior to the event, and should be sent to all participating Clubs, officials of the day, and all Council members. Any invitations, information, etc., should be sent to the foregoing also.
- I. At every Championship Regatta there shall be an Officials' Briefing of all pre-race information. Additionally the officials should be given the opportunity of viewing the course prior to the championship Regatta. Coxswains should also be given the opportunity to join the officials for the course viewing. At the Officials' Briefing a draw should be made by the starters for the starting of Championship races.

* * * * *

NOTES

- i. The Rules of all three Associations under which the supporting races are held prohibit composite crews, and therefore it automatically follows that composite crews cannot be accepted in these events, and members of a crew must belong and be entitled to race for the Club entering the crew.
- ii. Wherever the context so admits in these Rules and Recommendations, all words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine.

* * * *

10.01.09.