

Cambois Rowing Club Constitution

1. NAME

The club shall be known as Cambois Rowing Club hereinafter known as 'the Club'.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the club are to promote rowing in East Northumberland.

3. POWERS

The Club has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting its Objectives:

- To acquire or hire property of any kind.
- To let or dispose of property of any kind.
- To co-operate with other bodies.
- To employ and remunerate staff or advisors as necessary to carry out the Objectives.
- To raise funds (but not by means of taxable trading)
- To deposit or invest funds in any lawful manner.
- To set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure.
- To borrow money with or without giving security.
- To enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies.
- To accept gifts either for general or specific purposes of the Club.
- To hold licences where required by the authorities for activities that the Club may wish to carry out on its premises, such as those required for the sale and consumption of alcohol, for entertainment, or for the public broadcasting of music.
- To charge a fee for racking privately-owned boats that are not available for general use by Members.
- To do anything else within the law which promotes or helps promote the Objectives.

4. MEMBERSHIP

A. The club is an Open Membership Club.

All members shall be entitled to use Club equipment appropriate to their level of membership, however the Captain has the right to decide upon boat and equipment allocation and his/her decision shall be final. Any person ceasing to be a member of the Club or not paying their due subscription shall forfeit all right to or claim upon the Club, its property or funds.

B. Classes of Membership

- Full Members:
 - a) Senior (over 18) members with access to all club equipment.
 - b) Land members (over 18) with access to land based equipment only.
 - c) Concessionary: unemployed, student (over 18) with access to all club equipment
- Junior Members:
 - a) J13-J18
 - b) J12 and below
- Social: do not have access to or use of club boats or other equipment.
- Honorary: have the same benefits as full members.

C. Election of Membership

1. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of rowing on application in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy (Section 5). However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
2. The Club may have 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.
3. Applicants for membership and members renewing their membership will abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Club and the sport of rowing.
4. 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 Committee shall provide full reasons for their decision and grant a right of Appeal to the members.
5. From time to time the Club Committee may offer Honorary Membership to individuals that have served the Club or the sport of rowing with particular distinction.

D. Restriction

A person who has been expelled from, or refused membership of, British Rowing shall not be eligible for membership.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The Club is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and is responsible for ensuring that no member or volunteer receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religious belief, social status, sexual orientation or political belief.

6. CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

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

7. SUBSCRIPTION

The rates of subscription shall be determined at a committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting, and shall be due on election and, thereafter, on or before 1st January in each year. A quarterly sliding scale of subscription rates will be applied for members joining through the year.

8. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) Any member may resign giving one month's clear notice in writing to the secretary.
- b)
 - i. Any member violating any of the rules or regulations of the Club or being adjudged guilty of unsatisfactory conduct may, by resolution of the Committee, be suspended or expelled. Any member so suspended or expelled may appeal to an independent Hearings Panel appointed by the Northern Rowing Council.
 - ii. Any hearing panel must give a fair and independent hearing to the appellant within an appropriate timescale. Hearings must not contravene the Human Rights Act 1998 or any other policies of the Club and British Rowing.
- c) A member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, after due notice in writing, they have not paid by 31st January, the annual subscription which became due on 1st January. They may, however, rejoin at any time during that year without payment of any entrance fee, subject to the provision of 4.C or 4.D above.

9. GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

An individual or member with a complaint about treatment by the Club should set out their grievance in writing or by email, in the first instance to the Club Chair. The Club will seek to deal with complaints in a fair and timely manner, with reference to British Rowing's guidelines on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures in Rowing.

10. DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING OFFICE

- a. Only members entitled to vote are eligible to hold office.
- b. Any member who is under the age of 16 years shall not be eligible for election to the club committee.

