

# University of Southampton Students' Union

## Constitution of: Southampton University Canoe Club

### 1. Adoption of the Constitution

This unincorporated association and its property shall be managed and administered in accordance with this Constitution.

### 2. Name

The association's name is "Southampton University Canoe Club", also known by the acronym "SUCC", and hereinafter 'the Group'.

### 3. Objects

The objectives of the Group, 'the objects', are:

- (1) To promote the sport of canoeing (primarily kayaking) amongst all members of the union in a safe manner.

### 4. Membership

- (1) Membership is open to natural persons, and is not transferable to anyone else.
- (2) Membership is constituted in the following categories:
  - (a) Full, open only to Full Members of the Students' Union;
  - (b) Associate, open to Associate Members of the Students' Union, and to those students of the University who have exercised their right not to be members of the Students' Union.
- (3) Only Full Members are entitled to be elected to the Committee, or to propose, discuss and vote at a General Meeting. These are the sole privileges afforded to the Full Members over any other category of Membership.
- (4) The Group may charge a fee for admission to Membership, which may be set by a Meeting of the Committee.
- (5) The Committee must keep a register of members ('the register') on the Student Groups Hub provided by the Students' Union at [www.susu.org](http://www.susu.org).
- (6) The Committee may only refuse an application for Membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Group to refuse the application.
- (7) Membership is terminated if:

- (a) the Member resigns by written notice to the Committee.
  - (b) any sum due from the Member to the Group is not paid in full within six months of it falling due.
  - (c) a Member ceases to be qualified for their category of Membership.
  - (d) membership is revoked by a resolution of the Members in General Meeting or a Meeting of the Committee, in accordance with Clause 13, 'Disciplinary Action'.
- (8) Should the club be forced to stop operations for a period of time due to fire, flood, inclement weather, disease outbreak/epidemic, threat or act of terrorism or civil unrest, industrial action, criminal actions against the club, or any other 'act of god' (force majeure) which could be deemed to be force majeure, the club will not offer partial membership refunds if doing so would jeopardize the viability of the club.

## 5. General Meetings

- (1) The General Meeting constitute the Group's highest decision-making body, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- (2) The Group must hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in each academic year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive AGMs.
- (3) A General Meeting that is not an Annual General Meeting is called an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- (4) The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time.
- (5) The Committee must call an Extraordinary General Meeting if requested to do so in writing by at least five Full Members of the Group.
  - (a) The Members' written request must state a complete agenda for the EGM.
  - (b) If the Committee do not hold an EGM within fourteen days of their receipt of the Members' written request, the Members may proceed to hold an EGM in accordance with Clause 6, 'Proceedings of General Meetings'.

## 6. Proceedings of General Meetings

- (1) Notice:
  - (a) The minimum period of notice required to hold an Annual General Meeting is ten days. The minimum period of notice required to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting is three days.
  - (b) The notice must specify the date, time and place of the General Meeting, and an agenda for the General Meeting.

- (c) If the General Meeting is to be an AGM, the notice must say so, and must invite nominations in accordance with Clause 9, 'Appointment of the Committee'.
  - (d) Notice must be given to all Members and to the Committee.
  
- (2) Chairing:
  - (a) General Meetings shall usually be chaired by the person who has been elected as President.
  - (b) If there is no such person or they are not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the General Meeting, the Vice-President shall chair.
  - (c) If there is no such person or they are not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the General Meeting, the Full Members present must elect one of their number to chair.
  
- (3) Associate Members may speak at General Meetings with the permission of the meeting.
  
- (4) Voting:
  - (a) Every Full Member present at a General Meeting, with the exception of the Chair, shall be entitled to one vote upon every voting matter. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
  - (b) Decisions may only be made by at least a simple majority of votes at a quorate General Meeting.
  - (c) All voting shall be by a show of hands or secret ballot, at the discretion of the Chair.
  - (d) There shall be no absentee voting.
  
- (5) Minutes:
  - (a) Minutes must be taken of all proceedings at a General Meeting, including the decisions made and where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.
  - (b) Minutes of a General Meeting shall be made available to all Members within seven days.
  
- (7) Reports:
  - (a) If the General Meeting is an AGM, the Chair may invite any of the Committee to offer a report of their activities whilst in office.
  - (b) The Treasurer must present the Group's accounts to the Members at the AGM.
  
- (8) Resolutions:
  - (a) Any Full Member may propose a resolution to be discussed and voted upon at a General Meeting.

