



# **COCKLE ISLAND BOAT CLUB**

## **RULES**

**8<sup>th</sup> REVISION – JANUARY 2025**

**RULES MADE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONSTITUTION  
DATED 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1974**

**1. MEMBERSHIP**

By applying to become a Member of Cockle Island Boat Club individuals accept that, on election, they are assumed to have given their consent for their names and addresses and details of their boat to be retained in a data bank that will be used for communications within the Club and with the members themselves. Their names and boat details will be used in the Belfast Lough Yachting Conference Boat List but, otherwise, such details will not be provided to other parties.

Members, whose subscriptions are not in arrears, will also be entitled to be sent copies of the Club newssheet and any other correspondence or information as sent out by the Executive Committee, by post or electronic means.

There shall be THREE categories of membership;

**FULL MEMBERS (Members)**

Full Members of Cockle Island Boat Club will pay an annual subscription fee determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). If this is paid in full before the 1<sup>st</sup> April there shall be a discount which shall be determined at the AGM.

Members, whose subscriptions are not in arrears, will be entitled to vote at any AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) called by the Executive Committee (or otherwise). They will also be entitled to stand for office on the Executive Committee.

Persons who are whole or part boat owners must apply for Full membership unless they qualify as Associate Members (as set out below).

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Associate Membership will be available to a Full or Honorary Member's spouse/partner and/or family member under 18 years of age, and who resides at the same address.

A Full Member's spouse or partner may retain their category of membership in following consecutive years notwithstanding the death of the Full or Honorary Member through whom they originally qualified. A family member under 18 years of age who qualified as an Associate Member under these circumstances is entitled to retain their Associate Membership until the end of December following their 18th birthday.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription, which shall be determined at the AGM. There shall be no discount and they will not be entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM except in regard to Associate Members' subscriptions nor will they be eligible to stand for office on the Executive Committee.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Honorary Membership may be conferred on existing Full or Associate Members at the discretion of an AGM or an EGM, following recommendation of the Executive Committee. They shall rank as Full or Associate Members (as appropriate) but shall not be required to pay an annual subscription.

**2. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Each Applicant must complete an application form, to be sponsored by two Members in writing and approved by the Executive Committee.

**3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

(a) A Member wishing to resign from the Club shall give notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> January otherwise they shall be liable for that year's subscription.

(b) The Executive Committee, after due consideration, shall have the power, by a simple majority, to suspend or expel any Member of the Club who in the opinion of the Committee has brought the Club into disrepute.

#### **4. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

An AGM or an EGM shall fix the amount of the entrance fees and annual subscriptions to be paid by the various categories of Members and this shall continue to be the amount unless it shall be altered by a subsequent AGM, or an EGM especially called for the purpose of altering the entrance fee/annual subscriptions. Any Member or Associate Member whose subscription remains unpaid on 1<sup>st</sup> May will be regarded as being in arrears and may not enter any race organised by the Club.

#### **5. LEGAL LIABILITY**

Members of the Club, their guests and visitors, may use the Club premises and any other facilities of the Club, entirely at their own risk and implicitly accept that:

- i The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to Members, their guests or visitors to the Club.
- ii The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the Club premises, and any other facilities of the Club, or out of participation in any race or event organised by the Club, whether sustained by Members, their guests or visitors, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committee or servants of the Club,
- iii Before inviting any guests or visitors onto the premises or to participate in events organised by the Club, Members will draw their attention to this rule.

#### **6. BOAT REGISTER**

Each Member who is a boat owner shall furnish the Honorary Secretary with details of boat(s) currently owned, and any changes to those details.

#### **7. OFFICE BEARERS**

The Office Bearers of the Club shall be: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The two first named to act as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Club and of its Executive Committee. No Office Bearer, other than the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election to the same office for the next ensuing year. The immediate Past Commodore shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

#### **8. RACING**

All Club races shall be sailed under World Sailing's Racing Rules of Sailing. Boats in classes sponsored by the Club must be wholly owned and helmed by Club members when racing under the Club Burgee, except where prior permission has been given by a Club Officer.