11. COMMITTEE

- a. The Committee shall represent the interests of the entire membership of the Club. It shall conduct the affairs of the Club as a whole and shall consist of the following officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain, Vice Captain, Safety Officer, Welfare Officer and other Officers as deemed necessary, together with 4 ordinary members. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to 4 further members and co-opted members shall have the right to vote at Committee meetings only, unless they are Senior members (full, land or concessionary) as per clause 16.a. In which case they are also entitled to vote at the AGM.
- b. The Committee may select a President as an honorary Officer within the Club. The President will not be a member of the Committee. The election of a President shall be at

- a General Meeting, following a nomination made by the Committee in accordance with paragraph 14.d.
- c. Nominations for the position of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers and members of the committee except the Welfare Officer shall be put forward in the form of a motion under the terms of Paragraph 14.d. If the number of vacancies to be filled is greater than the number of candidates nominated or if in the opinion of the Committee any member is specially qualified to fill any particular office, the Committee may nominate a member for election provided notice of such nominations is given in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting. Casual vacancies among the Officers and Committee (other than the President) may be filled by the committee. If there is an election and a candidate for an Office is unsuccessful, he/she shall be eligible for election as an ordinary member.
 - d. No member may propose or second more than 3 nominations for Committee membership. No member may propose a close relative.
 - e. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair from among its number.
 - f. The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall be eligible of re-election. If elected or appointed to the Committee after one AGM and before the next, a Committee member wishing to continue must stand for election at the next AGM and will serve for the following full year.
 - g. The Committee shall appoint two Junior Representatives from the J17 and J18 squads at the time of the AGM, by election, or co-option should that be necessary.
 - h. The Committee shall appoint a Welfare Officer, following a selection process that includes receipt of a satisfactory reference from a professional person.

12. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- a. **Chair:** The chair will preside at all General meetings of the Club and at all meetings of the Committee, and shall be responsible for guiding the activities of the Club in accordance with its general policy as expressed by the majority of its members. The Chair shall represent or arrange for the representation of the Club at British Rowing regional level and at meetings of other organisations. The Chairman shall ex officio be a member of any other committee of the Club.
- b. **President:** The President shall assume a role appropriate to himself/herself within the general requirement to be a figurehead for the Club and to represent the Club or to appoint suitable representatives in its dealings with external bodies.
- c. **Captain:** The Captain will be responsible for the arrangements for training, coaching and boat allocation, boat racking, transport of boats to events, club equipment including boats and land equipment, and for representation of the Club in competitions.

- d. **Vice-Captain:** The Vice-Captain will work with the Captain to ensure that arrangements for training and coaching, and also competitions hosted by the club, are carried out in accordance with the Committee's requirements.
- e. **Safety Officer:** The Safety Officer will advise the Committee concerning matters relating to safety, to ensure that the Committee and Coaches provide a safe rowing environment for all members, and that coaches prepare appropriate risk assessments prior to training or racing. The Safety Officer will advise the Committee about matters relating to safety at events hosted by the Club, and ensure that the Regatta Secretary makes available an appropriate risk assessment.
- f. **Welfare Officer:** The Welfare Officer will advise the Committee concerning matters relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, in accordance with the requirements of British Rowing.
- g. **Secretary:** The Secretary will be responsible for the organisation of meetings of the Committee and of the Club, and the recording of minutes relating to such meetings and all correspondence relating to the general business of the Club. The Secretary will ensure that records are kept of membership and attendance.
- h. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all monies belonging to the Club and will keep proper accounting records of all such transactions. He or she will present to the members at the AGM a balance sheet and income and expenditure account showing the Club's financial position and the results of its transactions for the year. The transactions of the Club will be conducted through a bank account in accordance with the mandate held at the bank.
- i. The **Chair, Treasurer and Secretary** will be the Trustees of the Club. At any time, two of the three Trustees should have served 2 or more years as Members immediately before appointment.
- j. Any legal contract entered into by the Club shall be signed by two of the three Trustees, following a Resolution from the Committee that approves the contract,

13. CLUB COMMITTEE

- a. The committee is responsible for the general conduct of the Club's business and activities.
- b. The Committee shall meet at regular intervals during the year, as required by the business to be transacted.
- c. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary on instructions of the Chair, or not less than three Committee members.
- d. A quorum shall consist of not less than 5 members.
- e. In the case of a casual vacancy among the Committee, the said Committee shall be entitled to appoint another eligible person to act until the next AGM.

14. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year. All members will be given three weeks notice of the date of the AGM. There shall be laid before the meeting a statement of accounts made up to the end of the month immediately preceding the AGM.
- b. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the instructions to the Secretary of a simple majority of the Committee, or on a requisition signed by not less than 8 of the members of the Club entitled to vote.
- c. On receipt of instruction according to 14b, the Secretary shall within seven days issue a notice stating the business and convening a Special General Meeting to be held on a date not less than seven and not more than fourteen days after the issue of the notice.
- d. Motions for discussion including nominations at Annual General Meetings not of origin from within the Committee, shall be lodged with the Secretary one week prior to the date of the meeting, and be signed by 2 members entitled to vote.
- e. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the Meeting shall be decided by a show of hands, of those entitled to vote, except when more than one nomination has been received for a position on the Committee, in which case voting will be by secret ballot.
- f. At all General Meetings the Chair will preside or, in his/her absence, a Chair for the meeting will be elected by the voting members present.
- g. At all General Meetings not less than 8 members of the Club entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.
- h. **Absences of Quorum:** If after half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the Meeting, if called at the request of the members shall be dissolved. In any other case, the Meeting shall be adjourned until a time and place to be fixed by the Committee. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for an Adjourned Meeting, the members present shall be quorum.
- i. **Accidental Omission:** Accidental Omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of, a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of a meeting.

15. LIABILITY

The General Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not, however, be the personal liability of the Committee, but shall be the responsibility of the Club as a whole. The Committee should ensure that adequate and appropriate public and civil liability insurance is in place to cover all the activities of the Club, its Committee and members.

16. VOTING

- a. Only senior members (full, land and concessionary) are entitled to vote at general meetings. J17 and J18 members alone vote to elect their representatives on the committee. The J17 and J18 Committee representatives may vote at Committee meetings.
- b. Each Trustee individually has the power to veto any vote that prejudices the good financial governance of the Club or in other ways introduces liabilities that they are not prepared to accept.

17. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

- a. This constitution shall not be altered, amended or rescinded except by a General Meeting of the Club.
- b. A resolution to give effect to a change must be passed by at least 75% of the members entitled to vote who are present at the General Meeting.

18. AUDITOR

Every Annual General Meeting shall appoint an Auditor who shall at the conclusion of the next financial year examine the accounting records of the Club, and report to the members on the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet that are presented at the next AGM.

19. DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS

In no circumstances can any profit be distributed to members, but any profits earned shall be used in furthering the objectives of the Club.

20. TERMINATION

The club shall not terminate except by a resolution of a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. In such an event, the Committee will remain in office and will be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club's affairs. After making provision for all outstanding debts and liabilities of the Club, any surplus assets shall be handed over to a body or bodies with similar objectives or to a charity or charities agreed by the meeting which formally terminates the Club.

21. POWER OF DECISION

Any matter not provided for in this constitution, or any question over the interpretation of it shall be dealt with by the Committee whose decision shall be final.

22. SAFETY

The Officers and Committee have primary responsibility for safe practice within the Club and for adopting the minimum standards advised by British Rowing.

The Committee shall appoint a member to act as a Safety Adviser whose duty it will be to understand the requirements of the British Rowing Code of Practice for Water Safety and advise on their prominent display, their observation and their implementation at all times.

23. DECLARATION

Each member, or parent/carer if under 18, upon joining or when updating records on renewing membership, shall sign a declaration, whose wording will vary from time to time in response to need, concerning the following:

- 1) Confirming that he/she is fit to row.
- 2) Naming any existing medical conditions that the Club should know in the interests of Health and Safety.
- 3) Confirming that he/she can swim a specified distance.
- 4) Confirming that he/she is aware of British Rowing's Water Safety Code.
- 5) Agreeing or denying that the Club can store data in a computer in accordance with Data Protection legislation.
- 6) Agreeing or denying that photographs of the member can be used in the Club's publications, including the website.
- 7) Other declarations that may be required on the advice of British Rowing or other authorities that govern sport.
- 8) Agreeing to follow the Code of Conduct.

This constitution was adopted on 2 December 2024

Signed.....(Chair)
Name.....

Signed.....(Secretary)
Name.....

Signed.....(Treasurer)
Name.....

Witnessed

Signed.....
Name.....

Occupation.....
Address.....

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