



Blessington Sailing Club

Membership Booklet

Many of the matters dealt with in this booklet, whilst not appropriate to the formal Club Rules, are nevertheless important to the good conduct and pleasant operation of the Club. We hope the information will be a useful reference, particularly for new members in helping them to settle into Club activities.

The Club's success is dependent on the goodwill of each member in sharing the workload, observing the Club rules and byelaws, and the guidelines set out in this booklet. It depends totally on safe sailing – sailing is an exhilarating pastime but has its dangers. Personal safety is clearly the individual responsibility of each member and the practice of good common sense safety precautions are essential at all times whilst on the water.

Good sailing is safe sailing!

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Change Control

Date	Issue	Change Description	Modification Made by	Approval
4/6/2018	1.0	Addition of a change control section to the document.	Canice Keane	BLSC Committee Meeting 6/06/2018.
4/6/2018	1.1	Added the text “unless otherwise agreed at the AGM by a majority vote” to Rule 10 Committee; Part 4	Canice Keane	56 th AGM 2016 Section 4.1.1
4/6/2018	1.1	Added page numbers on the bottom of the pages	Canice Keane	BLSC Committee Meeting 6/06/2018.
4/6/2018	1.2	Added <i>Adopted at the Committee meeting on 4th March 2017</i>	Canice Keane	56 th AGM 2016

General Guidelines

Barbecue and Picnicking

Facilities are available to all members. Charcoal is supplied for the Club barbecue, which is lit, weather permitting after racing on Sundays, for special events and during the Sail Training Course.

Boat and Trailer Parking

Boats and trailers should be parked as directed on the notice board or by individual direction from the Club Committee. The Club does not accept responsibility for any personal property left on site, either boats or otherwise

Club Dinghy Classes

Most sailing Clubs prefer to develop strong fleets in a number of dinghy classes. In Blessington the designated classes are Optimist, Mirrors, Lasers, G.P. 14s, Catamarans, and Toppers. Members are encouraged to sail one of these.

Crewing

There is frequently a shortage of crew for race days. If you are interested you should contact the Sailing Secretary. Each of the classes elects a fleet captain who is usually all too well aware of who is short of crew. It should be said that skippers prefer regular crew, prepared to commit him/herself for a number of races.

Cruisers and Dayboats

A limited number of cruisers and day boats are allowed in the Club. Their lengths should not exceed 24 feet (7.3 metres). Members wishing to moor a cruiser or day boat at the Club should make special application to the Club Committee. Special mooring conditions and procedures must be met. Incidents arising from or failures of moorings are deemed to be the responsibility of the owner or owners concerned. It should be noted that the Club does not provide a ferry service for moored boats and that the Club punts may not be used for this purpose.

Discipline

Many of our members are families with children. Children are the responsibility of their parents or guardians. In the interest of their own safety, non-sailing children should be kept away from the boat slip at all times.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed on the site only under conditions of tying dogs by their lead to the bumper of the owner's car. Otherwise They must be kept on a lead at all times and are not allowed within the barbecue area, in the Clubhouse, on the front strand, or in the water. This is in the interest of the safety of children in particular and also local sheep.

Emergencies - 53.128675, -6.522423

Emergency telephone numbers are

Emergency	999 or 112
Garda station, Blessington	045 865202
Garda station, Naas	045 884300
Naas Hospital, Naas	045 897221

First Aid

There is a first aid box in the Clubhouse containing materials to treat minor injuries.

Club Keys

Each member will be issued with a key on the following basis-

1. The key remains the property of the Club to be returned to the Hon. Secretary on resignation or during temporary cessation of membership.
2. It is a condition of our lease with the E.S.B. that the access gate be kept locked. Members must lock the gate immediately after entering and leaving the site.
3. Under no circumstances may a key be loaned to a non-member. Members inviting friends to the Club should arrange to bring or meet them there and admit them. Friends should always be accompanied by members while in the Club.
4. A member losing a key should notify the Hon. Secretary. Replacement or additional keys will be issued on payment of €5. Additional keys are covered by these regulations also.

