



East Coast Rowing Council



Rule Book

2017

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Section 00: The Constitution

- Article 1** The Name of the organisation shall be the '**East Coast Rowing Council**' and the Address shall be the Address of the Secretary for the time being.
- Article 2** The principle aims of the East Coast Rowing Council are:
- a) To promote the sport of Coastal Rowing, and do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of Coastal Rowing on the East Coast of the Island of Ireland.
 - b) To promote and encourage the continued use of the class of boat popularly known as the East Coast Skiff as the principle rowing craft utilised at regattas organised by our member clubs and beyond.
 - c) To promote and protect the great heritage and art of rowing East Coast Skiffs.
 - d) To promote and protect the ancient craft of traditional Clinker type Boat Building in Ireland.
 - e) To care for the welfare and wellbeing of our members such that they may enjoy their rowing in a Safe and Fair environment devoid of all unnecessary safety risks and pressures.
- Article 3** The East Coast Rowing Council shall be affiliated to the Irish Coastal Rowing Federation where it will represent the interests of the ECRC Member Clubs at National Level and promote and protect the heritage of East Coast Skiffs at every opportunity.
- Article 4** The East Coast Rowing Council shall consist of all fully paid up Rowing Clubs from the Eastern Seaboard of Ireland that were members of the Council at the time of the adoption of this Constitution and of those clubs in the future that apply for, and are subsequently accepted for membership of the Council.
- Article 5** New clubs must be proposed and seconded by two Existing Clubs where upon a vote of all the Member Clubs shall be held. Half of all the Member Clubs* plus one Club must vote in favour of accepting the new club for membership. Subsequently, the membership will take effect upon payment by the candidate club of any fees that may be in force at the time.
- *That is Half of the Total of Member Clubs, not just those Member Clubs voting. The Council may choose to waive such fees for the first year(s) of a club's membership, in which case a token fee of €1.00 will be payable by the candidate club to formalise the membership.*
- Article 6** Member clubs shall be entitled by right to participate in all rowing events organised by any other member club, provided the event is open to other Member Clubs and except where a Member Club is precluded from participation by reason of:
- The Club being the subject of a ban from participation as a result of infractions of the ECRC rules or discipline.
 - The Club being the subject of a ban from participation imposed by the Irish Coastal Rowing Federation.
 - The Club is not fully paid up.
 - The club does not carry adequate insurance cover.
- Article 7** No Member Club shall be permitted to host any rowing event which expressly precludes any other Member Clubs from participation in the event without the express agreement of the East Coast Rowing Council, except where that event is solely for the participation of its own club membership.

Article 8 The affairs of the East Coast Rowing Council shall be managed by the Executive Board of the Council.

The Executive Board shall consist of:

- The **Honorary President**.
- The **Chairman** or **Chairperson**.
- The **Secretary**.
- The **Treasurer**.
- The **Children's Officer**.
- The **Public Relations Officer**.
- The **Safety Officer**.
- Any other such persons who may be appointed to the Executive Board in such capacity as may be deemed appropriate by the membership.

Each Member of the Executive Board shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Roles and Duties of the Executive Officers are:

Honorary President

- Honorary Figurehead of the East Coast Rowing Council.
- Entitled to attend and speak at all Council and Executive Board Meetings.
- If invited to, may sit on any Sub-Committee of the Council.
- When required, participate in Ceremonial Duties, portraying a positive image of the East Coast Rowing Council and the sport of Coastal Rowing.

Chairman

- Provide Effective Leadership.
- Chair Council and Executive Board Meetings.
- Delegate duties and resources.
- Uphold the Constitution and Rules of the Council.
- Uphold and Promote the Aims and Values of the Council.
- In conjunction with the Secretary, is responsible for ensuring that decisions made at Council and Executive Board meetings are followed through.
- Signing cheques in conjunction with the Treasurer.

Secretary

- The Principle Administrator of the Council and the Executive Board.
- Responsible for advising Club Secretaries and Representatives of the Date, Time, Venue and Agenda of upcoming meetings.
- Posting of Notice of the Annual General Meeting and administering and issuing of all correspondence conducive to the proper operation of the meeting.
- The accurate recording of Meeting Minutes at Council and Executive Board meetings.
- Responsible for all correspondence and communications between the Council, the Club Secretaries and representatives, the Irish Coastal Rowing Federation and all other communications relating to the effective operation of the Council's Business.
- In conjunction with the Chairman, is responsible for ensuring that decisions made at Council and Executive Board meetings are followed through.
- Provided a dedicated position of ECRC Registrar is not currently in existence, perform the duties of ECRC Registrar, facilitating the registration of all persons competing for member clubs at ECRC and ICRF sanctioned regattas.

- Provided a dedicated position of ECRC Safety Officer is not currently in existence, perform the administrative duties of ECRC Safety Officer by gathering and maintaining a record of all Safety related documentation received from member clubs at ECRC sanctioned regattas.
- Record and Issue 'Official Results' from all ECRC sanctioned regattas.

Treasurer

- Management of ECRC accounts.
- Payment of ECRC expenses and outgoings.
 - Cheques to be signed by both the Treasurer and the Chairman
- Keeping of Financial Records.
- Preparation of Financial Statements.
- Preparing a Financial Budget for the ECRC.

Public Relations Officer (P.R.O.)

- Responsible for imparting a positive image of the East Coast Rowing Council and the Sport of Coast Rowing to the media and the general public.
- Liaise with the media to publicise events organised by the ECRC and/or its Member Clubs.

Child Welfare Officer

- Children's and Young People's Representative on the ECRC.
- Responsible for implementing the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Coastal Rowing (ICRF) and the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport (Irish Sports Council).
- Advising the Council on Children's welfare.
- Facilitating Child Welfare complaints and appeals brought to the ECRC and furnishing necessary information to the ECRC Appeals Committee.
- Liaison with the National Children's Officer.
- Liaison with the Member Clubs' Children's Welfare Officers.

