



Royal Ocean Racing Club

RULES OF THE CLUB

Any references to members in these Rules include members of any category. The use of the word “he” and derivations thereof shall be taken to mean either he or she etc. as appropriate.

1 THE CLUB

- 1.1 The Club (in these Rules referred to as the “Club”) is a company limited by guarantee (No 6035496) incorporated in England and Wales and named Royal Ocean Racing Club Limited. It is also generally known and referred to as the Royal Ocean Racing Club, sometimes abbreviated to RORC.
- 1.2 The Club also includes RCYC (Cowes) Limited, a company limited by guarantee (No 02732288) incorporated in England and Wales.
- 1.3 All members of the Club are members of Royal Ocean Racing Club Limited, RCYC (Cowes) Limited and an unincorporated association known as the Royal Ocean Racing Club Property Club.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Club are:-
 - 2.1.1 To encourage ocean, long distance and other forms of yacht racing and yachting activity by any means, including the giving of prizes, which may from time to time be determined by the Committee;
 - 2.1.2 To study and encourage the design, building, navigation and sailing of sailing vessels in which speed and seaworthiness are combined by any means including scientific research and practical demonstration;
 - 2.1.3 To foster and encourage the study and practice of navigation and seamanship; and
 - 2.1.4 To provide and maintain Clubhouse facilities for the use of members of the Club.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The Club shall consist of two categories of member: "Ocean Racing" and "Corinthian" members. Each category of membership shall be divided into sub-categories of ordinary members, under 25 members, cadet members and senior members. In addition there shall be honorary members, as described below.
- 3.2 Every member shall be a yachtsman or yachtswoman who supports the Club's objectives.
- 3.3 Every candidate for Ocean Racing membership shall have completed within 5 years preceding his election either as owner or crew at least one of the Club's ocean races prescribed by the Committee as a qualifying race, or such other ocean races as may be prescribed by the Committee as qualifying races from time to time, or has such other equivalent proven ocean racing experience as may satisfy the Committee of his suitability to become a member. A Corinthian member may become an Ocean Racing member at any time following completion of the qualification for Ocean Racing membership.
- 3.4 Ordinary members shall be aged 25 or over. Under 25 members shall be aged between 18 and 24 inclusive and upon reaching the age of 25 will automatically become an ordinary member. Cadet members shall be aged 17 or below and upon reaching the age of 18 will automatically become an under 25 member.

4 CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Every proposal for ordinary, under 25 and cadet membership shall:
 - 4.1.1 Be made and seconded by two ordinary members who shall be Ocean Racing members, or in the case of election of a Corinthian member may be Corinthian members, and who shall submit letters of recommendation;
 - 4.1.2 Be sponsored by a member of the Committee;
 - 4.1.3 Give the full names, age and profession or occupation and address of the candidate, together with the name and other sufficient description of any yachts of which he may be the owner, and any further information which the Committee may from time to time prescribe, on a printed nomination form provided for that purpose, properly completed and sent to the Membership Secretary; and
 - 4.1.4 In the case of an Ocean Racing member be supported by the owner of the yacht aboard which the candidate qualified for membership; a certificate to that effect must be completed and signed by said owner or by the owner's

representative present in the owner's place as skipper in the race in which the candidate qualified. An owner who completes a course in his own yacht must satisfy the Committee as to his competence with his application for membership in such manner as the Committee may require.

- 4.2 The name of a candidate together with those of his proposer and seconder, and in the case of a candidate for Ocean Racing membership the race(s) and yacht(s) in which he qualified for membership, shall be posted on the Club's notice board not less than seven days prior to consideration of his application by the Committee.

5 ELECTION OF MEMBERS

- 5.1 Every proposal for membership shall be submitted to the Committee, and in the case of a disputed election at least five members of the Committee must vote in favour of each candidate and two or more black balls shall exclude.

6 NOTICE OF ELECTION

- 6.1 Each newly elected member shall be informed of his election by or on behalf of the Chief Executive and sent a copy of the Rules. Upon payment of his first subscription and any entrance fee due, he shall become a member of the Club and entitled to all benefits and privileges of the Club applicable to his class of membership.
- 6.2 Data Protection Act. The Club is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998, registration number Z9787126. Upon election a new member shall be deemed to give his or her approval and consent to the maintenance by the Club of personal details about the member on the computer for the purpose of Club administration.