Kitchen Area

In the interest of safety, members are asked to keep children away from the kitchen area. There is a small boiler for heating water for tea etc. and the last person on site should ensure that it and all other electrical appliances and lights are switched off. Members are asked to remove their food from the fridge, and wash and dry any delph or utensils used and return them to the appropriate storage press when leaving.

Liability

No liability whatsoever shall attach to Blessington Sailing Club, Flag officers, Committee, members, employees or servants for any loss or damage to persons or belongings nor for injury or death to persons no matter how caused (including negligence).

Membership Proposal

Members who wish to propose someone for membership should obtain an application form from the Membership Secretary and ensure that it is completed by the applicant, proposer, and seconder.

If an applicant does not have a place on a boat (either by way of ownership, or as a regular crew for another member) membership will only be offered subject to the securing of such a place on a boat within one year of acceptance.

Membership – New Members

The proposer and seconder have a particular responsibility to ensure that each new member is properly welcomed into the Club by introducing them to established members. Established members are also expected to help new members integrate easily by “showing them the ropes”.

Motors

Motors are permitted only as auxiliaries on sailboats and on approved Club rescue craft. The use of motors is otherwise prohibited.

Non-racers on the Water

In fairness to competitors, non-racers are requested to allow clear wind and water at all times to those racing.

On-shore Activities

There is an onshore Committee which organises the social activities, caters for special sailing events, supervises the cleaning rota and other non-sailing activities of the Club. Among the Club’s social activities are the Dinner Dance held after the sailing season finishes. Club night and Barbecue held mid-season under the stars or a marquee, depending on the weather, Junior Sports Day etc.

Petrol

Petrol for rescue boats is stored in a special bunker for this purpose. Petrol must not be left in the Clubhouse.

Refuse

There is no refuse collection from the Club except during Junior training and special sailing events. You are therefore asked to take responsibility for your own refuse by removing it when leaving the site.

Rescue Boats

The Club rescue boats are under the control of the Sailing Committee. The boats are for use in association with Club events and in emergencies. Their use in other circumstances must be arranged directly with the Sailing Secretary.

Anyone who would like to learn how to handle the boats or to gain some further practice in handling them is invited to contact the Sailing Secretary. Offers of regular assistance are especially welcome.

Safety/Individual Responsibility

It is stressed that acquiring the ability and skill to sail well in any weather conditions is primarily the responsibility of the individual. You cannot rely on someone else rescuing you. The decision whether or not to sail or to continue to sail on any particular day, under any particular conditions, is yours. Club officials may or may not “advise and warn” but this does not relieve you of your responsibility and they cannot accept it for you. Remember skill, boat, gear and temperament are vital factors in a crisis and the weather affects them all.

It should be clearly noted and understood that the Club does not guarantee to provide any or adequate rescue.

- 1.) Racing will often be held in conditions suitable only for experts.
- 2.) Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn at all times while afloat. Wetsuits or dry suits alone are not adequate.
- 3.) Rescue crew may, if they think fit (rightly or wrongly) instruct that a boat be taken in tow or be abandoned with its crew taken off.
- 4.) It is recommended that each boat carries an anchor.

Always remember the following –

- 1.) Treat the water with respect always – it can be dangerous.
- 2.) Your boat must be seaworthy.
- 3.) Ensure you can swim in your life jacket and that you know and practice capsize drill.
- 4.) Be particularly aware of off-shore winds.
- 5.) Use of inflatable boats is not permitted in the Club.

Parents are asked and expected to keep a watchful eye on their children. Do not let your children paddle or swim. Make sure they wear their life jackets when playing near the water or when they are in a boat. In the interest of their own safety they should be kept away from the boat slip at all times.

All members will help the Club by keeping a watchful eye out for unauthorised people on the site, children in danger, people sailing without life jackets, and people or boats in difficulty in the water.

Sailing Instructions

Sailing instructions which may change from time to time are printed separately, and are available from the Sailing Committee.