Other Officers

- Duties as may be proscribed by the Council
- May include some of the duties of other Officers as listed here.

Article 9 Barring exceptional circumstances, the Annual General Meeting shall take place during the months of December, January or February in advance of each Rowing season. The Secretary shall give notice of the Annual General Meeting at least 6 weeks in advance of the A.G.M. taking place.

Article 10 'Nominations to the Executive Board' forms and 'Notices of Motion' forms shall be issued to each club at least 6 weeks in advance of the A.G.M. and at the same time as the notice of the A.G.M. being issued. All completed 'Nominations to the Executive Board' forms and 'Notices of Motion' forms must be returned to the Council Secretary within 2 weeks (that is 4 weeks in advance of the A.G.M.). The Secretary shall then furnish each member with a complete list of 'Nominations to the Executive Board' received and 'Notices of Motion' received along with a full agenda within 2 weeks (that is 2 weeks in advance of the A.G.M.) for consideration by the member clubs before voting upon at the A.G.M.

Article 11 Each Member Club shall appoint up to 3 Representatives to the Council and any 2 of these Representatives shall be entitled to vote on behalf of their club on all matters being voted upon.

As a single entity the Executive Board shall be entitled to 1 vote, which shall be cast by the Chairman.

- Article 12** A quorum, representing at least Half of all Member Clubs plus One Member club is required for any Council Delegate Meeting to take place.
- Article 13** The East Coast Rowing Council is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual in the East Coast Rowing Council and it's Member Clubs should at all times, show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport. In the East Coast Rowing Council, our first priority is the welfare of our Young People and we are committed to providing an environment which will allow all participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation. Given the Nature of Coastal Rowing and the inherent dangers associated with all Water Sports, the East Coast Rowing Council is committed to providing the Safest Possible Environment for all of our members and participants so that they may enjoy their sport, devoid of all unnecessary risks. No member or participant should ever be put in a situation of danger and all precautions necessary should be taken to protect our members and participants from all forms of harm.
- Article 14** The East Coast Rowing Council supports the Sports Council of Ireland's policy on 'Anti-Doping in Sport'.
- Article 15** The Honorary President will serve for a term of 5 years. Nominations for the position of Honorary President will be accepted for election at the Annual General Meeting immediately preceding the end of each 5 year term of office or at the next Annual General Meeting, should the position become vacant before the 5 year term expires. The First 5 year term will commence at the 2014 Annual General Meeting.
- Article 16** Any **article** of this Constitution can be amended as follows:
- a) At an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, by a vote in favour by Two Thirds of Member Clubs plus One Member Club.
 - b) Any other time: A Unanimous vote in favour by All Member Clubs affiliated to the East Coast Rowing Council. *(Not just those attending the meeting).*
- Article 17** Any **rule** of the East Coast Rowing Council can be amended as follows:
- a) At an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, by a simple majority vote.
 - b) Any other time: A Unanimous vote in favour by All Member Clubs affiliated to the East Coast Rowing Council. *(Not just those attending the meeting).*

Section A: The Council

A.1 Affiliation Fee

Each club shall pay an Annual Affiliation Fee, the amount of which shall be set by the Council. The fee must be paid by the ECRC meeting prior to the first regatta of the year.

The fee for 2013 is **€200** per club.

A.2 This Number is not used *(Rule was superseded by Article 11 of the ECRC Constitution in 2013)*

A.3 Attendance at Council Meetings

Only Official Club Representatives are entitled by right to attend Council meetings. In the event of Appeal and Objection Hearings (and other similar matters), only one member of each crew involved is entitled by right to attend the hearing. However the Council may at its discretion call any number of witnesses to attend. As soon as the hearing is complete all non-representatives must leave the meeting. All Clubs are required to furnish the ECRC Secretary with the names, e-mail addresses &

Phone No's of at least two of their Club Representatives. The Secretary can then use this media (e-mail, telephone &/or text) to advise all Reps about meetings.

A.4 Regattas

Organisational matters at regattas shall be the responsibility of the Host Club but all regattas shall be run according to the rules of the East Coast Rowing Council. The ECRC Secretary is to co-ordinate with clubs on regatta dates to make sure that they don't clash with other sporting events (traffic congestion etc.)

A.5 Liability

The East Coast Rowing Council, its Officers, Members, Representatives and Sponsors accept absolutely no liability for the safety of persons and property involved in any way with or competing in any regatta run under the auspices of the E.C.R.C. however the Council and its representatives will always act in a responsible manner so as to ensure the safety of all persons and property involved at these regattas. (Refer also to rules [A.10](#) and [G.11](#)).

A.6 Conditions of Affiliation regarding Safety and Liability

It is a condition of affiliation to the East Coast Rowing Council that each club accepts full responsibility for the safety and actions of its members and the safety of its property. It is also a condition of affiliation that each club shall not institute legal proceedings against the East Coast Rowing Council, its Officers, Members, Representatives or Sponsors in the event of any harm coming to either its members or property or in the event of any disputes that may arise. (Refer also to rules [A.9](#) and [G.11](#)).

A.7 Insurance

All Clubs are required to carry adequate insurance to cover their needs and they must produce proof of their insurance on or before the meeting prior to the first regatta of the year.

A.8 Child Welfare Officer

Each club must appoint its own Child Welfare Officer each year, details of which must be furnished to the ECRC Child Welfare Officer. All Club Child Welfare Officers must be certified as having attended an official Child Welfare Officer's course as provided by an accredited Local Sports Partnership before the start of the 2013 rowing season and henceforth all Club Child Welfare Officers must be fully certified prior to actively taking up their position or carrying out any of the duties of their position. If necessary a person who is currently certified (for example, the outgoing CWO) should act in the position of Club Child Welfare Officer pending the new Appointee becoming fully certified.

A.9 NATIONAL VETTING BUREAU (CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS) ACT 2012

This clause A.9 is inserted as an advice only and has not been passed by any vote of the ECRC.

