

# ***Robinson Head Rules and Regulations***

## ***General***

- 1) The race shall remain under the control of the Robinson College Boat Club.
- 2) The race shall be rowed on the 4th Friday of Lent term.

## ***Entries and Eligibility Criteria***

- 3) The race shall be open to Men's and Women's Vllls.
- 4) The Women's and Men's races are considered discrete, where no oarswoman may row in a men's crew and no oarsman may row in a women's crew without permission from the organiser. Coxswains of any crew may be male or female.
- 5) Crews may row in any design of boat they choose, subject to the Rules of Racing outlined by the Amateur Rowing Association. There will not be separate categories for shell and clinker-built boats.
- 6) It is recommended that each coxswain has steered the course in its entirety prior to the race day.
- 7) Only resident bona fide student members of the University of Cambridge, who are also members of the Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs, are eligible to row or steer in Robinson Head. For the purposes of the regulation, a bona fide student is defined as one who is in statu pupillari and therefore:
  - a. A matriculated member of a College
  - b. Currently reading for a recognised degree of the University and fulfilling the University residence requirements in both time and place.
- 8) That bona fide degree students at Anglia Ruskin University (rowing as Anglia Ruskin Boat Club, formerly CCAT) be deemed equivalent to Members of a College.
- 9) That postgraduate members of the University of Cambridge are eligible to compete for their college in Robinson Head until the end of the term in which they sit their first viva voce or other final examination.

## ***Entries***

- 10) The entrance fee is payable to "Robinson College Boat Club".
- 11) Robinson College Boat Club (RCBC) shall determine the order of the start, based upon the finishing order of last year's Lent Bumps. Crews that did not participate in last year's Lent bumps will be organised alphabetically. The Robinson Head Organiser reserves the right to change the start order at his or her discretion. In the interest of safety and fairness, if a crew is considered to be significantly quicker than the crew in front, the Robinson Head Organiser may increase the time gap between the two crews. Crews are required to indicate their preferred divisions on

their entry form. RCBC cannot guarantee that teams will be allotted their preferred division or that changes of preference will be able to be accommodated.

- 12) That notice of “scratching” from a race should be given to the Robinson Head Organiser in writing with a full explanation of the reasons for doing so. Reimbursement of entry fees will be at the discretion of the Robinson Head Organiser, who reserves the right to refuse reimbursement if notice is given within 3 days of the start of the race, or after the deadline for entries has passed.
- 13) Boat sharing is permitted, but on the understanding that it is done at the crews’ and respective Colleges’ own risk. Divisions shall not be delayed to accommodate boat sharing and penalties will apply if a crew is late to arrive in the start marshalling area for any reason.

## ***Safety***

- 14) British Rowing Row Safe Guide. It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that they comply with the Row Safe Guidelines detailed by the British Rowing Association, with particular regard to heel restraints, bow balls, hatch covers and coxes’ life-jackets. A full copy of the British Rowing Row Safe Guide can be found at [www.britishrowing.org](http://www.britishrowing.org) . A crew deemed not to meet the required safety standards will not be allowed to race and refused reimbursement.

## ***Cancellation of Racing.***

- 15) The final decision to cancel racing, as a result of adverse water or weather conditions shall be made by the Robinson Head Organiser after consultation with the committee of Robinson College Boat Club following advice from the CUCBC Chairman or his/her nominated deputy. In the event of a cancellation, full reimbursement of entry fees cannot be guaranteed (but will be the target), as a result of expenses incurred prior to the Race Day. Every attempt will be made to inform affected crews directly or via the CUCBC Contacts list as soon as the decision is made.

## ***Liability***

- 16) . Robinson College Boat Club does not accept any fault or liability on the behalf of crews or their equipment for accidents which are not a direct result of negligence on the part of the event organisers.

## ***The Race***

- 17) Crews should bring sufficient clothes to stay warm while marshalling. If the conditions are adverse advice will be given by the CUCBC Contacts list the day of the race.
- 18) The crews should be within the marshalling area at the start no later than 10 minutes before the published start time of the division.

- 19) Crews must have passed through the traffic lights at the Green Dragon Foot Bridge **at least 25 minutes** before the published start. Crews not arriving within 15 minutes of their advised marshalling time will be allowed to race only at the organisers discretion.
- 20) Crews may get out of their boat within either marshalling area only if they have located and manoeuvred themselves into their marshalling position and the suitability of the location allows them to do so. All crew members shall get back into their boat when instructed to do so by a race marshal.
- 21) Crews must obey the instructions of a Race marshals at all times.