Sailing Programme

The sailing programme is issued separately at the beginning of each season.

Security

The remoteness of our site makes it necessary for all of us to be vigilant. Past experience reinforces this advice. When entering the site do not hesitate to ask if strangers in the car behind or in front of you are members. By the same token, do not be offended if you are asked! Suspicious activity should be reported promptly to the Honorary Secretary.

Ties, Sweaters, and Insignias

A Club tie, sweater with Club insignia, caps and cloth insignia (suitable for sewing to sweaters, jackets or headgear) are available at a very reasonable price. Apply to any member of the Committee.

Tools

The Club has a small supply of tools for site maintenance. Please ask any Committee member if you (or the grounds) require use of these.

Training Courses

A training course for juniors and adults is held each season. The course is conducted by a qualified instructor and usually covers all stages of the Irish Sailing Association sail-training programme.

Trolleys

Club trolleys (painted orange) are for the use of members whilst launching or landing boats. Please do not leave your boats on a Club trolley as this prevents others from transporting their dinghies.

Voluntary Work

We always require people to do chores for the Club. If you think you could commit yourself to doing something, no matter how small, please contact the Hon. Secretary.

Winter

It is advisable to remove all boats and personal property from the Club during the winter months. The weather has been known to do tremendous damage to parked boats.

Winter Walks

Members meet on one Sunday each month for winter walks – all within the capability of young or old. They normally end in some local hostelry for drinks and a chat.

Work Days

The Club organises one or two workdays every year – generally at the beginning/end of the season. General tidying, repairs, fencing, painting, etc. are undertaken together with launching/recovering of rescue boats, laying marks etc. Details are circulated in the Newsletter. Please come and help.

Personal Property

Personal property should be removed from the Clubhouse each day after sailing.

Constitution and Rules

1. Title

The name of the Club is: Blessington Sailing Club. BISC

2. Burgee

The Burgee shall be a Harp surrounded by coiled rope in Blue on White Ground.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Club are;

- 1.) The encouragement of all forms of sailing.
- 2.) The promotion of good fellowship between members.
- 3.) The provision for our members of suitable sailing and club facilities on the shores of Blessington Lake.

4. Trustees

The Club shall have at least four Trustees. Such Trustees shall be appointed by the Club at a General Meeting. The Trustees shall remain in office until they cease to be members of the Club, resign, or be removed from office at a General Meeting of the Club. The property of the Club shall be vested in such Trustees and they shall deal with such property as directed by resolution of the Committee of which an entry in the minute book shall be sufficient evidence. They shall be indemnified against such losses and expenses which may be incurred by them in their capacity as Trustees and by reason of same, by the members of the Club for the time being if the assets of the Club are insufficient.

5. Membership

- 1.) BLSC Club Membership shall consist of Ordinary Members, Family Members, Honorary Members, Life Members, Student Members, Junior Members and Pavilion Members.
- 2.) Admission to Club Membership shall be by election of the Committee.
- 3.) Every candidate for admission for Club Member shall be proposed and seconded in writing by two Members of the Club.
- 4.) Family Membership covers the traditional family and those couples living as a family and all their children under the age of 19 years of age.
- 5.) Junior Membership shall be open to persons under the age of 19 years on the first day of January in the year of election, who are sponsored by an existing Family Member. Graduation to Student or Ordinary membership applies as for family children.
- 6.) Student Membership shall be open to full time students 19 years or over and under the age of 25 years on the first day of January in the year of election. Children covered by a family or junior membership can obtain student membership without entry fee by informing the Hon. Secretary and paying the appropriate subscription. Student members may also “graduate” to ordinary/family membership in the same manner provided this is done promptly on ceasing to be a full time student, or attaining 25 years of age.
- 7.) Ordinary Membership shall apply to any person 19 years or over who does not qualify for any other category of membership. When appropriate, such member may change to family membership without entry fee by informing the Hon. Secretary and paying the appropriate subscription. Children covered by a family or junior membership can obtain Ordinary membership without entry fee by informing the Hon. Secretary and paying the appropriate subscription.
- 8.) Pavilion Membership shall be open to non-sailing persons who are existing members.
- 9.) Existing Life members shall be regarded as Family or Ordinary members as appropriate.
- 10.) The Committee shall have power to elect any person as an Honorary Member of the Club for such time and upon such conditions as they may from time to time determine. Competitors in our regatta/open events are automatically granted honorary membership. Also Honorary membership may be granted (normally for one day) on the approval of a minimum of one flag officer and one Committee member. Honorary members, unlike guests, may launch and use their own boats/sailboards but are bound by the same safety and insurance constraints as members.
- 11.) Any person who was covered by Family membership when under 19 years of age, or by student membership and who did not “graduate” to Ordinary or Family membership immediately on becoming eligible, may apply for Family or Ordinary membership at any time thereafter at half the usual entry fee.