## 7. Officers and the Committee

- (1) The Group and its property shall be administered and managed by a Committee comprising the officers appointed in accordance with Clause 9, 'Appointment of the Committee'.
- (2) The Group shall have the following officers:
  - (a) President. The President shall oversee the organisation and management of the Group and the Committee as a whole; ensure the officers' accountability to Members, the Committee, and the Students' Union; and represent the Group to all external interests.
  - (b) Vice-President. It shall be the role of the Vice President to make decisions on behalf of the Club when the president is unavailable and to ensure the representation of all club members to the committee. The Vice-President shall assist in the President's role of organising and managing the group and committee.
  - (c) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall oversee the financing of the Group, set the Group's budget, and maintain the accounts of the Group.
  - (d) Secretary. The Secretary shall oversee the administration of the Group, take minutes at General Meetings and Meetings of the Committee, and maintain the register.
  - (e) Welfare Secretary. The Welfare Secretary shall provide welfare pursuits, primarily through signposting to the services offered by the University and the Students' Union, for the Group's Members, and offer academic advice in conjunction with the course representatives of the Students' Union. The Welfare Secretary may have assistants as detailed in Clause 7, Section 3.
  - (f) Safety Secretary. The safety secretary shall be responsible for monitoring and promoting the awareness of safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personal safety. They will co-ordinate the review and upload of risk assessments to the Students' Union. The committee as a whole also retains the responsibility of ensuring club members' personal safety and assessing safety hazards.
  - (g) Social Secretary. The Social Secretary shall provide social and cultural pursuits for the Group's Members, such as nights out. They shall also be responsible for the promotion and maintenance of the overall Group ethos.
  - (h) Training Secretary. The training secretary is responsible for promoting the improvement and progression of individual paddling (and safety) skills, necessary for competence on the water. They shall also organise and delegate the responsibility for group activity at a swimming pool and University Watersports Centre.

- (i) Social Media Secretary. The social media secretary is responsible for managing the group's social media presence. The social media secretary is also responsible for leading the committee's GDPR requirements (all committee members must comply with GDPR).
  - (j) Kit Secretary. The kit secretary is responsible for managing the group's equipment, this entails: keeping an up-to-date inventory; managing the insurance relating to any equipment; organising an annual full inventory and inspection and organising the repair, disposal, repurposing or other appropriate actions for damaged equipment.
- (3) A 'Welfare Sub-Committee' will be formed, following the election of a new committee at an AGM (as detailed in clause 9). The Welfare Sub-Committee will be elected by the new committee in their first meeting from members of the committee. The Welfare Sub-Committee will include the Welfare Secretary and at least one other committee member. Members of the welfare sub-committee will be responsible for assisting the Welfare Secretary in their role, and will act as an alternative point of contact for group members if they, for any reason, do not feel comfortable to approach the Welfare Secretary.
- (4) No one may be appointed a member of the Committee if they have been disqualified from becoming a member of the Committee under the provisions of Clause 13, 'Disciplinary Action'.
- (6) The number of the Committee must not be less than three, though is not subject to any maximum. There must always be:
- (a) a President;
  - (b) a Secretary;
  - (c) a Treasurer.
- (7) An officer or ordinary member of the Committee shall cease to hold office if they:
- (a) ceases to be a Full Member of the Group.
  - (b) resigns by notice to the Group, or
  - (c) is removed from office by a resolution of the Members in General Meeting or a Meeting of the Committee, in accordance with Clause 13, 'Disciplinary Action'.

## **8. Meetings of the Committee**

- (1) The Committee may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of this Clause.
- (2) Any member of the Committee may request the Secretary to call a Meeting of the Committee.

- (3) The Secretary must call a Meeting of the Committee if requested to do so by a member of the Committee.
- (4) Meetings of the Committee shall usually be chaired by the person who has been elected as President.
- (5) The quorum for a Meeting of the Committee shall be at least half of the Committee.
- (6) No decision may be made by a Meeting of the Committee unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is made.
- (7) Every member of the Committee, with the exception of the Chair, shall be entitled to one deliberative vote upon every voting matter. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- (8) Decisions may only be made by at least a simple majority of votes at a quorate Meeting of the Committee.
- (9) There shall be no absentee voting.
- (10) Minutes must be taken of all proceedings at a Meeting of the Committee, including the decisions made.

