

United Hospitals Boat Club

Constitution

1. The United Hospitals Boat Club shall hereinafter be referred to as 'the club' or UHBC.

2. The objectives of the club

2.1. To promote the sport of rowing throughout the affiliated clubs;

2.2. To promote safety in all aspects of the affiliated clubs and in the competitions organised by UHBC;

2.3. To provide a suitable means of competition between the affiliated clubs.

3. Categories of club membership

3.1. Affiliated club, being a club representing one of the eligible educational institutions associated with any of the London teaching Hospitals within the University of London or Imperial College; currently there are five affiliated clubs. These are: St Georges Hospital BC, St Bartholomew's & the London BC, Royal Free & University College BC, Imperial College School of Medicine BC, Guy's King's & St Thomas's (which is the racing name for eligible crews from Kings College London BC). Affiliated clubs have permanent membership of UHBC. It is assumed that there is one affiliated club for each relevant educational institution, irrespective of any sub-division of that club by gender.

3.1.1. Individual members of Affiliated Clubs will automatically be granted Individual Affiliated Membership status.

3.2. Honorary Affiliated club, being a club representing another educational institution allied to medicine within the University of London or Imperial College; currently this is the Royal Veterinary College BC. Honorary Affiliated clubs have indefinite membership of UHBC unless there is a substantial change in the affiliation of their educational institution away from medicine.

3.2.1. Individual members of Honorary Affiliated Clubs will automatically be granted Individual Honorary Affiliated Membership status.

3.3. Associated club, being any club affiliated to British Rowing which the UHBC committee from time to time shall elect. Associated clubs shall be members of UHBC for a period of one year, renewable on election.

3.3.1 The individual members of the Associated Club are not automatically granted Individual Associated Membership status and UHBC shall determine the eligibility of individual members of Associated Clubs to compete in UHBC events or to represent UHBC.

4. Categories of individual membership

4.1. Individual affiliated member, being a member of an affiliated club who is qualified to represent that affiliated club in competitions organised by UHBC. Individual affiliated members may represent UHBC in competitions affiliated to British Rowing or Henley Royal Regatta. Membership is automatically granted to qualifying members of affiliated clubs. The rules setting out qualification are set out in appendix 1.

4.2. Individual honorary affiliated member, being a member of an honorary affiliated club who is qualified to represent that club in competitions organised by UHBC. Individual honorary affiliated members may represent UHBC in competitions affiliated to British Rowing or Henley Royal Regatta. Membership is automatically granted to qualifying members of honorary affiliated clubs. The rules setting out qualification are set out in appendix 1.

4.3. Individual Associated Member, being a member of any duly elected associated club, but only for the period of time that the Associated Club is a member of UHBC. Individual associate membership is not automatically granted and must be agreed by UHBC.

4.4. Individual honorary associated member, being a member of any club, or having no affiliation, who has been elected by UHBC. This membership is for a period of one year, renewable by election.

5. Amendments to membership

5.1 Alterations to the classes of membership and election of members can only be made by approval of 75% of voting members of the committee at an open meeting of UHBC.

5.2 UHBC does not have the power to remove any of the affiliated club members from membership unless that affiliated club has been dissolved or merged.

5.2.1 In the event that an affiliated club is merged with another club who is not an affiliated or honorary affiliated club, the merged club may be eligible to remain as an affiliated club provided that it is possible to identify individual affiliated members within the merged club, who can compete in eligible crews.

5.2.2 In the event that an affiliated club is merged with another club who is not an affiliated or honorary affiliated club, and where it no longer becomes possible to identify individual affiliated members within the merged club, then the merged club will need to have its membership status reviewed at the next general meeting. It may be appropriate to transfer the merged club to Associated Club status and in that case the individual members of that club are not automatically granted Individual Associated Membership status.

6. Officers

The officers shall be elected annually and will include:

A. The President, who must be either an individual affiliated member or an individual honorary affiliated member;

B. Vice-Presidents, to include a maximum of two from any one affiliated or honorary affiliated club. Each Vice-President must be an individual affiliated, honorary affiliated or honorary associated member;

C. Up to four joint Captains, who must be an individual affiliated, honorary affiliated or honorary associated member.

D. Honorary treasurer, who must be in the categories of membership shown in 6C, and may be also designated joint captain.

E. Honorary secretary, who must be in the categories of membership shown in 6C, and may be also designated joint captain.

F. The captains, ex officio, of each of the affiliated and honorary affiliated clubs.

G. Other members as the committee shall elect, for a maximum period of one year.

7. Duties of officers

7.1 The President or his or her deputy shall chair all general meetings of the club. The President or his or her deputy shall chair all meetings of the committee. In the event of a tied vote on any motion then the President shall have a casting vote. The President shall represent or arrange for the representation of the club at relevant meetings of external organisations including British Rowing and Thames Regional Rowing Council.

7.2 The Vice-President(s) will act as deputies for the President as appropriate.

7.3 The Captains are responsible for the promotion of the objectives of the club as shown in section 2 above. The Captains are responsible for dealing with the general business of the club.

7.4 The Honorary Treasurer is responsible for the recording of all transactions by the club and presenting a balance sheet and income and expenditure summary showing the club's financial position at each annual general meeting.

