

Kingston Grammar School Veterans Boat Club

Principles of Membership

1. INTRODUCTION

The Club operates from the School Boathouse in Aragon Avenue with the beneficial agreement of the School.

KGSVBC was established in 1987 by several members of the Sherriff Club and maintains a mutually beneficial relationship with both Kingston Grammar School and The Sherriff Club. As such, members of the club are expected to have strong associations with the school, primarily as either parents of current or former pupils or alumni of the school. This being a core component of the character and ethos of the club, open membership is not offered.

The Club is affiliated to British Rowing and seeks to offer a combination of recreational rowing in scratch crews combined with formation of specific crews of competitive events for those who wish.

In order to protect this relationship between the Club, the School and the Sherriff Club and the unique culture which it creates, the aspiration is to retain an informal friendly atmosphere, whilst accepting that there is a need for a degree of formality and regulation in certain areas.

It is the duty of each and every member to preserve the good relations with the School and ensure that no action is taken that may put this at risk.

The Club Website address is <https://www.kgsvbc.org/>

The Club is run by a Committee - details are on the Club Website

Set out below are the key principles which members are required to abide by.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Club operates within the governing parameters of an agreed Constitution. Members should read and understand the Club Constitution as by applying for and becoming members requires full agreement with and maintenance of the rules and standards of the Club.

- 2.2 The Club Constitution can be found on the Club website.

To become a member an application form should be completed and submitted to the club Secretary.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 There is an established process to ensure clear communications within the Club and with the School.
- 3.2 Within the Club, the primary points of contact for operational matters are the Captains. Please contact them to raise any issues you may have. Other serving Committee members may also be useful contacts. The serving President will always be available and happy to discuss any matters you have, especially those concerning protocol or the operation of the Club.
- 3.3 Communication relating to KGSVBC activities with the School Head of Rowing, Boatman and Coaches is conducted through the Captains or President only. General communications within the membership take the form of:
 - A weekly Newsletter
 - Members WhatsApp Group

4. ACCESS TO THE PREMISES

- 4.1 The safety and security of the Boathouse and the facilities is very important. With the agreement of the school, a few designated Committee members are key holders. It is each key holder's responsibility to keep the keys safe and to ensure the Boathouse is secure.
- 4.2 Members are provided with the door and padlock codes but should understand the importance of keeping these confidential.
- 4.3 Our activities at the Boathouse are designed to avoid any clash with the School activities. Therefore and in recognition of our commitment to safeguarding principles the following must be adhered to:
 - 4.3.1. If the school is present, KGV members must have permission from school staff present before entering the boathouse grounds.
 - 4.3.2. If at any time, the above is unavoidable, the school's requirements will take precedence, eg members will not enter the compound, be permitted to use the changing rooms, or to boat from the pontoons, in line with safeguarding principles.

5. SAFETY

- 5.1 Water safety is of paramount importance at KGSVBC For all outings the following must be adhered to:
 - 5.1.1. A Water Safety Officer (WSO) must be present for all outings and complete the Safety Log. A list of authorised WSO's can be found on the Club website.
 - 5.1.2. All outings are undertaken only after a Conditions Assessment by at least one

WSO. For the avoidance of doubt, when ad hoc outings are organised, a WSO must also be present. In all cases, the Safety Log must be filled in and crews recorded. Crews must be displayed on the peg board and not removed until each crew has safely returned to the boathouse.

- 5.2 If there is no consensus of opinion regarding Water Safety, should a single WSO of those in attendance consider the conditions unsafe, then an outing must be cancelled. The full KGSVBC Water Safety Code can be found on the Club website.
- 5.3 All crews should share their plans for each outing and adhere to plans agreed, taking care to ensure that whenever possible, novice and less experienced rowers remain within line of sight of more experienced crews.

6. EQUIPMENT

School equipment is not to be used at any time except with the express permission of the Head of Rowing. Such permission will be sought and obtained by the President or Captains only.

7. WELFARE

The Club has a Welfare Officer who can be contacted, in confidence, either directly or via link on website. Although the club is not open to those aged under 18, on occasion, it may be the case that under 18's are present. Should this situation occur a Parent or Guardian is required to be present and take the responsibility for the individual concerned.

8. RACING

- 8.1 Those who wish to race should register their interest in the Race Signup Sheet, which is linked in the weekly Newsletter. Captains will select crews and boats to be used.
- 8.2 A race entry fee is required for each race; details available from Captains.

9. RACKING

The Club has its own fleet. As the premises are owned by the school, the availability of racking for KGSVBC is entirely dependent upon the school and can be subject to change at short notice. Racking space is therefore under continual review.

In this environment the ability to accommodate privately owned boats is extremely limited. Members who may wish to rack a privately owned boat should apply to the Committee for approval, noting that there is no certainty that space will be available.

10. DATA PRIVACY

Data Protection and Privacy: we collect your data via your completed application form. We need this for communicating Club activities including racing and social events. Next of kin and secondary contacts are requested for emergency use only. Only the Club Committee Members have full access to your data, although there will be times when other members may see details such as email addresses within Club communications.

Please ask the Club Secretary for more information about how your data is used and kept secure, how to correct it, or how to delete it. We undertake never to pass your information to parties outside the Club or to use any data for commercial purposes.