

FIDLERS FERRY SAILING CLUB

RULES (December 2018)

Name and Object

1. The name of the club is 'The Fidlers Ferry Sailing Club', and the club flag shall be a dark blue burgee with a primrose Maltese cross.
2. The object for which the club is formed is to promote and facilitate the sport of sailing.

Membership

3. All persons of either sex whether the owners of a yacht or boat or not, who are interested in sailing, are eligible for membership.
4. A candidate for membership shall send to the Honorary Secretary a form setting out his or her name and address and any other particulars the general committee shall require and containing the signatures of two members in support as proposer and seconder. The said form shall be prominently displayed in the club premises for at least two weeks before the election takes place. Persons who are candidates for membership have no privileges whatsoever in relation to the use of the club or its premises until elected.
5. Election of candidates to membership shall take place at a meeting of the general committee duly convened for that purpose.
Candidates may, and on the request of any one member of the general committee shall, be elected by ballot.
- 6.(a) The club, on the recommendation of the general committee, may in General Meeting elect honorary members but the total number of such honorary members shall not at any time exceed five per cent of the total number of all members. The list is to be reviewed annually to ensure honorary membership reflects the current life of the club. Recommendations to renew existing or replace members should be made annually at the AGM.
- 6.(b) Such honorary members shall have no voting rights at General Meetings of members
- 6.(c) When a long-standing member (10 years +) reaches retiring age then they should automatically become honorary life members and hence retain their voting rights. To maintain this status all such members should confirm their continued involvement in the club on an annual basis. Either in person at the AGM or by letter as soon as is practical. A lapsed Hon Life member can always elect to re-activate membership.
- 6.(d) When a pensioner joins the club they may do so at half the subscription rate.
- 6.(e) Should a partnership break up then both members have the option to renew membership in the following year without the need to apply for membership. Whoever joined the club will keep the original membership number and the other partner will be offered a new number.
8. Every member on joining the club fully undertakes to comply with these rules. Any refusal to do so or any conduct which in the opinion of the general committee is either unworthy of a member, or otherwise injurious to the interests of the club, shall render a member liable to expulsion by the general committee. The committee shall call upon the member for an explanation of their conduct and shall give them an opportunity of defending their self or of resigning their membership.

The vote on a resolution for expulsion shall be by ballot and the resolution shall only be carried if not less than three quarters of the members of the general committee present vote in favour of the resolution, not including the member liable to expulsion.

Entrance Fee and Subscription

9. All members' boats must be covered by third party insurance whilst taking part in any club activity and whilst on any part of the club's land, slipway or water frontage.
- 10.(a) If at any time any mooring fees payable to the club by any member or former member shall be three months or more in arrears:

The committee shall be entitled to move the boat to any other part of the premises without being liable for any loss of or damage to the boat however caused.

10.(b) berthing, footage charges, or otherwise) from the net proceeds of sale before accounting for the balance (if any) to the member or former member.

Further the club shall, at all times, have a lien over members or former members boats/trailers parked or moored on the clubs premises or club moorings in respect of all moneys due to the club, whether in respect of arrears of subscriptions, berthing, footage charges or otherwise..

10.(c) The storage, parking, movement of boats and relating fees shall be decided by the General Committee at the beginning of each year. These conditions will be displayed in the club and will apply from January 1st each year.

10.(d) A member elected after the 1st October in any year who shall have paid his subscription for that year shall not be required to pay any subscription for the following year.

10.(e) Members of more than five years standing who move to live outside a 75-mile radius of the club shall be entitled to Associate Membership. Associate members will be entitled to occasional visits and Newsletters but will not be entitled to vote.

11.(a) Membership fees are due on 31st January. If fees are not paid by 31st March then the member is deemed to have left the club. If they wish to re-join then the normal application procedure should be followed.

11.(b) No member shall in any year be entitled to exercise any rights or privileges of membership until their entrance fee and subscription for that year are paid.

