

WINDERMERE ROWING CLUB

CODES OF CONDUCT



Definitions

Child or Children: Anyone under the age of 18.

Club Welfare Officer (CWO): The designated individual in a British Rowing affiliated club whose responsibilities are explained in the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Adults at Risk Policies.

Coach: A paid or unpaid individual who develops the skills and abilities of one or more athletes, through imparting of technical knowledge, and/or guiding practical activity, and/or supporting or coordinating activity.

Code of Conduct: The set of behavioural standards which establishes as the expected minimum standards of behaviour.

Competition: An organised group of rowing races sanctioned by British Rowing in which the result of each race is determined by the order in which boats are placed at the finish, or a processional race, being a race in which boats are started at intervals of time or distance and of which the result is determined by means other than the order of arrival at the finish but may also include other rowing events sanctioned by British Rowing.

Conflict of Interest: A situation in which an individual has competing interests or loyalties or there may be a perception of or actual bias.

Individuals: All participants in rowing, including children, parents/carers, participants, competitors, coaches, umpires, marshals, volunteers and spectators.

Junior: A person who is eligible to compete in Junior class events, as defined by British Rowing Rules of Racing.

Officer: A paid or unpaid individual with a role in a club or event that contributes to the running or coordination of club or event activities.

Participant: Any individual who takes part or is involved in any capacity in a rowing activity, competition or event.

Social Media: Media designed to be disseminated through social interaction. Social media use internet and web-based technologies to communicate with one another and receive news, information and entertainment. Types of Social Media include networks like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, YouTube, BlackBerry Messenger and also blogs and podcasts.

Volunteer: An individual who freely gives their time to contribute to the running of a club, Competition or British Rowing. They may or may not be a paying member of a rowing club.

1. Introduction

The conduct and behaviour of all individuals in British Rowing is fundamental to the ability of the sport to operate fairly, appropriately and in the best interests of the whole rowing community.

Windermere Rowing Club's Codes of Conduct are informed by the British Rowing Codes of Conduct; the British Rowing Codes of Conduct is applicable to all those participating in Rowing, supporting a participant in Rowing, and individuals working or volunteering within British Rowing or an affiliated Club or Event and an extension of the British Rowing Code of Ethics and Behaviours.

How to use this document

Section 2, The Rights of Individuals, applies to everyone in Rowing no matter at what level, or involvement.

Section 3 sets out the Code of Conduct for All Participants and Carers of Children involved in Rowing and describes behaviours which are specific to the role you may hold.

Section 4 sets out the Code of Conduct for Coaches, Officials, Umpires and Volunteers.

The final section is relevant to any individual working with Junior Rowers. Whilst WRC does not currently have a Junior Section, it is important to reflect the specific responsibilities of the Club should any Junior rowers attend the club with family or as visitors

All individuals should be aware of both the general and particular requirements of conduct that apply to them and must appreciate that it is their personal responsibility to fulfil them on every relevant occasion. If there is any doubt, they should seek advice.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct prohibits conduct ranging from serious criminal acts to unsportsmanlike behaviour or a lack of courtesy. Not all breaches will justify the taking of formal disciplinary action. WRC will aim to resolve, formally or informally, many issues arising from breaches occurring within Club activities in accordance with WRC disciplinary and grievance procedures. British Rowing encourages all individuals to work together in a collaborative manner to identify and resolve minor breaches.

Any significant or repeated breach of this Code of Conduct may be investigated under the appropriate disciplinary or grievance procedures. Reports or complaints should be made in the first instance to the Club Captain or, if he/she is not available, to the Chair or Vice Chair (**see WRC Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure**).

Guidance about how to report a concern to British Rowing is outlined in the British Rowing Whistleblowing Policy.

In addition to the outlined expectations in this document, all individuals should be knowledgeable of, and abide by:

- British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy
- British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk Policy
- British Rowing Equity Policy
- British Rowing Anti-Doping Policy
- British Rowing Integrity Policy
- British Rowing Whistleblowing Policy
- British Rowing Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

For more information go to <https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/policies-guidance/>

2. Rights of Individuals

Everyone in rowing has the right:

1. to participate in Rowing
2. to enjoy safe participation in Rowing without fear or harassment
3. to be respected and treated as individuals at all times
4. to receive support for their individual needs
5. not to be pressurised to train or compete
6. to be communicated with in a manner which reflects respect and care
7. to be treated in accordance with British Rowing Codes, Regulations, Rules and Policies
8. to enjoy an environment free of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity
9. to challenge discrimination in whatever form it takes
10. to enjoy an environment free of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and any behaviour that could be construed as abuse
11. to make a complaint, and to be heard and have their complaint acted upon in accordance with the disciplinary and grievance procedure of WRC and, where appropriate, the disciplinary and grievance procedure of British Rowing.

3. Code of Conduct for All Participants and Parents or Carers of Children involved in Rowing

All individuals must understand that their own competitive aspirations or those of other members of the rowing community do not ever justify failure to promote and follow British Rowing's Code of Conduct, Regulations, Rules and Policies.

All individuals should:

1. adhere to the letter and the spirit of British Rowing Codes, Regulations, Rules and Policies, and those of their own Club, an Event or relevant organisation;
2. be aware of and follow the policies and procedures in place to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all individuals in Rowing;
3. follow the directions of coaches, umpires and officials of a Club, Event or relevant organisation;
4. be a positive role model at all times;
5. act in a sportsmanlike way during training and competition;
6. not act in any way that would result in an actual or potential conflict of interest.