In accordance with the above legislation, Irish Civil Law requires that all adults who work in any capacity (whether it is in a paid or voluntary capacity) with Children or Vulnerable Adults must be vetted by the National Vetting Bureau of **An Garda Síochána** and subsequently be deemed suitable to work with Children or Vulnerable Adults.

A child is considered to be any person under the age of 18.

Refer to the act for more information.

Section B: Entries and the Draw

B.1 Number of Entries per Club per Race

Each club is **entitled by right** to enter **up to 2 crews** in every race. The Host Club is **entitled by right** to enter **up to 3 crews** per race. However, if numbers in a race are sufficiently low and additional crews entered will not require other crews to double up at the turn, the Council may, **at its sole**

discretion, allow clubs to exceed the maximum number of entries as specified in this rule **B.1**.
(Refer also to rules **B.2** & **B.3**)

B.2 Doubles

If there are more boats entered in a race than there are turning buoys, then the clubs with 2 or more boats may have to double up on a single buoy. In order to obtain the required number of doubles, lots will be drawn to select those clubs who will be required to double up. Where the host club has 3 boats in such a race then it **must** double up with 2 of its crews, **specifying which 2 boats** are to double up. In this case that club must double up with the remaining clubs drawing lots in order to obtain the outstanding number of doubles required.

B.3a. Intermediate & Junior Men's Restrictions

A club may only enter a second crew in either the Intermediate or Junior Men's races provided that club has also entered at least one crew in each of the other two races, (Intermediate, Junior Men and/or Senior Men). No such Restriction applies to the Senior Men's Race. This means that in order to enter a second crew in the Intermediate Race, clubs must also have entered the Junior & Senior Men's races or in order to enter a second crew in the Junior Men's Race, that club must also have entered the Intermediate & Senior Men's races. A club may enter a second crew in the Senior Men's race without having to enter the Intermediate or Junior Men's races.

B.3.b Junior Women's Restrictions

A club may only enter a second crew in either the Intermediate or Junior Women's races provided that club has also entered at least one crew in each of the other two races, (Intermediate, Junior Women and/or Senior Women). No such Restriction applies to the Senior Women's Race. This means that in order to enter a second crew in the Intermediate Race, clubs must also have entered the Junior & Senior Women's races or in order to enter a second crew in the Junior Women's Race, that club must also have entered the Intermediate & Senior Women's races. A club may enter a second crew in the Senior Women's race without having to enter the Intermediate or Junior Women's races.

B.4 Crew Lists¹

Each club must provide a completed Crew List by 9:00pm on the **Thursday** before regatta takes place detailing the names of the members of each crew, their positions in the boat and where 2 or more crews are entered in any race specify which boat each crew is rowing, and whether that crew is the club's 'A', 'B', or 'C' crew. (Refer to rule **B.5**).

B.5 The Draw

All Draws should be held 1 hour prior to the start of the first race. When drawing the berth numbers for each crew on the Draw Sheet, Each race on the card should alternate between 1st race - down the sheet, 2nd race - up the sheet, 3rd race - down the sheet, etc. For the purposes of 2 or more crews from a single club in a single race, the crews will be drawn according to the boat specified on the crew list. Once the draw has taken place these crews cannot change boats without the permission of the East Coast Council and they must retain the position which they were drawn in the first place, i.e. crew A in the 'Ruairi Michaela' drawn 6 and crew B in the 'Bri Cualann' drawn 1. If crew A decide to switch to the 'Bri Cualann' they must still row in berth 6.

B.6 Late Entries²

Late entries may be accepted after the draw has taken place at the discretion of the host club. These crews shall not be entitled to ECRC points. Should the Judges agree to accept a late entry, the crew concerned must take up whatever berth the Judges allocate to it. This berth will normally be the most disadvantageous, usually but not necessarily on the outside lane. The Judges may also

¹ Amended by Motion C from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – 9pm Thursday + A/B/C crews.

² Amended by Motion C from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – at discretion of host club + no ECRC points

instruct the crew to take up a berth vacated by a withdrawn crew. If the Judges allocate the inside berth to the crew because it is the most disadvantageous, they may instruct all other crews to move out accordingly. (See rules **B.1**, **D.5** & **E.4**)

B.7 No. 1 Berth

For the purposes of clarity and to avoid confusion, in all instances, No. 1 berth will always be that closest to the shore.

B.8 Draw Blocks

Special Draw Blocks and Drum are to be purchased for use at all draws.

B.9 Check List for Draw

An agreed check list is to be implemented at the draw before each regatta to ensure that the host club has all the rules and requirements in place before the regatta can proceed. (i.e. safety boat, judges boat etc.).

Section C: Judges

C.1 Judges

Prior to each regatta, every club is required to nominate at least 3 competent people to act as Judges for the day's racing. This will normally be done at the Council meeting before each regatta and written on the Judges sheet. A list of spare Judges for the regatta must be furnished to the Judge's Co-ordinator.

C.2 Not Enough Judges

The Council or the Judge's Co-ordinator have the authority to cancel or delay the start of any race or regatta if it is deemed that there are insufficient Judges or no Judges of a suitable standard in attendance to adequately and safely supervise the day's racing.

C.3 Judge's Co-ordinator

A Judges co-ordinator shall be appointed at each regatta.

The Judge's Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Ensuring that there are sufficient Judges available at all times to ensure efficient running of the regatta.
- Ensuring that there are sufficient Judges available on standby to cover unexpected absences ahead of every race.
- Ensuring that there is the required number of Boat Judges and a Start /Finish Judges in place for each race.
- If deemed appropriate, hold a Judges Meeting before the start of the regatta to agree a Judges Roster for the days racing.
 - Persons available for Judging duties can where possible nominate which races they are making themselves available for and they must provide their contact numbers to the Judge's Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining a roster of all Judge's planned activities.
- Maintaining a record of all Judge's actual activities.

All clubs and individuals are required to fully co-operate with the Judge's Co-ordinator at all times. The Judge's Co-ordinator has the authority to halt racing until such time as sufficient Judges are in place.