7 HONORARY MEMBERS

- 7.1 The Committee shall have the power to elect honorary members of the following categories who shall not pay any subscription:
- 7.1.1 Life honorary members of whom there shall not be more than 20 at any one time. They shall be entitled to all the privileges and benefits of Ocean Racing membership.
- 7.1.2 Ordinary honorary members whose term of membership may be ended by the Committee at any time. They shall be entitled only to the use of the

Clubhouse(s), to wear the Club insignia and to fly the burgee applicable to Ocean Racing membership.

7.1.3 Ex-officio honorary members whose term of membership shall cease when they vacate the office by virtue of which they are elected. They shall be entitled only to the use of the Clubhouse(s).

7.2 Ex-officio honorary members who are RORC measurers in the UK shall have such privileges as the Committee shall determine from time to time.

7.3 An honorary member in the foregoing categories shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member and shall be elected without ballot by the majority of the members of the Committee present and voting at a meeting thereof.

7.4 An officer of the Club may introduce as a temporary member a member of any other bona fide yacht club, or any distinguished person connected with yachting. A temporary member so introduced may be charged a fee as determined by the Committee from time to time and shall be entitled to use the Clubhouse(s) only during the period of his temporary membership which except in special circumstances shall be entered in a book kept for this purpose.

7.5 No honorary member of any category, including a temporary honorary member, shall be admitted to the privileges of membership until the expiration of not less than two days from the date of his election or introduction.

8 ENTRANCE FEE

8.1 A newly elected ordinary member shall pay an entrance fee of 50% of his first subscription but this shall not include any member under the age of 30.

9 SUBSCRIPTIONS

9.1 Subscriptions in respect of each calendar year shall be approved by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

9.1.1 Under 25, cadet, senior and overseas members, couples (which shall include established but not formally married couples) and ordinary members under the age of 30, shall be entitled to discounted subscriptions.

9.1.2 Overseas members must be resident outside the United Kingdom for 275 days or more in any one year.

9.1.3 A married or established couple shall receive one set of club publications only.

9.1.4 Any member who is fifty-five years of age or over and whose years of membership added to his age total eighty or more may claim to pay the senior subscription. The claim must be made before 1st December of the year prior to which the senior subscription rate is to apply.

9.2 All members shall pay their first annual subscription on election and thereafter on the 1st January of each year by direct debit wherever possible. A member elected after 31st July in any year shall pay half the subscription in respect of the year of election. A member elected after 1st December in any year shall not be required to pay any subscription in respect of the year of election but shall pay on his election his entrance fee (if any) and his annual subscription in respect of the year following his election.

9.3 If a member shall fail to pay his entrance fee (if any) and first subscription within three months after notice of election has been sent to him, his election may be declared void, unless sufficient cause for the delay shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Committee.

9.3.1 If any member shall be in arrears with his subscription for more than three months, he shall thereupon cease to be entitled to use the Clubhouse(s) or to enjoy any of the benefits or privileges of the Club as long as his subscription shall remain in arrears.

9.3.2 If his subscription shall not be paid within one year of the same becoming due, such member shall cease to be a member and the Committee may cause his name to be posted on the notice boards of the Club.

9.4 A member may resign his membership by giving to the Chief Executive notice in writing before the end of the current year, failing which he shall be liable for his subscription for the following year.

9.5 If any member shall be adjudged a bankrupt or make any composition or arrangement with his creditors or be convicted of a criminal offence of a serious character, or refuse or neglect to observe the rules and regulations of the Club, or be guilty in the opinion of the Committee of any conduct unworthy of a member, or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, the Committee may, after giving written notice to such member, and giving him/her an opportunity to attend before it and to give an explanation, by resolution expel such member from membership, and thereupon he/she shall forfeit all right in and claim upon the Club and its property. A notice under this rule shall be held to be duly given if sent by prepaid post to the last known address of the member.