## **9. Appointment of the Committee**

- (1) The Full Members of the Group in General Meeting shall appoint the officers and ordinary members of the Committee by election.
  - (a) Elections for the Committee shall be held at an Annual General Meeting. By-elections for vacant offices shall be held at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
  - (b) A First-Past-The-Post system shall be used for all elections.
  - (c) In all elections Re-Open Nominations, 'RON', shall be a candidate. An election yielding a result of RON shall be re-run as a by-election.
  - (d) If a position is renamed at an Extraordinary General Meeting the committee member may remain in office for the rest of their term.
- (2) The count for elections shall be conducted publicly by the Chair of the General Meeting, who must do so accurately. Should the Members in General Meeting be dissatisfied with the accuracy of the count, they may resolve as a Point of Order to have the election re-counted or, if they remain dissatisfied, re-run as a by-election.
- (3)
  - (a) A member of the Committee shall assume office with effect from the conclusion of the General Meeting of their appointment.
  - (b) A member of the Committee shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the AGM next after their appointment, but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

- (4) The Committee must update their committee information on the Student Groups Hub provided by the Students' Union at [www.susu.org](http://www.susu.org) (or failing that inform the Students' Union's Student Groups Officer) within seven days.
- (5) A retiring member of the Committee must transfer all relevant information and documentation to their newly-elected counterpart, or to the President, within fourteen days. The retiring members of the Committee are expected to assist their newly elected counter-part in a handover period lasting at least two weeks.

## **10. Financial Management**

- (1) The Committee are jointly liable for the proper management of the Group's finances.
- (2) The income and property of the Group must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
- (3) The members of the club are entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the group, and the committee may pay out of such property so long as the expenses are reasonably incurred by them acting on behalf of the group. Decision of what constitutes reasonable expense is up to committee.
- (4) The club may charge for trips, events, and costs incurred to the club through individual activities.
- (5) The accounts of the Group, as maintained by the Treasurer, must be made available to the Students' Union upon request.

## **11. Irregularities and Saving Provisions**

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this Clause, all acts done by a Meeting of the Committee shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a member of the Committee:
  - (a) who was disqualified from holding office;
  - (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by this Constitution to vacate office;
  - (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) of this Clause does not permit a member of the Committee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon them by a resolution of the Committee if the resolution would otherwise have been void, or if the Committee has not complied with Clause 12, 'Conflicts of Interests and Conflicts of Loyalties'.
- (3) The Members in General Meeting may only invalidate, as a Point of Order, a resolution or act of:

- (a) the Committee;
- (b) the Members in General Meeting;

if it may be demonstrated that a procedural defect in the same has materially prejudiced a Member of the Group.

## **12. Conflicts of Interests and Conflicts of Loyalties**

- (1) A member of the Committee must:
  - (a) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which they has in any decisions of a Meeting of the Committee or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Group which has not been previously declared;
  - (b) absent themselves from any discussions of the Committee in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between their duty to act solely in the interests of the Group and any personal interest, including but not limited to any personal financial interest.
- (2) Any member of the Committee absenting themselves from any discussions in accordance with this Clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the Committee on the matter.

## **13. Disciplinary Action**

- (1) Disciplinary action may be taken against any Member of the Group as a consequence of conduct:
  - (a) detrimental to the reputation of the Group or the Students' Union.
  - (b) opposed to the objects of the Group (see clause 2) or the Students' Union.
  - (c) in contravention of any provision of this Constitution.
- (2) Disciplinary action that may be taken against any Member may be, but is not limited to:
  - (a) issue of a formal written warning.
  - (b) partial or total ban from certain Group activities.
  - (c) disqualification from becoming a member of the Committee.
  - (d) removal of a member of the Committee from office.
  - (e) temporary or permanent revocation of Membership.
  - (f) referral of the complaint to the Students' Union's Disciplinary Committee.



- (3) It is the right of the subject of the complaint to choose to have the disciplinary matter heard by either the Members in General Meeting, or a Meeting of the Committee. Either shall have the power to take disciplinary action, including but not limited to those measures set out in paragraphs (a) – (f) inclusive in sub-clause (2) of this Clause.
- (4) Any disciplinary hearing must be conducted in an impartial, balanced, and fair manner, considering all representations on the matter.
- (5) All disciplinary action must be subject to prior discussion with the Students' Union's Vice President Activities.
- (6) Members subject to disciplinary action have the right of appeal to the Students' Union's Student Groups Committee.
- (7) A full report of all disciplinary action taken by the Group in the previous year must be presented at the AGM.

#### **14. Affiliation to External Organisations**

- (1) The Group may only become an affiliate of an external organisation if:
  - (a) the aims of that organisation are in line with those of the Group;
  - (b) the Members derive a direct benefit from the affiliation;
  - (c) no Policy of the Students' Union is breached by the affiliation;
  - (d) a resolution to affiliate is passed by the Members in General Meeting.
- (2) The Group's affiliation to an external organisation shall immediately lapse:
  - (a) at the conclusion of each Annual General Meeting after affiliation, unless the Members in General Meeting resolve to re-affiliate at each AGM in accordance with sub-clause (1) of this Clause.
  - (b) if a resolution to disaffiliate is passed by the Members in General Meeting.
- (3) All external affiliations and disaffiliations must be reported to the Students' Union's Student Groups Committee within seven days.
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, the Students' Union is not an external organisation for the purposes of this Clause.