C.4 Boat Judges

A minimum of 3 Boat Judges are required for every race.

C.5 Decisions of the Judges

The decisions of the Judges may be appealed provided such appeals are lodged within 30 minutes from the end of the race. In the event of no appeal being lodged within the 30 minutes, the Judges' decision will be final. (See rule [A.3](#)).

C.6 Objections and Appeals

Any club wishing to lodge an objection or appeal must do so through its Official Club Representative who will lodge the objection or appeal on the crew's behalf. (Refer to rules [A.3](#) & [C.3](#)). All appeals must be recorded within 30 minutes of the finish of the applicable race with a 20 euro fee this money will be returned if the objection is upheld. A list of Reps will be posted at the finish line of each regatta.

If the dispute cannot be resolved and has to be carried over to the next ECRC meeting, the appeal is to be recorded by the Executive Committee, signed by all affected parties and discussed at the following ECRC meeting. All clubs are to be notified of the appeal in question that is being carried forward.

Bearing in mind the most recent events and the potential need for an independent agreed third party to act as an arbitrator, this should be included in the scope of any such procedure. In such instances, information of a sensitive nature must not be circulated by e-mail and must instead be sent by the postal service or by hand.

Section D: The Course

D.1 Laying of the Course

All turning buoys and all aspects of the course in general must be laid prior to the draw taking place. The course cannot be altered after the draw. Buoys may be straightened but only in agreement with the Judges.

D.2 Starting Ropes and Turning Buoys

As far as is practically possible, all starting ropes and turning buoys must be clearly numbered and all turning buoys must be the same size and alternating colours thereby affording all coxswains the same level of visibility from a distance.

D.3 Standing Start Markers

Although the preferred option of the Council is a fixed starting line with starting ropes attached. The Council recognises that some locations are totally unsuitable for a fixed starting line thereby necessitating the use of a standing start. In such an event, 3 buoys should be laid in a straight line along the intended starting line. All boats must be behind this line when the starting gun goes. (Refer to rule [F.5](#)).

D.4 Standard of the Course³

The Council Executive in conjunction with the ECRC representatives will nominate a course adjudicator in advance of each regatta to inspect the course and to make a representation to the Council who have the authority to either cancel a race or regatta or delay the commencement of same if they deem that the course is not laid in a proper manner affording Safety and Fairness to all crews. If it is deemed possible to correct the faults then the races/regatta may be delayed until such time as the corrections are made but if it is deemed impossible to make the necessary corrections within a reasonable and practicable period of time then the races/regatta may be cancelled or postponed to a later date.

³ Amended by a reworded Motion 4 from Dalkey Rowing Club at the 2017 AGM – provision for official Course Adjudicator

D.5 Removal of Berths

The Safety Officer in consultation with the club representatives, has the authority to order the removal of or dispense with the use of starting ropes and turning buoys if it is in his/her opinion those positions are either not required or for safety reasons. If for whatever reason positions are dispensed with by the Judge co-ordinator, he/she will inform all crews to adjust their drawn positions accordingly. For example, if positions 1, 2,3 are to be dispensed with all crews must move up by 3 positions.. (Refer also to rules B.6 &F.2).

D.6 Marking the Course

Marker Flags or Marker Buoys are to be set on the outside of turning buoys to mark the course.

Section E: Regatta in General

E.1 Judges Boat

The Host Club shall be responsible for the provision of a suitable Judges boat. If this boat is not supplied or if the boat is found to be unsuitable for its required purpose the Judges have the authority to delay the start or continuation of racing until a suitable replacement is supplied. The boat must be capable of keeping up with the races. (*Refer to rule E.2*).

E.2 Passengers on the Judges Boat

The Council accepts that it does not have the authority to prevent passengers from being carried on the Judges Boat, only the owner or person in charge of the boat has that authority. If the Boat Judges feel that passengers are interfering with their deliberations or are causing any disturbance to the Judges whatsoever or they feel that the boat is overcrowded etc., they have the authority to refuse to travel in that boat and so the boat will be treated as unsuitable and racing will be cancelled or delayed until such time as the matter is resolved. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to resolve the matter to Judge's satisfaction. (*Refer to rule E.1*).

E.3 Maintenance and Rescue Boats

The Host Club shall be responsible for the provision of a Course Maintenance boat and a Rescue boat.

E.4 Un-entered Crews

Any crew not entered in the draw or added to the card with the permission of the Council/Judges cannot line up and take part in a race even if that crew is rowing outside the limits of the course. The Council will treat offenders of this rule in a very serious manner and excuses of just watching or just following the race etc. will be treated with the contempt they deserve. (*See rule B.6*)

E.5 Boats Marking the Buoys

If the Judges discover that a pleasure/supporters boat is sitting behind a particular buoy and they consider it is there for the purpose of marking that buoy for a particular crew then that crew and any other crew from that club in that race will be automatically disqualified.

E.6 Supporters Boats Interfering with a Skiff

If any pleasure/supporters boat is found to be interfering in any way with an opposing skiff by way of giving off a wash or other similar means and the Judges are satisfied that that boat is crewed by supporters or members of a particular club, the Judges can disqualify all or some crews in that race from that club even if the boat is there without the knowledge or permission of the club.

E.7 Pleasure Craft

All pleasure craft **must** remain outside of the limits of the course so as not to interfere with the racing.

E.8 Five Minute Warning

An audible warning must be given 5 minutes before the anticipated start of a race informing crews of the impending start to the race. (Refer to rule [F.1](#))

E.9 Races and their Running Order⁴

Races shall be run in one of the following formats

- a) Long Course (~2,800m course, incorporating 1 turn)
- b) Short course (~1,400m course, incorporating 1 turn)
- c) Multiturn course (~2,800m course, incorporating 3 turns)
- d) Straight course (~1400m course with no turn)
- e) Timed course (a, b, or c, but with staggered starts and timed finishes)

For 'timed course' races, entries in a given race shall be drawn in an open draw in two or more 'heats', which shall be run off separately. The winner shall be the fastest time over the 2 or more 'heats', the second place, the second fastest, etc. Heats must always be run off consecutively, and it will not be permitted for any club to exchange boats, rowers, coxes, or equipment between 'heats'.