- 9.6 The Committee shall have power on receiving satisfactory explanation to reinstate as a member of the Club with payment of the entrance fee (if required) any person who may have ceased to be a member under any of the provisions of these rules.
- 9.7 A member upon reaching the age of 60 may apply to the Committee for life membership in return for the surrender of such number of Club Debentures as at the date of surrender of his Debentures entitle a member to remission of his full subscription. Such Debentures shall then be cancelled and not reissued.
- 9.8 The Committee may at its discretion remit the whole or part of the subscription for any year or years of any member who in its opinion merits exceptional consideration.

10 OFFICERS

- 10.1 The Officers shall consist of Admiral, Commodore, Vice Commodore, five Rear Commodores, Honorary Treasurer, Chief Executive, Racing Manager and Technical Director. The Admiral, Commodore, Vice Commodore and four of the Rear Commodores shall be Ocean Racing members; two of those Rear Commodores shall be overseas members. One Rear Commodore shall be designated Rear Commodore (Cowes), who shall have a close connection to Cowes and may be a Corinthian member.
- 10.2 The Admiral, Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodores (hereinafter called the Flag Officers) shall be elected by the members at a General Meeting. The Admiral shall serve for a period of between four and six years, the Commodore for a period of three years and the Vice Commodore and Rear-Commodores for a period of two years. No Flag Officer shall be eligible for re-election to the office he is already holding without a break of at least one year. However, if the Vice and the two Rear Commodores who are not the Cowes or overseas Rear Commodores retire in the same year, one of them may be re-elected for one additional year and if both overseas Rear Commodores retire in the same year, one of them may be re-elected for one additional year. Exceptionally a Flag Officer may serve for an additional year for the purposes of continuity, subject to a majority recommendation by the Main Committee and approval at a General Meeting.
- 10.2 All Flag officers shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.
- 10.3 The Honorary Treasurer, Chief Executive, Racing Manager and Technical Director shall be appointed by the Committee and shall hold office for such period as the Committee may determine.

- 10.4 The Committee shall have power to appoint a member as a Flag Officer to fill a casual vacancy among the Flag Officers until the next Annual General Meeting, and he shall be eligible for election as a Flag Officer at such meeting without taking account the period for which he held such position prior to such meeting.
- 10.5 The Commodore, the Vice Commodore, the three UK based Rear Commodores, the Honorary Treasurer and the Chief Executive shall, with their agreement, be directors of Royal Ocean Racing Club Limited and RCYC (Cowes) Limited.

11 ENSIGN, BURGEE AND TIE

- 11.1 The Club Burgee for Ocean Racing members shall be a white naval crown and a white seahorse on a dark blue background and for Corinthian members shall be an Imperial crown surrounded by a laurel wreath on a dark blue background or include similar characteristics, as the Committee may determine. The burgee shall customarily be flown at the truck of the mainmast. Exceptionally, or in the case of difficulty in racing yachts, it may be flown up close to the starboard yardarm or spreader.
- 11.2 The Flag Officers shall be entitled to fly the following distinguishing flags:-
- 11.2.1 Admiral - A dark blue square flag displaying the same device as the burgee for Ocean Racing members.
- 11.2.2 Commodore - A dark blue swallow-tailed flag displaying the same device as the burgee for Ocean Racing members.
- 11.2.3 Vice Commodore - A flag similar to that of the Commodore with one ball in the hoist.
- 11.2.4 Rear Commodore - A flag similar to that of the Commodore with two balls in the hoist, except that the flag of Rear Commodore (Cowes) shall bear the device of the burgee for Corinthian members.
- 11.2.5 Retired Flag Officers. Appropriate Flag Officer's Burgee with a yellow strip on the fly.
- 11.3 The Club ensign is the blue ensign of Her Majesty's Fleet defaced by a white naval crown in the fly and shall be worn according to the regulations made by the Ministry of Defence from time to time and these rules and only if the owner holds a permit obtained through the Club and provided that the owner and such permit are on board the yacht when the ensign is worn. When the yacht is in harbour or at anchor near the shore the owner need not be on board but must be in effective control of the vessel.