#### **9. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (a) A General Meeting shall be held before 31<sup>st</sup> day of March in each year as the Annual General Meeting to:
  - i Receive the Annual Report of the Executive Committee
  - ii Receive the Financial Accounts and Report of the Honorary Treasurer for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December immediately preceding
  - iii Elect from the Full Members of the Club the Office Bearers and six other Full Members as the Meeting may determine to serve on the Executive Committee, all of whom shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
  - iv Elect an Honorary Auditor or Auditors to audit the financial records of the Club and the accounts to be submitted by the Honorary Treasurer at the next Annual General Meeting.
  - v Transact any other business which the Executive Committee considers to be in the interest of the Club. A Member wishing a subject to be discussed shall give at least seven days clear notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

- (b) General Meetings, for purposes other than winding up of the Club or the alteration, variation or amendment of the Constitution of the Club, shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary on the direction of the Executive Committee or on the written requisition of and signed by not less than SEVEN Full Members which shall state the purpose for which they require the meeting convened.
- (c) TEN days clear notice of General Meetings and their purpose shall be given in writing to each member. The dispatch of Notices of Meetings to the last known address of each member as shown in the Club records (by post or email) shall be deemed adequate notice. It is the duty of each member to inform the Honorary Secretary in writing of any change of postal or email address.
- (d) The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at General Meetings shall be SEVEN Full Members or one third of the total number of such Members, whichever is the lesser.
- (e) No resolution or act of the Club in General Meeting shall be amended or rescinded at any future General Meeting unless due notice of the motion to amend or rescind the same shall have been given in the Notice convening such Meeting.

#### **10. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- (a) Shall open in the name of the Club such bank accounts as it considers necessary or desirable. All cheques and withdrawal documents shall be signed by any one of (a) the Honorary Treasurer (b) the Honorary Secretary or (c) one other appointed Office Bearer or member of the Executive Committee;
- (b) Shall cause Minutes to be kept of all resolutions and proceedings at all Meetings of the Club, of the Executive Committee and Sub-Committees, and the names of Members and other persons, if any, present thereat;
- (c) Shall convene at least every other month;
- (d) May invite to its Meeting persons, Members of the Club or otherwise, to give expert or special advice on any subject and may invite such persons to serve on a Sub-Committee appointed to consider such subject;
- (e) May fill casual vacancies amongst the Office Bearers or Executive Committee. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting;
- (f) Shall not conduct its business unless there is quorum of FIVE.

#### **11. VOTING**

At meetings of the Club, of the Executive Committee and of Sub-Committees decisions shall be by a simple majority vote taken in a manner agreeable to the Members present. Where there is an equality of votes the Member occupying the Chair shall have a further casting vote. Nothing contained in this Rule shall apply to a General Meeting of the Club convened to alter, vary or amend the Constitution or to wind up the Club, for which express provision is made in the Charter of Constitution, save that the vote at such a Meeting shall be taken in a manner agreeable to the Members present.

#### **12. AMENDMENT OF THE RULES**

These Rules may be amended as provided for in Article 10 of the Charter of Constitution. A Notice of Motion to amend the Rules at a General Meeting must be given in writing to Members in the notice convening the Meeting. No Member shall propose such a Motion unless he has given at least twenty-eight days' written notice thereof to the Honorary Secretary.

#### **13. INTERPRETATION**

The Executive Committee shall have power to interpret these Rules if there is an ambiguity or difference of opinion concerning the purpose of any Rule or Rules, its interpretation shall be binding until set aside by a General Meeting of the Club.

If there is any conflict between the Constitution and the Rules, the Constitution shall prevail.

#### **14. POLICIES**

The Club has adopted, and is committed to observing, a number of strategies to guide the membership. These Policies include, but are not limited to, Child Protection, Data Protection and Health & Safety. Members shall, at all relevant times, observe the appropriate Policy(ies), full details of which are available from the Hon.Sec. and are also shown on the website.

#### **15. GENERAL**

The original Rules were adopted by the first members of the Club present at the inaugural meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1974.

1<sup>st</sup> Revision – 1977 – Rule 1

3<sup>rd</sup> Revision – 1994 – Rule 7, Rule 8(a)(iii)

5<sup>th</sup> Revision – 2002 – Rules 1,3,4,6,8,9,10

7<sup>th</sup> Revision – 2020 – All Rules, Rule 8 added

2<sup>nd</sup> Revision – 1987 – Rule 1, Rule 5 added

4<sup>th</sup> Revision – 1999 – Rule 13

6<sup>th</sup> Revision – 2006 – Rule 1

8<sup>th</sup> Revision – 2025 – Hon. Membership added

8<sup>th</sup> Revision 15/1/25