The standard running order of the races shall be: -

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mixed | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 2. Under 14 Boys/Girls | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 3. Under 16 Boys | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 4. Under 16 Girls | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 5. Under 12 | Return Leg of Short Course, (or timed version) |
| 6. Under 18 Ladies | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 7. Junior Ladies | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 8. Senior Ladies | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 9. Under 18 | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 10. Novice | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 11. Veterans | Short Course, Straight Course (or timed version of either) |
| 12. Intermediate | Long Course, Multiturn course (or timed version of either) |
| 13. Junior Men | Long Course, Multiturn course (or timed version of either) |
| 14. Senior Men | Long Course, Multiturn course (or timed version of either) |

Within the terms of this rule, the host club may choose the course at their own discretion. However, in situations where the number are three or more **more** entries than the number of turning buoys available – i.e. there would be more than two 'double ups' (See Rule B.1) – the host club must run that race with a 'Straight Course' or as a 'Timed Course' version of the Short, Long, or Multiturn course. For example, if there are 8 turning cans at a regatta and 11 boats entered in a given race, that race must be run as a 'Straight' or 'Timed' course.

The Host Club may if it so wishes, alter the running order of the races to suit its own purposes however the altered running order must be furnished to the other clubs no later than one week (days) prior to that regatta. Where insufficient notice has been given to clubs, the standard running order shall apply unless unanimously agreed by all other clubs.

⁴ Amended by Motion A from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – provision for straight and timed courses.

E.10 Regatta Calendar⁵

ECRC regattas may be held on any Saturday, Sunday, or Bank Holiday Monday between the 2nd weekend in May and the 3rd weekend in August, and shall be determined at the AGM subject to the following:

- a) Each member club of the ECRC is encouraged to hold a regatta each year, subject to there being the necessary resources and expertise available to that club.
- b) Significant weekends in the known rowing calendar outside of the ECRC structure may be kept clear, at the discretion of the club reps at the AGM. This may be subject to majority voting.
- c) August Bank Holiday Monday shall be reserved for the Wicklow Regatta as a matter of tradition, but there may be ECRC regattas held after this date.
- d) All other clubs must bring three workable dates (in order of preference) to the AGM.
- e) For operational reasons, tidally restricted clubs shall have first pick of the dates, followed by clubs that are not tidally restricted. Within each of these groupings, 'first pick' shall run from north to south one season, and from south to north the next, and so on.
- f) One regatta date shall be reserved for any regatta that is scheduled prior to that date that might be called off for operational reasons.
- g) Following the determination of the season calendar, any regatta that is rescheduled or postponed for any reason is to be held on the 'reserved' date, or on a date after the date of the final scheduled regatta if tidal conditions do not suit. i.e. no postponed regattas are to be held on scheduled 'free' weekends. If a second regatta is postponed during the season, it must be held after the date of the final scheduled regatta.
- h) No club shall be obliged to hold a rescheduled or postponed regatta.

E.11 Regatta Times

Generally, regatta's are to be held during the afternoon (13.00 – 18.00). Exceptional cases outside of these times are to be decided by the committee.

E.12 Official Race Starter

An Official Race Starter is to be appointed. If the Official Race Starter is not available, the host club can nominate a Starter for the day. : In the interest of fairness that a crew can request a re-start to a race should an incident due to an oar break, tiller break or a crash happen within the first 5 strokes/50 meters of a race. The cox shall raise his hand during such an incident and the judges will call for a re-start.

E. 13 Marker Flags

Marker flags must be bought by the ECRC to mark the course.

E. 14 Finish Line Video

A video of the finish line is to be recorded to assist the Judges where necessary. To be include in check list at start of race.

E.15 Safety Officer

The Host Club is to appoint a Safety Officer for each Regatta. A report is to be sent by the Safety Officer to the ICRF Safety Officer after each regatta.

E.15 Two-Way Radios

All Coxswains must have a two-way radio with them at all times whilst in a boat.

⁵ Entire rule added by Motion G from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – had previously been no Rule E10.

Section F: Race Rules

F.1 Boats to the Line

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that once the 5-minute gun has sounded, that all of its crews are on the starting line within the allotted time. Any crew that has been entered into the draw and is not on the starting line when the race is started will be disqualified and both the crew and the club will each be **deducted 1 point** from the relevant championship competitions. (Refer to rule **G.11**).

F.2 Correct Draw

It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure they take up the starting positions allocated to them in the draw and also to turn the correct buoys. (Refer to rule **D.5**).

F.3 Obey Judges Instructions

It is the responsibility of each coxswain to fully cooperate with and obey the Judges at all times. Two way radios are to be bought by all clubs and used by coxswains for all races. Instructions from Judges must always be heeded.

F.4 Holding Starting Rope

Any Coxswain adjudged not to be holding the starting rope when the gun goes off will be responsible for having his/her crew disqualified.

F.5 Standing Starts

When Standing starts are in operation 3 buoys will be laid in line on the start. The Judges will announce the impending start of the race (*10, 20, 30 seconds or whatever, the precise figure will be agreed on the day*). When the time has elapsed the starting gun will go and the race will start. At the time of the gun going off, all boats should be behind the marker buoys, boats ahead of the line when the gun goes off will be disqualified **without leave to appeal**. It is the choice of each crew whether they start from a stationary position or are in a moving position but boats racing towards the line are taking a gamble that they will be to the rear of the line when the gun goes and risk disqualification if they have passed the line early. There will be no recalls, one chance only.

F.6 Turning

All boats must round their own buoy only and to starboard, they must make a full 180° turn. If a boat comes out of its turn at too wide an angle and interferes with a boat coming into its turn on a correct course then the outgoing boat will be deemed the offender and may be disqualified.