#### **15. Amendment to the sution**

- (1) The Group may amend any provision contained in this Constitution provided that:
  - (a) amendments do not:
    - (i) alter the objects in such a way that undermines or works against the previous objects of the Group;

- (ii) retrospectively invalidate any prior act of the Members in General Meeting or a Meeting of the Committee;
  - (b) a resolution to amend a provision of this Constitution is passed by at least a two-thirds majority of the Full Members present at a General Meeting;
  - (c) a copy of the resolution amending this Constitution is sent to the Students' Union within seven days of it being passed;
  - (d) the resolution is ratified by the Students' Union's Student Groups Committee.
- (2) The interpretation of this Constitution shall be with the Committee, except that during a General Meeting or a Meeting of the Committee the Chair shall have this responsibility. The Members in General Meeting may resolve to revise any interpretation made by the Committee or a Chair as a Point of Order.
- (3) The provisions of this Constitution shall be subordinate to those of the Articles, Rules, By-Laws and Policies of the Students' Union.
- (4) The Committee and the Students' Union shall retain a copy of this Constitution, which the Committee must make available to Members upon request.

## **16. Dissolution**

- (1) If the Members resolve to dissolve the Group, the Committee will remain in office and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Group in accordance with this Clause.
- (2) A resolution to dissolve the Group must be passed by at least a two-thirds majority of the Full Members present at a General Meeting;
- (3) The Committee must collect in all the assets of the Group and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the Group.
- (4) The Committee must apply any remaining property or money:
- (a) directly for the objects;
  - (b) by transfer to any Group or Societies for purposes the same as or similar to the Group;
  - (c) in such other manner as the Students' Union's Student Groups Committee may approve in writing in advance.
- (5) The Members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Group specifying the manner in which the Committee are to apply the remaining property or assets of the Group. The Committee must comply with such a resolution if it is consistent with the provisions of this Clause.
- (6) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Group be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Group.

- (7) The Committee must ensure the register and all other data held by the Group are securely destroyed upon the dissolution of the Group.
- (8) The Committee must notify the Students' Union within seven days that the Group has been dissolved. If the Committee are obliged to send the Group's accounts to the Students' Union for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Students' Union the Group's final accounts.

## 17. Interpretation

In this Constitution:

- (1) 'The University' means 'the University of Southampton'.
  - (a) 'University term' and 'academic year' have the definitions set out in the University Calendar and Almanac.
- (2) 'Financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.
- (3) 'The Students' Union' means 'The University of Southampton Students' Union', trading as 'Union Southampton'.
  - (a) 'Articles', or 'Articles of the Students' Union' mean the Students' Union's Articles of Association. 'Rules' and 'Policies' have the definitions set out in the Articles. 'By-Laws' has the definition set out in the Rules.

## 18. Safety Rules

All members must abide by active risk assessments when participating in an activity organised by the group and follow the safety instructions of the activity lead(s). In addition to the group's active risk assessments, the following safety rules apply to all group members in relation to activities organised by the group:

- (1) The Committee, or members of the group assuming a safety role (such as a river leader or backer) will take reasonable precautions to ensure the personal safety of members participating in activity organised by the group, in line with the group's active risk assessments, which are to be approved by a SQEP (suitably qualified and/or experienced person) and the Students' Union.
- (2) Despite these measures, the group's sport, kayaking, has inherent risk and, unless negligent or acting outside of its risk assessments, the group should not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury suffered by group members or their property as a result of participating in a group organised activity.

- (3) The Committee is responsible for determining individuals who may lead groups on whitewater rivers, henceforth referred to as “river leaders”. The Committee are expected to seek advice from experienced paddlers in making this determination.
- (4) The Committee and river leaders reserve the right to question the experience of any group member.
- (5) The Committee and river leaders reserve the right to refuse any member a place on a group activity or instruct a member to leave an activity (or leave the water) if deemed necessary for the safety of the individual and/or the group, or for any other reasonable reason. A disciplinary procedure, as detailed in clause 13, may proceed or follow such an incident.

**19. Declaration**

The Members of the Group in General Meeting Adopted this Constitution:

Date: 12/09/2024

---

President: Madeleine McGuigan

---

Secretary: Harry Lister

---

The Students’ Union Approved this Constitution:

Date

---

Vice President Activities

---