

AB SEVERN CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME**

The Club shall be known as AB Severn hereinafter known as 'the Club'.

2. **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Club are to provide rowing facilities for young people under the age of 18 in a competitive, friendly and safe environment.

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

A. **The following are eligible for membership**

Young people under the age of 18.

B. **Election of Membership**

1. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone under the age of 18 interested in the sport of rowing, on application, in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy.
2. 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 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 shall be entitled to refuse or withdraw such membership. If this happens, full reasons for the decision will be provided.

C. **Restriction**

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

4. **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.

5. **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

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

6. **SUBSCRIPTION**

The rates of subscription shall be determined by the Chairman.

7. **CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Any member may resign giving one month's clear notice in writing to the Chairman.
- 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 Chairman, be suspended or expelled. Any member so suspended or expelled may appeal to the Chairman. The Chairman will hear and receive evidence, reach a conclusion, affirm or reject the sanctions imposed as appropriate.
- b.ii Any hearing 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.

8. **GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

An individual or member with a complaint about treatment by the Club should set out their grievance, in the first instance to the Club Chairman. 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.

9. **COMMITTEE**

- a. The Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Club as a whole and shall consist of a Chairman, Captain, CWO and other Officers as deemed necessary. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members, but co-opted members shall have no right to vote at Committee meetings.

10. **DUTIES OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

- a. **Chairman:** The Chairman will preside at all 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. The Chairman 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. **Captain:** The Captain will be responsible for training, coaching and representation of the Club in competitions.
- c. **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.

11. **CLUB COMMITTEE**

- a. The Committee is responsible for the general conduct of the Club's activities.
- b. The Committee may meet at regular intervals during the year.
- c. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary on instructions from the Chairman.
- e. In the case of casual vacancy among the Committee, the said Committee shall be entitled to appoint another eligible person to act.
- f. The Committee and individual committee members should act according to high ethical standards and ensure that conflicts of interest are properly dealt with.

12. **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Autumn of each year.
- b. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the instructions of a simple majority of the Committee.
- c. Not less than 21 days clear notice shall be given, specifying to all members the time and business of the General Meeting.
- d. Motions for discussion at Annual General Meetings not of origin from within the Committee, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least 30 days preceding the AGM.
- 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 Chairman will preside or, in his/her absence, a chairman for the meeting will be elected by the voting members present.
- g. At all General Meetings not less than 3 members of the Committee entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

13. LIABILITY

The 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 or preferably civil liability insurance is in place to cover all the activities of the club, its committee and members.

14. 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 present at the General Meeting and voting on this behalf.

15. TERMINATION

The Club shall not terminate except by a decision of the club captain.

16. 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.

17. SAFETY

The Officers and Committee have primary responsibility for safe practice within the Club and for observing guidance of water safety issued by British Rowing and through RowSafe.

18. DECLARATION

Each member upon joining shall sign the following declaration:

Name: _____

Upon acceptance into membership of the [_____] Rowing Club I understand that rowing is undertaken at my own risk. I confirm that I do not suffer from any disability or medical condition which may render me unfit for strenuous exercise.*

I also confirm that I am able to swim a minimum of 50 metres.

I have read and agree to abide by the British Rowing Code of Conduct (April 2025)

Signed: _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18) _____

*Should a medical condition exist, this will not necessarily preclude you from membership/participation, but it must be declared. Should you be in any doubt, advice should be sought from your family doctor.