



THE GUILDFORD ROWING CLUB

(Established 1880)

BY-LAWS

1 GENERAL

The Club's boats and equipment are available for use by club members on all days, subject to the Club rules as set out in its Constitution, the rules of the River Wey Navigation, and the following by-laws.

2 RULES OF THE RIVER

All members must conform to the rules of the river and keep to the right hand (bow-side / starboard) bank at all times. Where necessary, they should give way to craft heading downstream, craft under tow, or larger craft of less manoeuvrability.

EXCEPTION Boats moving upstream from the boathouse should keep away from the sluice in the opposite bank to the boathouse, especially in fast stream conditions. Boats heading downstream should not force their right to precedence and push boats heading upstream towards the sluice.

3 LANDING STAGE

All boats must be placed in the water with their bows pointing upstream. Boats leaving the landing stage must take up their correct station on the opposite side of the river immediately after the sluice and maintain that station so as to avoid the risk of collision with craft heading downstream. Boats moving upstream from below the sluice should wait until they will not impede any boats coming downstream, then move off leaving a safe margin between the boat and the sluice until the correct station can be resumed upstream of the sluice. Boats returning to the landing stage must approach from downstream of the stage with bows pointing upstream.

4 SAFETY

- a. All members must be aware of the importance of avoiding any behaviour which could put themselves, other river users, or the general public at risk. All members must take great care in assessing the state of the river with regard to safety; in particular the position of the paddles of the sluice opposite the Club and the speed of the river both upstream and downstream of the sluice must be considered.
- b. Boating in flood conditions is not permitted. Members wishing to boat when the Wey Navigation red boards indicate the Navigation is closed must have the permission of an 'authorised person' following the completion of a formal risk assessment by that person; a list of 'authorised persons' and a supply of risk assessment forms is available in the boathouse. The yellow board should be displayed when such permission is given. Boats may only remain on the water while the 'authorised person' remains present on the river, on the towpath, or at the boathouse.
- c. Junior members, including schools using Guildford Rowing Club (GRC) facilities, may not take boats on the river alone or without permission and supervision from an adult Club member.
- d. All members must be competent swimmers, must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the correct procedure in the event of capsize, and must be conversant with the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) Water Safety Code.
- e. The general principle to be followed is "if in doubt, don't go out!"

5 USE OF THE RIVER

Rowing activities will normally take place on the stretch of river between the boathouse and the bend upstream of St Catherine's footbridge.

The turning point at the top of the river will normally be between St Catherine's footbridge and the upstream bend. Turning early, for instance at the top of the straight, can create a hazard when there are two or more boats on the river. Any crews or individuals who prefer to turn early should only do so if they are alone on the river or if they have prior agreement from all other crews on the river.

Turning at the boathouse end should be after the sluice but before the landing stage to avoid interference with boats using the stage. When returning to the boathouse boats should turn downstream of the landing stage and approach it heading upstream, ensuring that boats travelling downstream are not impeded.

Coxswains and steersmen of coxless boats must make the avoidance of collision their top priority. They must be prepared to give clear audible warnings whenever there is potential for a collision. In the event of a collision, being on the correct side of the river does not eliminate all culpability; all river users have a duty of care to others on the river.

6 CARE OF CRAFT

All boats must be returned to their assigned place in the boathouse or on the outside racks and must be positioned correctly after use. They must be wiped down, with the seats, oars or sculls properly stored. Repairs to any minor damage which can be carried out by the user(s) of the boat should be undertaken promptly to avoid inconveniencing other users.

7 BOAT OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE

All serious damage must be promptly reported to the Boatswain or to another committee member, with full details of the incident which led to the damage; these may be required for insurance purposes. These incidents, and any others involving collisions between boats, must be recorded in the Safety Incident Log.

Where damage to a boat or associated equipment has occurred, the Committee will review the incident and decide whether there has been recklessness or negligence by any of those involved. Where there has, those members will be required to contribute to the cost of repairs up to the insurance minimum claim franchise, currently set at £500. The amount to be paid will be specified by the committee on a case by case basis; the guiding principle is that the Club should not have to bear financial loss resulting from the reckless or negligent behaviour of its members.

8 CLUB ROOM AND BAR

The Club Room is a social amenity available to all members, subject to the Club rules. Members are expected to behave in a manner which will not detract from the enjoyment of other members or their guests. When the bar is open, rowing kit should not be worn in the Club Room unless covered with a tracksuit.

9 ACCESS TO WATER MEADOWS

Guildford Borough Council and their agents or contractors have the right to access to the water meadows from the Club parking area at all times; this is a condition of the Club's lease agreement with the Council. Any members parking in front of the gate must be available (in the Club House or on the river) to move their vehicles promptly if access is requested.

When parking, members must also ensure that access to the footpath between the water meadows and the opposite side of the parking area is not obstructed.

10 COURTESY

All members are expected to show courtesy, consideration and tact in their encounters with other river users, and to maintain the good name of Guildford Rowing Club.