Offices

12.(a) The officers of the club shall consist of a President, Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Commodore, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Sailing Secretary, Social Secretary, Bar Chairman, Moorings Officer, or other role as the General Committee may from time to time deem necessary, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

The Commodore, Vice-Commodore and Rear-Commodore shall be called Flag officers and shall be provided with a flag to be a swallow-tailed dark blue burgee with a primrose Maltese cross. The Vice-Commodore's flag to be similar to the Commodores with the addition of one primrose ball, and Rear-Commodore's two primrose balls.

The retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. Flag officers to be elected from committee members and should have served at least one year on the general committee prior to nomination and advance to Commodore.

It is generally felt that a flag officer's position is obtained as a natural progression though it is still at the discretion of the club members in the cast of a vote of no confidence. The vote of no confidence being expressed in writing at least 28 days before the AGM. Only if a position should become vacant and no natural successor be available should it come to a vote between candidates.

12.(b) Four weeks prior to the AGM a notice will be posted in the club house and all nominations should be written on that notice or given in writing to the Hon. Secretary. All nominations should carry the signature of the proposer seconder and nominee. The notice will be removed 14 days prior to the A.G.M. and no nominations will be received after that date.

12.(c) The club may have up to ten vice-presidents to be elected annually by members of the club at the annual General Meeting.

12.(d) Candidates for the position of Treasurer must have served on the General committee for at least 12 months prior to applying for the position.

In the event of there being no names on the Nomination List, the position of Treasurer will be decided at the first committee meeting after the A.G.M., and the committee will have the authority to appoint any willing club member who is considered by them to be trustworthy and reliable.

General Committee

13.(a) The general committee shall consist of the officers and not more than six members of the club elected by the club members at a General Meeting. They will hold office until the conclusion of the next annual General Meeting.

13.(b) If a casual vacancy occurs by death or resignation the general committee may co-opt a member to fill the vacancy

13.(c) If the number of candidates duly proposed and seconded exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, then election shall be by ballot.

13.(d) Any committee member who is absent from three consecutive committee meetings without apology shall be deemed to have resigned his post.

13.(e) Minutes of all committee meetings shall be generally available in the club house.

Other Committees

14.(a) Sailing committee. The sailing committee shall consist of six members in addition to the sailing secretary. They will be elected at a meeting to be held within 14 days of the AGM on a date selected by the AGM.

The said committee will be responsible for the appointment of race officers, and club measures, in addition to the arrangement of the sailing and racing programmes.

Minutes of all meetings will be considered by the general committee

14.(b) The General committee may appoint such sub committees as it may think fit provided that, not less than two-thirds of the members of any sub committee are members of the general committee, that, the total number is not less than four and that, vacation of office on the general committee shall also involve vacation of office on any sub committee.

Management of Club

15.(a) The affairs of the club shall be wholly managed by the general committee according to these rules. Such committee shall apply the funds of the club in such a manner as complies with rule 26, shall make such by-laws, rules and regulations as it thinks fit as to the management of any club premises.

The members of the club may in General Meetings reserve the management of such affairs as they think fit to a General Meeting and/or a special committee.

15.(b) It shall be the responsibility of the Honorary Treasurer to keep a complete and accurate account of the club's finances. The club's financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

15.(c) No two partners or more than one member of the same family shall co-sign any cheques on behalf of the club. Nor shall they make purchases or enter into any agreements on behalf of the club without the agreement of the majority of the committee.

15.(d) Neither the committee, nor any one person, may enter into an arrangement to borrow money, on behalf of the club without first discussing it with the Trustees and then obtaining approval from the members of the club at either an AGM or an EGM.

During such a meeting the consequences of failing to meet the repayment terms should be fully explained to the members in order to protect them as well as the club.

This would include any form of repayable grant, repayable loan or mortgage, or by using the club's premises or land as security.

This rule does not apply to non-repayable grants, or donations, which have no conditions, attached.

Honorary Auditor

16. At the annual General Meeting in each year there shall be appointed an auditor whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the club for the then current year.

A copy of the audited accounts shall be prominently displayed in the club premises for at least 14 days immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. In the event of the person appointed as auditor being unwilling or unable to act the General Committee shall appoint a substitute.

