

# BRSC Membership Policy



## **Membership Statement:**

Membership of the Club shall be open to any person who is interested in helping the Club achieve its objectives and willing to abide by legislation regarding Equality and Diversity, Health & Safety and the other policies put in place by the Club, irrespective of their ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs or of age, gender or disability.

Age for categories of all memberships shall be determined as at 1st March of each year.

No Member or Temporary Member shall carry on any business for personal financial gain in the Club or use, or cause others to use, the Club premises in close connection with any other business other than sponsorship, or where it is of benefit to the members and agreed by the General Committee.

## **Membership Categories:**

The Club shall consist of Ordinary, Honorary, Family, Youth, Senior Citizen, Student, Temporary, Service, Overseas and Block Members:

Ordinary Members: Adults (single / couple) between 18 and 65

Honorary: Honorary Membership is awarded as a lifetime membership in recognition of an individual's exceptional dedication and support to the Club. Honorary Members may enjoy all the privileges of the Club. The total number of Honorary Members shall not at any one time exceed five per cent of the total number of all members. Honorary Members who were a previous President or Commodore will be excluded from the five per cent limit.

In addition to the General Committee electing a BRSC Member for an Honorary Membership, BRSC Members also have the right to nominate a Member who they feel qualifies to be considered for an Honorary Membership. This should be put in writing to the General Committee by the end of December each year and should include; the Members name and reasons for suggestion. The General Committee shall have the power to award the Honorary Membership and their decision is final.

Family Membership: A cohabiting couple residing at the same address / single adult together with their children under the age of 18, should they have any, shall be eligible for Family Membership.

Premium 1: Members children aged between 5 and 17 are eligible as Juniors under a 'Family Premium 1' membership. Children under 5 are free of charge, but should still be included within the Membership application. (please note: FP1 covers **all** children aged 17 or under included on the Membership Form)

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Junior Members under the age of 16 should have an agreed nominated adult in charge of them at all times whilst on Clubs premises.

Before taking part in a Club race, Junior Members must have the approval of the Officer of the Day, or the Sailor of the Day if the OOD is not present.

Family Premium 2: Members children aged 18 and over, in full time education registered at the family address are eligible as Adults for a Family Premium 2 membership (please note: FP2 option and fee is **per student**).

Youth Members: Persons aged 16 -17 years may join independently of a Family Premium and will be known as Youth Members.

Junior / Youth Members who are participating in the Club's Sailing course shall be known as Cadets.

Junior / Youth Members may not stand for election to Committees but if a Junior / Youth Member is aged 16 or over, they may be co-opted in the event of casual vacancies. This excludes the Cadet Captain positions on the Sailing Committee

Senior Citizen: Adults aged 65 years or more (or the UK's recognised age of retirement at the time of Membership renewal / joining if this is different).

Student Members: Upon providing evidence of full time education, persons who are in receipt of full-time education, or who are articled or apprenticed, shall be eligible for Student Membership.

Service Members / Overseas Members: Members of the UK Armed Services and members who are registered at an address outside of the UK are eligible for Service Membership or Resident Abroad Membership.

Temporary Members: Temporary Membership shall make an application in the form as prescribed at that time. The candidate shall be deemed a member for a period of two weeks, which may be extended at the discretion of the General Committee. The subscription for each period of two weeks shall be payable on application.

Temporary Members cannot vote at any meeting or introduce visitors. The total number of Temporary Members shall not at any time exceed five per cent of all members. A Temporary Member who shall become a member of the Club shall have the amount of temporary subscription paid during the current year deducted from his annual subscription.

RYA Affiliated Club Members: A member of any Club recognised by the Royal Yachting Association may be authorised by any member of the General Committee of this Club to use the premises of this Club as a Temporary Member for a period of not more than 2 weeks.

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Alcoholic drinks may be sold to Temporary Members for consumption on the premises by persons meeting the legal requirements for consumption of alcohol.

Block Members: The General Committee may, by three-quarters majority of the whole Committee, grant Block Membership for a limited period to other associations or defined groups. The individual members of the association or groups will be permitted to use the Club under conditions which shall be determined by a three-quarters majority of the whole Committee, who will also determine the fees to be paid, which shall be for a significant amount.

Associations or groups accepting Block Membership shall provide the Club Administration with the names of their members who will be using the Club, the list will be subject to revision from time to time. This list shall be held in the club for reference to enable verification of the identity of members of Block Membership groups.

### **Membership Application:**

Prospective club members shall make an application in writing to the General Committee in the form as prescribed at that time. In line with our Club Premises Licence, applicants may use the club as a temporary member for the first 48 hours from submitting their Membership Form. Once this time has passed, full Membership is awarded. The Membership Secretary shall send to each new Club Member written notice of where to find an electronic version of this Constitution.

Objections to new members can be put in writing to the General Committee and it will be discussed at a General Committee Meeting, where a decision will be made based on the information put forward and if deemed appropriate their membership will be annulled, at which point they will be notified of the Club's decision.

### **Dutyman Expectation:**

As part of BRSC membership, members must help their club for a minimum of two hours each membership year. This is to help reduce running costs of the club.

There will be an exception for cadets who are under eight, temporary members, block-booked members and overseas members.

Cadets between 8 and 16 years are not expected to sign up however it is hoped that they will help. Cadets between 16 and 18 years are expected to sign up and help but will not be expected to pay the 'opt out fee' if they do not.

Those who feel they are unable to carry this out due to poor health can put this in writing to the Flag Officers for consideration, who will treat the request fairly and with confidentiality.

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All other members are expected to sign up for the two hours a year as part of their membership.

The club may use a manual system or on-line tracking program, for example, 'Dutyman', to help identify and oversee the 'duties' required and carried out. A hard copy of a sign-up sheet will also be displayed in the club.

Members may opt out of this requirement by paying an annual fee. The fee may be varied in accordance with the Clubs Constitution governing fees.

## **Termination of Membership:**

The membership of any member may be refused or terminated for good reason by the General Committee, such as where bad conduct or character likely to bring the club or sport into disrepute occur. However, the member has a right to be heard by the General Committee before a final decision is made.

Following any such incident, the General Committee will carry out an investigation and based on the evidence collected, a decision will be made as per the club's procedure which is available to view on request. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the General Committee and decided by an 80% majority vote of the full General Committee, or by proxy vote, excluding any member who has, or declares, an interest in the individual(s) or event.

The award of an Honorary Member status is a highly regarded membership position. It is given in recognition of a Members exceptional dedication, hard work and support to the club. An Honorary Member should not bring the good name of the Club, its Members or any Committee Member into disrepute. The removal of an Honorary status for an existing Honorary Member can be made, if the Honorary Member in question is known to have brought the Club's good name into disrepute, and will be decided upon by a two-thirds / quorum decision. Upon removal of an Honorary Membership title, the Member will be informed that they have now reverted to an Ordinary Member and will therefore need to go through the Ordinary Membership application process and pay full or pro-rata fees for that Membership year.

## **Any changes to the Membership Policy must be ratified at an AGM or EGM.**

Policy adopted at the EGM on 1st October 2023.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_