7.4.1 The treasurer will be responsible for the day-to-day conduct of the UHBC bank account.

7.4.2 The conduct of the UHBC bank account will be overseen by the President or his or her deputy

7.4.3 The mandate for the UHBC bank account will have four or more signatories drawn from the officers shown in 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D and 6E only.

8. Meetings

8.1 An annual general meeting shall be held once in each academic year, with at least one week's notice given to all current members of the committee. A quorum shall consist of at least 10 individual members (defined in section 4).

8.2 An extraordinary general meeting shall be held at any time, with at least one week's notice given to all current members of the committee, in any of the following circumstances:

8.2.1 At the request of the President;

8.2.2 At the request of a majority of the officers shown in 6A,6B,6C,6D and 6E;

8.2.3 At the written request of a majority of the officers shown in 6F. A quorum shall consist of at least 10 individual members.

8.3 Committee meetings shall be held at least once every academic term. A quorum shall consist of at least five individual members.

8.4 The following are voting members of the committee:

8.4.1 The President, who shall have one ordinary vote and a further casting vote in the event of a tie;

8.4.1.1 In the absence of the President, his or her deputy will have the voting power of the President.

8.4.2 The Captains, who shall have one collective vote between them;

8.4.3 The Captain of each affiliated and honorary affiliated club, who shall have one vote per club.

The current number of ordinary votes is EIGHT with ONE casting vote.

No other individuals shall have a vote.

9. Alteration of constitution

9.1 The constitution shall only be altered at a general meeting of the club.

9.2 The motion to change the constitution must be approved by 75% of those voting members of the committee present.

10. Dissolution and winding up

10.1 It is expected that over time there may need to be changes to the constitution of the club in order to reflect changes in the provision of medical education in London in order to achieve the objectives of the club.

10.2 If it is no longer possible or feasible to attempt to achieve the objectives of the club then a motion to dissolve the club would need to be put to a general meeting of the club, at which the motion must be carried unanimously.

10.3 In the event that the club is dissolved then the assets of the club should be donated to a suitable organisation who would promote the sport of rowing.

11. Equal opportunities policy

The club will ensure that the talents and resources of all members are utilised to the full and that no member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, disability, marital status, creed, social class, ethnicity, age or sexual orientation or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance.

12. Child protection procedures

The club accepts the policy and procedures relating to child protection, as set out by British Rowing, as far as these are relevant to the club; and requires all members to accept them as a condition of membership.

13. Safety requirements of British Rowing RowSafe Guide

The club will adhere to the safety requirements of the British Rowing *RowSafe* Guide. The committee shall appoint a member to act as safety advisor whose duty it will be to advise on the observation and implementation of the safety requirements detailed in *RowSafe*.

13. British Rowing Regulations

The club will abide by the current British Rowing regulations.

14. Liability.

13.1 The committee shall manage the affairs of the club. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not be the personal liability of the committee but the responsibility of the club as a whole.

13.2 Responsibility will be shared between all the members shown in 6A,6B,6C,6D, 6E, 6F and 6G above.

Appendix 1:

Eligibility to represent affiliated or honorary affiliated clubs in competitions organised by the United Hospitals Boat Club and to represent the United Hospitals Boat Club in competitions affiliated to British Rowing or Henley Royal Regatta.

1. There are three routes of eligibility under rules 4.1 and 4.2:
 - a. Currently a student enrolled on a course in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, nursing, or an allied health profession, at an educational institution within the confederation of the University of London or Imperial College.
 - b. Qualified from a course shown at 1 above.
 - c. Currently employed by an NHS Trust directly affiliated to an educational institution shown in 1 above.
2. Representation of affiliated or honorary affiliated clubs in competitions organised by UHBC:
 - a. It may be necessary for an affiliated or honorary affiliated club to select a crew comprised of individuals, some of whom are not eligible under rule 4.1 and/or 4.2.
 - b. The crew will be deemed to be eligible to represent the affiliated or honorary affiliated club provided that 75% or more of the individual members (excluding the cox) are eligible under rule 4.1 and/or 4.2.
 - c. If less than 75% of the individual members of the crew are eligible under rule 4.1 and/or 4.2 then the crew shall not represent the affiliated or honorary affiliated club.
3. Representation of UHBC in competitions affiliated to British Rowing or Henley Royal Regatta.
 - a. All the crew members must be individual members of UHBC at the time of entry, as set out in rules 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

Appendix 2: Eligibility to wear the United Hospitals Boat Club blazer.

There are four routes of eligibility:

1. The individual has represented UHBC at a competition affiliated to British Rowing, or Henley Royal Regatta.
2. The individual has served as an officer of UHBC as president or captain as shown at rule 6A or 6C above.
3. The individual has been recognised by UHBC as a coach of a crew which has represented UHBC at a competition affiliated to British Rowing, or Henley Royal Regatta.
4. The individual does not satisfy the criteria at (1), (2) or (3) but has been formally granted permission by a majority vote of the UHBC committee. It is expected that this criterion will be used rarely.

Note that any individual member may wear the UHBC tie or an equivalent item.

Dr J Mitchell, President UHBC

3.10.23

Previous versions:

1. First version December 2003
2. Appendix 1 revised February 2009
3. Rev (ARA-BR) 2010
4. Revisions September 2017
5. Revised 7.10.19
6. Revised 2.10.22
7. Revised 3.10.23