General Meeting

17. An Annual General Meeting shall be held on some day in the month of January, to be fixed by the general committee, in Warrington or Fidlers Ferry district.

No business (except the passing of the accounts, the election of the officers, election of General Committee members, the appointment of the auditor, and any business that the general committee may order to be inserted in the notice convening the meeting), shall be discussed at such meeting unless notice thereof be given to the Honorary Secretary 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

18.(a) The General Committee may at any time call a General Meeting of the club for any specific business. The decision of such General Meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.

18.(b) Thirty members, (or, if the total membership of the club is less than 150, one fifth of the said total) may join together to summon or cause the Honorary Secretary to summon by notice as herein after mentioned, a General Meeting.

19.(a) The Honorary Secretary shall at least 14 days clear before the date of the Annual General Meeting, or of any General Meeting, provide each member with notice of the business to be brought forward. The default method of communication is by post, however members may choose other methods as a personal preference e.g. email.

19.(b) At an Annual General Meeting, or General Meeting of the club, each member (other than an Honorary, Associate, or Junior Member) shall have one vote; Honorary, Associate, and Junior Members shall be allowed to attend such meetings but shall have no vote. In case of an inequality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

20. A General Meeting may at any time, without reason given, remove any member from any position, which he or she may hold within the club or its committee.

Supply of Intoxicating Liquor

21.(a) The sale and supply of intoxicating liquor within the club premises shall be the responsibility of the general committee.

The club premises shall normally be open from 9am until 11pm or such other hours as the general committee from time to time may determine. The hours authorised for the sale or supply of intoxicants shall be such hours as shall be determined by the General Committee from time to time but no change in the authorised hours shall take effect unless it is done in accordance with the prevailing legislation.

21.(b) Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied or sold to any person under 18 years of age and no person shall knowingly be allowed to consume alcohol on any part of the club's premises if under the age of 18 years of age.

22. Intoxicating liquor may not be sold or supplied to or consumed by persons other than:-

(1) Members.

(2) Guests introduced by a member provided that no member may introduce more than two guests on any one occasion and shall be responsible for the conduct of the guests and no guests may be introduced to the club premises as guests on more than six occasions in any one year.

(3) Persons, other than members of the club, who are members registered by the R.Y.A., or persons who are competitors in a yacht race or members of the crew of a competitor which has been sponsored or organised by the club.

(4) Members of existing teams visiting the club premises for the purpose of engaging in competitive sport or competition.

(5) Persons attending the premises pursuant to rule 33.

Miscellaneous

23. The Honorary Secretary, (or any other person who has received the authority of two members of the general committee), may expel temporarily or permanently any person who has the right to use the premises only under rules 22 or 23.

24. No money or property of the club, or any gain arising from the carrying on of the club, shall be applied otherwise than for the benefit of the club or for a benevolent or charitable purpose to be nominated by General Meeting.

25. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a correct account of the proceedings of all meetings in a minute book which shall be presented at all meetings.

26. At all meetings five shall form a quorum.

27. Members shall be supplied with a copy of the club rules on admission to the club.

28. The accounts, when duly certified by the Hon. Auditor, shall be laid before the general committee at a meeting preceding the Annual General Meeting.

29.(a) All trophies which are the property of the club shall be returned to the club by the current holder in good condition when requested by the committee.

29.(b) Members shall not gain access to the club lounge other than by means of an official club key. General Committee members only shall hold these keys and be responsible for lending and safe return of same to and from full members on request. Keys may be issued to responsible members at the discretion of the General committee

30. Dogs, with the exception of Assistance Dogs are prohibited from entering the club lounge at any time

31. No persons under 18 years old are allowed on to the slipway without an adequate life jacket or buoyancy aid. It is strongly recommended that adults wear life jacket or buoyancy aid at all times on the slipway.

32. (a) Notice of any alterations or additions to the rules intended to be proposed by a member of the club shall be given to the Honorary Secretary in writing 21 days before the date of any Annual or General Meeting at which the same is to be brought forward, and full particulars of any such proposal alterations or additions shall be sent out in the notice convening the meeting.