## ***The Start***

- 22) Unless otherwise specified or instructed by the start marshal, a crew's rolling start shall begin 50 metres upstream of Head Station with the call of "Attention, GO" from the start marshal at Head Station of the Lent and May Bumps.
- 23) All crews must obey the start marshal's instructions.
- 24) It will be assumed that crews have reached race pace and the race timing shall begin as the bow ball passes the Head Station. The start of timing will be signalled by a short beep on the loudhailer.

## ***Overtaking and Obstructions***

- 25) Any boat being overtaken shall, in good time, give way to the faster crew; causing minimal obstruction and, where possible, clear the racing line.
- 26) In the event of deliberate or avoidable impedance, the offending crew shall be liable to an appropriate penalty at the discretion of the Robinson Head Organiser, having reviewed recommendations by the witnessing marshal(s). For the purpose of the regulation, a deliberate or avoidable impedance is defined as a failure to give way following three (3) or more warnings from the witnessing marshal(s).
- 27) The coxswain of the overtaking crew shall make known their intentions to overtake well in advance.
- 28) That, if the obstruction or impedance of any crew occurs, an appropriate time adjustment shall be made in favour of the affected crew at the recommendation of the witnessing marshal(s).

## ***The Finish***

- 29) The finish for all divisions will be at Peters Post near the Penny Ferry.
- 30) That each crew shall be deemed to have finished when the bow ball passes the appropriate finish line.
- 31) Timing shall be to the nearest second.
- 32) That if two crews achieve race times (including time penalties and adjustments for impeded crews) within 1.00 seconds of each other, they shall be deemed to have tied.
- 33) That a full list of provisional times (inclusive of any time penalties and adjustments for impeded crews) will be available either at Lady Margaret Boat House or on the website as soon as possible after the day's racing.

## ***Finish Marshalling***

- 34) Crews must ensure that they are aware of the finish line before the race. RCBC will not be responsible for informing crews of where to finish (but will guide as appropriate). When a crew crosses the finish line, crews shall reduce their speed appropriately but continue rowing back to their respective boat house staying on their side of the river, unless there is a genuine emergency.
- 35) All crews competing in the last division of the day, or the bank parties thereof, are required to carry lights and that these be fitted to boats rowing back to their boat houses later than 15minutes before lighting up as defined by CUCBC.
- 36) Crews from Robinson College Boat Club shall be permitted to return unimpeded to facilitate the marshalling of the following divisions.

## ***Penalties***

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Repeated failure to obey a marshal's instructions	2 seconds per offense
Late arrival to the marshalling area	5 seconds
More than 15 minutes late to marshalling area	DSQ
Deliberate impedance of a faster crew	5 seconds
Failure to continue rowing after crossing finish	5 seconds
Bank parties using whistles/loud hailer/klaxon horn	DSQ
Boat not meeting regulations/deemed dangerous	DSQ
Other (affecting running of the race or causing unfair disadvantage to another crew)	2 seconds - DSQ
Other (affecting the safety of any competitor, official, bank party, spectator)	DSQ

## ***Appeals & Disputes***

In the event of a dispute or an appeal, a single representative of each crew shall be permitted to state their case in front of the Robinson Head Organiser and must do so at the earliest possible moment, within four hours of the published division start time. The Robinson Head Organiser will be in the vicinity of the start/finish, but the representative should go to Lady Margaret Boat House and speak to the control desk who will contact the Robinson Head Organiser, who will endeavour to return to the boat house to hear the complaint as soon as possible. The final decision regarding

penalties, time adjustments and disputes shall be made by the Robinson Head Organiser, who may take evidence from the affected parties and any witnessing race marshal. Advice may also be sought from the current CUCBC Chairman or his/her appointed deputy.

### ***Rule Changes, Additions and Enquiries***

Robinson College boat club may alter, at any time, any of the rules and regulations supra, but all efforts will be made to ensure that reasonable notice shall be given to all Clubs concerned. All enquiries regarding these rules and regulations and their application shall be directed to the Robinson Head Organiser, at [hb407@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hb407@cam.ac.uk). These rules and any such other information regarding the organisation and running of the Robinson Head Race may be found on the current Robinson Head website.

**Last Revision 25/11/2016**