F.7 Right of Way

Boats coming out of a turn (*at a proper angle*) have right of way over boats coming into a turn. Note: this does not overrule the stipulation in rule **F.6**.

F.8 Safety Provision

In the interests of safety, a boat may round a second buoy in addition to its own in order to avoid a collision.

F.9 Altering Course

Boats may only alter course after the final turn and then only when they have gone clear of all incoming boats and are at least 2 clear boat lengths ahead of following boats.

F.10 Obstruction

Boats and crewmembers must not obstruct or interfere with any other boats, crewmembers or Judges. (Refer to rule **G.12**)

F.11 Finishing Line Markers

Where marker buoys have been placed on either or both of the inner and outer extremes of the finishing line, all skiffs should finish within these markers or risk disqualification. Crews are also

reminded that these marker buoys are not necessarily exactly on the finishing line due to tidal movements so the crews should keep rowing until they hear the finishing gun.

F.12 Draw Requirements

All crews are to draw for the centre of the course laid i.e. If 8 markers are out on the course and only 4 boats are entered, then they will draw for lanes 3-4-5-6 and so on.

F.13 Child Welfare Certificate

All Coxswains in charge of a boat participating in any underage category (Under 18 years or younger) must be the holder of a current **Child Welfare Certificate** as issued by an accredited Local Sports Partnership. The Council or its Representatives may, at their discretion, request documentary proof of such certification. No Coxswain can take an underage crew out without such certification.

F.14 Bow Fender

All Racing Skiff's must be fitted with a bow fender.

F.15 Boats outside course

Any boat moving outside of the course will be disqualified.

Section G: Competitors

G.1 Registration

All competitors must be registered with the **Irish Coastal Rowing Federation** in order to be eligible to compete in any E.C.R.C. sanctioned regatta. In order to register, a fully completed I C R F. Registration Form must be submitted accompanied by 2 passport type photos bearing the name and club clearly written on the back and an original copy of either a Birth Cert or passport bearing the date of birth. (*Photocopies are not acceptable*). These must be sent to the ECRC Secretary for verification and to be signed. Then the form, photos and registration fee must be sent to the ICRF.

G.2 Transfers to a New Club

Any competitor who transfers to a new club must re-register with that club. In the case of previously registered underage competitors they need not re-supply proof of date of birth.

G.3 Responsibilities of Club Regarding Registrations

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all club members are registered correctly and on time with all the required documentation.

G.4 Age Limits

The age limits are as follows:

U12 - Under 12 years,

U14 - Under 14 years,

Veterans – Over 45 (on the day)

U16M/L - Under 16 years,

U18M/L - Under 18,

Novice – At least 3 of crew to be over 18 (on the day).

- The date of eligibility for **Underage** races is **January 1st** of the current year so applicable birthdays must fall on or after **January 1st**.
 - In the case of **Underage** races, a qualifying rower is eligible for the whole season.
- The date of eligibility for **Overage** races is the day of the race so applicable birthdays must fall on or before the day of the race.
 - In the case of **Overage** races, an ineligible rower at the beginning of the season can become eligible later in the season.

There are no upper or lower age limits for any other races.

G.5 Responsibility of Clubs Regarding Age Limits

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all of its underage rowers are in fact underage. Should an overage member be found in a crew then the entire crew including coxswain will not only be disqualified but will also be suspended for a period of 1 calendar year from the date of discovery.

All clubs must have ID cards present on race day for checking.

G.6 Gender Restrictions⁶

The **U 16 Girls, U 16 Girls, U 18 Girls, Junior Ladies, Intermediate Ladies, Novice Ladies & Senior Ladies** races are the only gender-restricted races; all other races are open to both male and female oarspersons. **Under 14 boys** may row with **Under 18 Ladies, Intermediate Ladies, Junior Ladies or Senior Ladies**.

Any mix of boys and girls may row in the **Under 14 Boys** race, but only crews of all girls may be eligible for the **Under 14 Girls** medals. Under 12 boys may row with an **Under 14 Girls** crew and that crew would still be eligible for **Under 14 Girls** medals.

Two sets of medals will be available to the Under 14, for both Boys and Girls categories, but both categories are to be run off as a single race.

G.7 Number of Races per Home Crew at the Home Regatta

All Host Club crews are entitled by right to row in a 2nd race at their home regatta and they will be exempt from the penalties incurred in rule **G.9**. If they are successful on such occasions at the higher grade, they will not be entitled to receive any points in their 2nd race but they will be entitled to receive any trophies won. Home crews can only row in a 2nd race in a grade that they are entitled to row in at that time. These crews may also, if they wish, row the 2nd race instead of rather than in addition to their normal race and provided they inform the Judges before-hand, this will be treated as a 2nd race with the same benefits and penalties, i.e. no points but trophies if won and exempt from rule **G.9**.

A crew can only take part in one race on race day except if from the host club.

G.8 Restrictions in the Intermediate, Junior and Senior Men's Races

A Crew can move down from the Junior and Senior Men's races up to the 3rd regatta of the season provided that they have not won the race in either category. From the 3rd race of the season on, any crew placed in either category cannot move down. (Refer to rule **G.8**).

G.9 Restrictions in the Intermediate, Junior and Senior Women's Races

A Crew can move down from the Senior Women's race up to the 3rd regatta of the season provided that they have not won the race. From the 3rd race of the season on, any crew placed in the category cannot move down. (Refer to rule **G.8**).

G.10 Crew Substitutions

Provided that permission has been sought and granted from the Judges, a person may act as a substitute in a crew and will be exempt from the stipulations and penalties invoked in rules **G.7, G.8 & G.9** on that occasion. If in the opinion of the Judges, the person has been acting as substitute in that crew on a regular ongoing basis and they believe he/she is actually a full member of the crew they can refuse the exemption from rules **G.7, G.8 & G.9** or they can simply refuse permission. They may also refuse permission if they so desire if the substitute is from a higher-level race and will in their opinion radically improve that crew's chances in such a way that the crew is better with the substitute than with the regular member. They may also refuse permission if they do not accept the reasons for the absence of the regular member to be reasonable.