- 11.4 Any member chartering a yacht may obtain a temporary permit to wear the Club ensign on the yacht that he has chartered during the period of the charter. During the period of the charter the yacht may only fly such burgees and ensigns as the person to whom the yacht has been chartered is authorised.
- 11.5 The defaced blue ensign shall never be worn unless a Club burgee is flown in accordance with Rule 11.1.
- 11.6 The design of the Club tie for Ocean Racing members shall consist of white seahorses on a dark blue background and for Corinthian members shall consist of an Imperial crown surrounded by a laurel wreath on a dark blue background or include similar characteristics, as the Committee may determine. The Committee may from time to time authorise variations of the club tie(s) to represent association with special activities of the club.
- 11.7 Ocean Racing members shall be entitled to fly the Corinthian members' burgee and wear the Corinthian members' tie.

12 COMMITTEE

- 12.1 The management of the affairs of the club shall be delegated to a Committee which shall consist of the Officers (who shall be ex-officio members of the Committee and shall not be subject to retirement during their period of office) and twelve members of the Club who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Four members of the Committee shall retire each year at the Annual General Meeting in order of seniority and will not be eligible for re-election until the expiry of one year from the time of retirement.
- 12.2 To fill the vacancies the Committee shall nominate a sufficient number of members of the Club, and a list of those who retire as well as those who are proposed to fill their places shall be posted in the Clubhouse(s) not less than 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. Any other candidate or candidates may be proposed for election to the Committee by not less than five ordinary members of the club by notice in writing to the Chief Executive and not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting stating the name of the candidate or candidates and signed by the supporting members. If there are more candidates for election to the Committee than there are vacancies, election of candidates shall be by paper ballot of members present at the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.3 Co-Option. The Committee may at any time and from time to time co-opt further members, not exceeding three, to the Committee notwithstanding that they may not be eligible for re-election under rule 12.1 for such period as they

may think fit, but not beyond the next Annual General Meeting after their co-option.

- 12.4 Co-Option to fill a casual vacancy. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a member to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting. Any member so appointed shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee at such meeting.
- 12.5 The Club in General Meeting shall have the power to remove all or any of the elected members of the Committee notwithstanding that they may not be due to retire under sub-clause 12.1 hereof, and to appoint other members in their place.

13 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE

- 13.1 The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the proper management of the Club. Meetings of the Committee shall be summoned by three clear days' notice by the Chief Executive who may also be required to summon a meeting by a Flag Officer or any two members of the Committee. With the written consent of all members of the Committee, members may be summoned on less than three days' notice; written consent shall be taken to include email.
- 13.2 A Quorum for the Committee shall be a Flag Officer and five members of the Committee.
- 13.3 For a resolution to be adopted by the Committee it must be passed by two-thirds of those members present at a meeting and voting, but a resolution determined without any meeting and evidenced in writing signed by all the members of the Committee or by email shall be as valid and effectual as a resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Committee.
- 13.4 The Committee shall define the duties of the Flag Officers.
- 13.5 The Committee may from time to time make, alter and repeal bye-laws regulating the use of the Clubhouse(s) by members, the admission of guests to the Clubhouse(s), the holding of races, the mounting of sailing challenges and generally the good conduct of the affairs of the Club. Such bye-laws shall, provided they are not inconsistent with the rules of the Club, for the time being be binding on all members and be construed as part of the rules of the Club, until they are rescinded or varied by the Committee or the members in Annual General Meeting.

- 13.6 Sub Committees. The Committee may from time to time appoint from amongst its' number or from members of the Club generally, such sub-Committees as they may deem necessary or expedient and may depute to them such powers and duties of the Committee as they may determine. The Committee may appoint non Club members to any sub-Committee for reasons of technical expertise.

14 ACCOUNTS

- 14.1 The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept at the Club's registered office of all income and expenditure and of all dealings with the assets of the Club.
- 14.2 The accounts of the Club shall be audited by a professional accountant who may be a member of the Club and who shall be appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting provided that the Committee shall have power to fill any casual vacancy in the office of auditor, and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Club.
- 14.3 The Committee shall cause to be prepared and laid before the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting in every year duly audited Profit and Loss Accounts and a Balance Sheet together with the auditors' Report.
- 14.4 The Club is a non profit making organisation. All profits and surplus will be used to maintain or improve the Club's services to members and facilities. The Club is not allowed to distribute any profits or surpluses it makes other than on its winding up or dissolution if any property remains after all debts and liabilities have been satisfied it shall be given or transferred to another club or clubs or similar organisation selected by the Members by special resolution having objects similar to those of the Club and which prevents the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent at least as great as that imposed upon the Club.