All individuals must:

7. comply with the British Rowing Anti-Doping and Integrity Policies;
8. not allow any form of behaviour that might violate the British Rowing Anti-Doping and Integrity Policies to go unchallenged;
9. not engage in acts of verbal or physical abuse;
10. respect the rights, dignity and worth of other Participants, and not discriminate;
11. not allow any form of discrimination or victimisation to go unchallenged;
12. not engage in bullying or any other behaviour that could reasonably be viewed as inappropriate;
13. avoid inappropriate relationships which involve one person having a position of authority or influence over another;
14. not carry out any acts for the purpose of cheating or the manipulation of competition.

Parents or Carers of Children involved in Rowing

Parents can help create a positive sporting environment by being role models for children. In addition to above requirements,

Parents / Carers should:

15. focus on and encourage their child's efforts, learning and enjoyment of all aspects of their involvement in Rowing;
16. work with the club and/or coach to ensure that the level and type of participation is appropriate to their child's stage of development;

17. encourage fair play and sportsmanship;
18. never engage in or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
19. ensure that their children understand the requirement to follow the rules of their club and of Events and Competitions and to adhere to British Rowing Codes, Regulations, Rules and Policies.

Parents / Carers must:

20. not force children to participate in the sport or place undue pressure on them;
21. conduct themselves with respect for coaches and officials of the club, event or competition, and other participants, supporters and parents.

4. Code of Conduct for Coaches, Officials, Umpires and Volunteers

Anyone with a position of authority should lead by example. Everyone should conduct themselves with a high degree of honesty, integrity and competence.

Coaches must also be familiar with and abide by the UK Coaching Code of Practice.

Coaches, Officials, Umpires and Volunteers should:

1. create an environment of inclusivity;
2. be aware of the physical and emotional needs of all Participants (especially at the developmental stage), and ensure that training loads and intensities are appropriate, referring to British Rowing How Much and How Often and Rower Development <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/rower-development/> for guidance;
3. be aware of and follow the policies and procedures in place to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all participants in Rowing;
4. recognise the rights of all Participants to be respected, treated as equals, with their dignity preserved;
5. recognise the rights of Participants to seek advice from other coaches and experts;
6. always be clear about the nature of coaching services or any other services being offered including costs involved;
7. promote the concept of a balanced lifestyle, supporting the well-being of Participants in and out of Rowing;
8. be appropriately discreet in any conversations about Participants, coaches or any other individuals;
9. display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in Rowing, accepting responsibility for their actions;
10. make a commitment to providing a high-quality service to Participants;

11. maintain up-to-date knowledge and understanding of developments within Rowing relevant to their role and have a commitment to ongoing continuing professional development to ensure safe and correct practice;
12. work respectfully with other organisations, ensuring that required levels of communication, collaboration and permissions are observed;
13. promote good practice in others and challenge any poor practice they observe;
14. demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times;
15. hold relevant insurance and current British Rowing membership.

Coaches, Officials, Umpires and Volunteers must:

16. not behave or conduct themselves in any manner which could bring the sport of Rowing, British Rowing its affiliated clubs and Competitions into disrepute;
17. act equitably in officiating and combat discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, colour, sexual orientation, political opinion, etc.;
18. condemn cheating, manipulation of competition, and the use of prohibited substances or methods and take responsibility for providing guidance and education to participants on these issues;
19. conduct an appropriate risk assessment before undertaking any Rowing related activities, ensuring the environment is as safe as possible and referring to British Rowing RowSafe for guidance;
20. take action to report concerns they may have about behaviour towards a child or adult at risk in accordance with British Rowing policies and guidelines;
21. maintain an environment free of fear and harassment;
22. observe appropriate boundaries and relationships with their participants;
23. not behave in a manner that could be seen as abuse of any kind;
24. comply with the British Rowing Anti-Doping and Integrity Policies;
25. not allow any form of behaviour that might violate the British Rowing Anti-Doping and Integrity Policies to go unchallenged;
26. avoid sexual intimacy with all Participants, for the duration of any coaching relationship or in the period of time immediately following the end of the coaching relationship;
27. ensure any physical contact is appropriate and necessary, and is carried out within the recommended guidelines and only with the participants' full consent and approval;
28. not assume responsibility for any role which they are not qualified or prepared for, or mislead others as to the level of their qualification or competence;
29. maintain confidentiality and comply with any data protection legislation.

Any Individual working with Juniors

In addition to the above, anyone working with junior rowers must be familiar with, follow and promote the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Guidance documents.

Individuals must:

30. recognise that the welfare of Children is paramount, and that the need to ensure that Children are protected is a primary consideration and may override the rights and needs of those adults working with them;
31. follow British Rowing's guidance on the use of social networking services and Social Media, and text and email messaging;
32. observe appropriate boundaries and relationships with juniors including use of contact and in language and communication;
33. always be publicly open when working with children, and avoid coaching, meetings or situations where a child or children and the individual are completely unobserved;
34. work with the child's parent/carer to ensure that the level and type of participation is appropriate to the child's stage of development.

Adopted December 2020

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