⁶ Amended by Motion J from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – allows for boy/girl split in U14s

G.11 Responsibility for the Safety of Crews at Regattas

Each club shall be fully responsible for the safety of its members and equipment at regattas. If in the opinion of a club, the conditions at a regatta are such that the safety of its members cannot be reasonably guaranteed, the club should withdraw its crews from the regatta or part of the regatta that they believe to be unsafe. The Council will, if it believes the reason for withdrawal is reasonable, exempt the club from the penalties incurred in rule **F.1**. If however, the club is afraid that the Council may not accept its reasons and is worried about the loss of valuable points, it must always remember what its number one priority is: **THE SAFETY OF ITS MEMBERS**, not points. All Under 16's are required to wear life-jackets at all times whilst on the water and it is further recommended that life-jackets be worn on and off the beach.

G.12 The Good Name of the Sport

Any person (or club) who brings the good name of the sport of **East Coast Rowing** or the good name of the **East Coast Rowing Council** into disrepute, will be disciplined entirely at the discretion of the Council. Depending on the nature and severity of the wrongdoing, punishments can include: disqualification, deduction of points, a fine, limited suspension from competition or even a life ban from the sport.

G.13 Social Media

Social media can be a hugely beneficial tool, assisting us all to spread the word about everything that is great in our sport and in our clubs. Unfortunately, it can also be abused and used intentionally or not to cause harm to our sport, our clubs and individuals involved in our sport. Clubs, Officers and Individuals must not post inappropriate material or comment on any Social Media Forum or by any other electronic means such as by e-mail, blogging or texting.

- Material which is likely to bring the East Coast Rowing Council and/or the Sport of East Coast Rowing into disrepute is wholly unacceptable.
- Material of an offensive or Bullying nature, be it against clubs or individuals is wholly unacceptable.
- Material of Racist or Sexist nature is wholly unacceptable.
- Material deemed to be inappropriate can include:
 - Inappropriate Images.
 - Inappropriate Video.
 - Inappropriate Remarks/Commentary.
 - Inappropriate Language.
 - Abusive Remarks.
 - Racism.
 - Sexism.
 - Bullying in any shape or form.
 - Deliberate or Negligent Untruths.
 - Deliberately or negligently identifying individuals whose identity is protected.

Appropriate action commensurate with the level of the offence will be taken against those Clubs and/or Individuals who post such material.

Action can include:

- Bans.
- Suspensions.
- Fines.
- Disqualifications.
- Deduction of Points.
- Negating of Results.
- Reporting to the Statutory Authorities.

G.14 Mixed Race⁷

The Mixed Race crews must be comprised of **two male** and **two female** rowers. Aside from the substitution provisions set out in Rule G.10, no rower in any mixed crew may participate in any other race on the day, other than as coxswain.

G. 15 Novice Race⁸

Novice Men's and Novice Ladies races shall form part of the standard race card subject to the following.

- a) Each Novice crew must contain at least 3 over 18 rowers (on the day).
- b) Each Novice crew must contain at least 3 Novice rowers.

The definition of a Novice Crew Member is a Rower who has never been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any race during any season prior to the current season. This applies to both Underage and Novice races.

Any Novice Rower who has been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd more than once in any race other than in the Novice Race during the current season will be deemed to have lost their Novice Status except where permission has been sought and received in advance from the Council to cover for an absent crew member in exceptional circumstances.

No Championship points and no Championship medals awarded for the Novice race.

G.16 Veterans Race

The Veterans Race is an optional race, meaning that each Host Club can decide themselves whether they intend to hold the race at their regatta.

At least 2 rowers from each Veteran crew must not participate in any other race on the day.

G.17 Under 12 Race

The Under 12 Race is a full status race and Medals shall be awarded. The Under 12 Race cannot be the first race run at any regatta and it is considered prudent to run at least one adult race before the Under 12s. It is optional whether to run the race over both legs of the short course or just the return leg.

G.18 U16 Ladies Race

An U16 race is to be continued in 2016 season on a trial basis. No Championship points or Championship medals to be awarded.

G.19 Intermediate Ladies Race

Introduction on Intermediate Ladies Race: Trial Basis: No Championship points: G8 Rule and G19 Rule to apply

Section H: Trophies

H.1 Trophées⁹

It is an expectation that Host Clubs will provide trophies and medals for all races at their regatta. However, if a club does not have the financial resources to award trophies in all races, they should endeavour to provide trophies and medals for the underage races at the very least. Should this not be possible either, it will be in order to proceed with the regatta but the Host Club should advise all clubs in advance so that, young rowers especially, do not race in the expectation of receiving trophies and medals only to be left disappointed.

⁷ Amended by Motion E from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – no rowers from other crews in mixed race (previously 2)

⁸ Amended by Motion F from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – Novice allowed one podium finish without losing status

⁹ Amended by Motion H from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – refers to 'trophies and medals' not just 'trophies'.

H.2 Destination of Trophies

Once a race has been run, the decision rests solely with the Council or Judges as to who has won and should therefore receive the trophies for that race.

H.3 Cancellation of a Race

If a race has been cancelled for whatever reason, the Host Club shall be the sole decider of what should happen to the trophies (including perpetual trophies) for that race, i.e. whether to retain the trophies for the following year, or to award them as a second set at the following regatta.

H.4 Presentation of Trophies¹⁰

All trophies and medals can be presented after the relevant race allowing time for any objections or appeals to be lodged with the Judges, e.g. 30 min. If it is deemed necessary, the council may withhold the presentation of certain prizes until a decision is made regarding the outcome of that particular race.