32.(b) Any such proposed alterations, additions or amendments to the rules, which must be proposed and seconded, shall be put to the vote of the meeting, and provided that on a show of hands or, if demanded on a poll, a majority of two-thirds of those members present and voting shall be cast in favour of any proposed alterations or additions or amendments then the same shall be deemed to be carried.

33. Subject to the approval of the General Committee, the club premises or any part thereof may be hired to other societies or organisations or individuals for dances, parties, conferences, meetings or similar events which have been approved in advance, in writing, by the General Committee of the club on not more than 12 occasions in any one year and on each occasion that such an event under this Rule takes place at the club premises.

The Superintendent of Police shall so be informed in writing not less than seven days before the functions are due to take place and intoxicating liquor may be supplied to the persons attending such function.

For the purpose of this rule the year shall run from the 9th day of April to the following 8th day of April in each year.

34. No persons will be allowed to lay moorings in the section of the river, which is leased to the club until it is first discussed by the Committee.

The Committee will exercise its power to remove any moorings, which are laid without permission.

35. The club's facilities and slip must not be used by Wildfowlers and persons going shooting on the river or its adjacent lands.

Trustees

36. At all times the club should have no less than 3 and a maximum of 4 Trustees. Should this figure drop below 3 the committee must arrange to have additional Trustees elected at the next Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting. For this meeting the existing Trustees will remain in position and unaffected.

37. Twenty-eight days prior to the meeting a notice will be displayed in the club requesting nominations to fill these vacant positions. This notice will be displayed in a prominent place and will be removed seven days prior to the meeting taking place. All nominations should carry the signatures of the proposer, seconder and nominee. If there are more than the required number of nominations a vote will be taken at that meeting to select the maximum total of 4 Trustees (including the existing ones, who will not be affected by the vote).

37. (a) No two partners or more than one member of a family, shall become a trustee during the same period.

39. Trustees must only be appointed by club members who are present at such a General Meeting. Under no circumstances will Trustees be appointed solely by other Trustees or the Club's Committee.

40. All Trustees must be current members of Fidlers Ferry Sailing Club and have been a member or at least 5 years.

41. Once appointed, a Trustee will remain in position until he/she either:-

(a) offers their resignation in writing;

(b) no longer wishes to be, or is no longer eligible to be, a member

(c) is asked to relinquish their position as Trustee after a vote of no confidence (which must be held at a General meeting of club members).

SAILING REGULATIONS Updated for January 2012

Races will be sailed under the rules of the I.Y.R.U. and the R.Y.A.

1. Boats will be allowed to participate in the race if they are launched after the 5 min. gun.
2. Details of the course to be sailed will be displayed at the Starter's Hut prior to the start of the race.
3. Race results will be worked out from corrected times, these times will be calculated from the Portsmouth Association numbers. A list of P.A. numbers will be displayed in the Clubhouse.
4. There will be a time limit for all Points Races of 2 hours. This will apply to the corrected time of each boat.
5. All Helmsmen will sign the Race Book before each race signifying that they have current insurance in accordance with club rules. A member of the crew must also sign off after each race.
6. All boats sailing and/or Racing from the club, or using the club yard and facilities, **must** have Third Party Insurance cover but full Comprehensive Cover is recommended.
7. A Boat intending to lodge a Protest shall make that known on the water. Call to the offending vessel with your protest giving them the opportunity to redress or they will be protested after the race. As soon as you leave the water you must, immediately, register your protest with the O.D who will contact the Sailing Sec. within 48 hours of the Race. Whenever possible protests will be heard on the day.
8. All Helmsmen and Crews shall wear life jackets or personal buoyancy devices during club races. Boats must carry adequate buoyancy and adhere to their own class rules.
9. The slipway must be kept clear at all times.
10. Please arrive at the club at least one hour and a half before the advertised time of start of all races, since wind and tide may vary. Skippers will be briefed an hour before the race.