15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 15.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held on a date to be determined by the Committee. The business at such Meeting shall be the election of the Officers, Committee and Auditors, and the passing of the accounts and any other business of which notice shall have been given to the Chief Executive at least 28 days before the date of such Meeting.

16 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

- 16.1 Extraordinary General Meetings shall be called by the Committee whenever it considers it necessary. The Committee is bound to convene an Extraordinary General meeting on receiving a request to that effect signed by 30 members and stating the business for which it is required.

17 NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

- 17.1 The Chief Executive shall, at least 21 days before any General Meeting, send to every member at his address (which may include an email address) held at the Club a notice of such Meeting, stating the time when and the place where it will be held and the business, so far as then known, that will be brought before it. No business shall be brought forward at any Meeting unless notice thereof has been duly given to the Chief Executive at least 28 days before.

18 PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETING

- 18.1 At all General Meetings the chair shall be taken by the Commodore or, in his absence, the Vice Commodore or, in the absence of both, one of the Rear Commodores or, in the absence of any Flag Officer, an ordinary member chosen by the members entitled to vote and present at the meeting. Honorary members other than life honorary members shall be entitled to attend General Meetings but shall not be entitled to vote; all other members shall be entitled to vote and every question to be decided by the meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members entitled to vote and present at the meeting unless a poll is ordered pursuant to rule 18.3 or otherwise expressly provided by these rules. Every member entitled to vote shall have one vote and, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second, casting, vote. The quorum at a General Meeting shall be 20 members entitled to vote, present in person.
- 18.2 At any Meeting (unless a poll is ordered by the Chairman or demanded by members) a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has been carried or lost as the case may be shall be conclusive.
- 18.3 At any Meeting the Chairman or any 20 members entitled to vote may demand a poll of the members entitled to vote. If a poll be ordered it shall be taken in such a manner and at such a time not later than one month after the adjournment of the Meeting as the Chairman of the meeting directs. The result of the poll as declared by the Chairman shall be the resolution of the Meeting at which the poll is demanded. On a poll, votes shall be given in written form either personally or by proxy. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in such form as the Committee may determine.

19 RECORDS

- 19.1 The Chief Executive, or in his absence one of the Committee, shall make and preserve minutes of proceedings of the Club at all General and Committee meetings. Such minutes shall be made available for inspection at the Clubhouse(s) by any member during office hours on reasonable notice.

20 SAILING RULES

- 20.1 The sailing rules shall be the rules of the International Sailing Federation modified by the Royal Yachting Association prescriptions unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, and such other special regulations as may be from time to time framed by the Committee.

21 TRUSTEES

- 21.1 Club property may be vested in Trustees who may be either individuals or a Trust Corporation.
- 21.2 In the event of the Trustees being individuals each shall be ordinary Ocean Racing members and shall remain in office until he shall cease to be a member of the Club, retire from the office of Trustee, or until the Committee shall nominate a new Trustee or Trustees in his place.
- 21.3 In the event of a Trustee ceasing to be a member of the Club or retiring as a Trustee, the Committee shall have the right to appoint a new Trustee in his place.
- 21.4 In the event of a Trustee being a Bank or other Trust Corporation it shall be a Custodian Trustee and shall hold office until a Resolution of the Committee appoints individual Trustees or a new Custodian Trustee in its place for the property of the Club concerned.
- 21.5 The Trustees shall deal with the property of the Club as directed by Resolution of the Committee and they shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property.

22 AMENDMENT OF RULES

- 22.1 These rules may be altered or repealed and new rules may be made by the Committee from time to time, but such alterations and additions shall be posted on the Club notice board immediately they have been adopted by the Committee and shall be confirmed by the members of the Club at the next Annual General Meeting, and failing such confirmation shall then cease to have effect.

22.2 The rules pertaining to the Clubhouse(s) shall be made, and may be amended, by the Committee from time to time.

23 POWER TO BORROW MONEY

23.1 The Committee shall be empowered to borrow such sums of money for such purposes and on such terms and conditions as may from time to time be approved by the Club at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

23.2 The Commodore, Vice Commodore and Hon Treasurer acting together, are authorised to execute documents of guarantee or indemnity on behalf of the Club.