H.5 Entitlement to Trophies

Any crew placed and not disqualified in a race where trophies are available, including home crews in their second race and guest crews from clubs not affiliated to the E.C.R.C. is entitled by right to receive the trophies for that race. (*Refer to rule J.2*)

H.6 Perpetual Trophies

Each club will be held responsible for the safe keeping of all perpetual trophies won by its members. Perpetual trophies should be returned by such time as is demanded by the Council. Trophies should be returned in a clean and polished state ready to be presented to the next recipients. Clubs are responsible for any damages which occurs to trophies whilst in the possession of their members and damages should be made good before the trophies are returned. A signature must be obtained for each cup given out at a regatta.

H.7 Championship Shields

The Club Championship Shields are perpetual trophies.

H.8 Championship Medals

Championship medals will be awarded provided the Council and the clubs can afford to provide them. If it is decided to go ahead and provide championship medals, each club must contribute such sum as is directed by the Council.

Categories for Championship medals are;

U12

U14B

U14G

U16B

U16G

U18B

U18G

Mixed

J Ladies

S Ladies

Intermediate Men

J Men

S Men

¹⁰ Amended by Motion I from the ECRC executive at the 2017 AGM – allows for ‘staggered’ prizegiving.

H.9 Results

Results are to be forwarded by E-mail to the administrator of the ICRF website on the next day after the regatta by the host club.

Results will be given to the East Coast PRO on completion of the regatta and subsequently published on the ECRC Website with the Championship points at the earliest convenience of the East Coast PRO

Section J: Points and Championships**J.1 Points Values**

Points are awarded for the race and club championships as follows:

1st place	=	4 points,
2nd place	=	2 points,
3rd place	=	1 point.

According to rule **F.1** points are deducted in all races as follows:

-1 point deducted for every crew entered in the draw that does not race.

J.2 Entitlement to Points

All crews placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd are entitled to points with the following exceptions: Home crews in their second race and guest crews from clubs not affiliated to the E.C.R.C. are not entitled to points. In the event of crews from either of these categories being placed, the next placed regular crews will receive the points, i.e. a result of Bray 1st, *Cahirciveen* 2nd, St. Michael's 3rd and Dalkey 4th. The points awarded will be to Bray 1st, St. Michael's, 2nd and Dalkey 3rd. Clubs will be entitled to whatever points are earned by their crews towards the Club Championships. In the event of a tie, the points will be divided equally between the crews concerned, i.e. 2 boats tie 1st place: the first 2 sets of points are added and divided by 2 4pts + 2pts = 6pts divided by 2 = 3pts each. 2 boats tie for 2nd place: 2pts + 1pt = 3pts divided by 2 = 1½pts each. 2 boats tie for 3rd: 1pt only divided by 2 = ½pt each. (See rule **H.5**)

J.3 Race Championships

The Crews with the highest number of points at the end of the season will be deemed champions. In the event of a tie at the end of the season the number of wins will be taken into consideration and then seconds and then if crews are still tied the championship will be deemed to have been a tie.

J.4 Club Championships

There are 3 Club championships:

- **Junior Shield:**
Points total from **Under 14's, Under 16M's, Under 18 L's, Under 18M's.**
- **Senior Shield:**
Points total from **J Ladies, S Ladies, Mixed, Intermediate, J Men and S Men.**
- **Over-all Club Championship:**
Cumulative Points total from all eligible races, (All races except the Veterans race).

The club with the highest number of points at the end of the season will be deemed the winner and in the event of a tie the number of wins and then seconds will be taken into consideration. If at this stage in the Over-all Club Championship only there is still a tie, the number of thirds shall apply followed by the number of wins in the Senior Race and then the Junior race and Senior Ladies jointly will be considered. If clubs are still tying at this point in the Over-all competition and after the number of wins and seconds in the 2 shield competitions a tie will be declared.

Section K: Skiffs

K.1 Skiffs Only

Only East Coast Skiffs may be rowed at an E.C.R.C. sanctioned regatta. Provided unanimous agreement is reached, guest clubs may row their own boats.

K.2 Specifications of Skiffs

All new Skiffs must be built in accordance with the Design Drawn up from the Manntan 1 of Wicklow by Mr Maurice Hunkin.

Boat Design: (a) **Seats** – timber or steel Knees are optional.

(b) **Tiller** – same type as in Cornish Gig.

(c) **Floor boards** – trial for new design.

(d) **Stretchers/Foot Rests** – trial for new design.

(e) **Keel** – rocker from centre to stern no more than 1.5 inch max. Taper + step/block same as gig.

(f) **Kelson** – The fitting of a Kelson is permissible (including Retrofitting). The kelson (or keelson) is the member which lies parallel to the keel, above the transverse timbers. It is primarily fitted to impart additional longitudinal stiffness.

Rules pertaining to the construction of all future Skiffs have been agreed and can be made available upon request.

Oars: Oars are to be of the longstanding traditional design.

Made of timber with long, flat blades,
and a set length to be agreed.

K.3 Spray deck

Clubs may fit a spray deck to their skiffs if they so desire but this deck must conform to similar dimensions to that fitted to the St. Patrick at the Wicklow regatta in 1995. Details may be obtained from St. Patrick's Rowing Club.

Rules pertaining to the construction of all future Skiffs have been agreed and can be made available upon request.

K.4 Safety

Each skiff must be in a seaworthy condition in order to be raced at any E.C.R.C. sanctioned regatta.

K.5 Numbers

For ease of identification, all skiffs must have fitted to their bows an identification number. The number should be black on a white background; they should be a minimum of 8in. high with stems of at least 1in. thick.

The Numbers allocated to each East Coast club are as follows:

Arklow Rowing Club:	.	04	St. Michael's Rowing Club:	.	58
Bray Rowing Club:	.	08	St. Patrick's Rowing Club:	.	59
Dalkey Rowing Club:	.	23	Stella Maris Rowing Club:	.	60
Greystones Rowing Club:	.	31	Wicklow Rowing Club:	.	63
Skerries Rowing Club:	.	54	Fingal Rowing Club¹¹:	.	TBC

¹¹ Fingal Rowing Club were admitted as a new club at the 2017 AGM under Article 5, having been proposed by Stella Maris R.C.

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