6. Guests

Guests are welcome at the Club. They must be admitted to the Club by their host member and accompanied by them at the Club. However, guests may not launch their own boats or sailboards.

7. Children

The Club acknowledges and will comply with the current Irish Sailing Association's Code of Ethics and Good Practice in relation to Children and young people in Sport.

8. Entrance Fee Subscription and Levy

- 1.) Entrance fee, Annual Subscription and Levy shall be as fixed by a General Meeting.
- 2.) The Annual Subscription shall be payable on the 1st January each year. Fees that remain unpaid after the 31st of March will be deemed to be overdue.

9. Penalties

- 1.) Members who have not paid the Annual Subscription on or before April 1st in any year may be "struck off" by the Committee and can only rejoin on paying half the usual Entry Fee and Subscription. A member may also be "struck off" for non-payment of any levy.
- 2.) No member shall be allowed to take part in any debate or proceedings of the Club, to vote at any meeting, to enter as owner or part owner, or to steer a boat for any prize given by the Club until his or her subscription for the current year has been paid. In the event that a general meeting is required between 1st January and 31st March the Committee, at its discretion, may allow members of good standing for the previous year to be regarded as "paid up" and to take part in the proceedings and vote on any motions put forward.
- 3.) If at any time any fees payable to the Club by any member or former member shall be three months or more in arrears:
 - a.) The Committee shall be entitled to move the boat to any other part of the premises without being liable for loss of, or damage to the boat howsoever caused.
 - b.) The Committee shall be entitled upon giving one month's notice to the member or former member, at his/her last known address shown in the register of members, to sell the boat and to deduct any monies due to the Club (whether by way of arrears of subscription, mooring or facility fees or otherwise) from the net proceeds of sale before accounting for the balance (if any) to the member or former member.
 - c.) Alternatively, any boat which in the opinion of the Committee cannot be sold may, upon such notice as aforesaid, be disposed of in any manner the Committee may think fit and the expenses recovered from the member or former member.

Further, the Club shall at all times have a lien over members' or former members' boats parked or moored on the Club's premises or Club's moorings in respect of all monies due to the Club whether in respect of arrears or mooring fees or subscription or otherwise. Where a member is in arrears with the payment of monies owed to the Club by at least six months, the Club may in any event take possession of the member's boat.

10. The Committee

- 1.) The Committee shall consist of a Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Commodore, the Hon. Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Sailing Secretary and 5 Ordinary Members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.) Nominations for Officers and Committee must be lodged with the Hon. Secretary before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members.
- 4.) The Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and Rear Commodore shall not be eligible to stand for the same office for more than 3 consecutive years, unless otherwise agreed at the AGM by a majority vote.

11. Powers of Committee

The Management of the Club and of all Races shall be in the hands of the Committee who shall make such byelaws (which shall not be inconsistent with or in contravention of these Rules) as they deem necessary.

12. Annual General Meeting

- 1.) The Annual General Meeting shall be held prior to the 31st December in each year on a date to be decided by the Committee.
- 2.) The Hon. Secretary shall post to each member of the Club Notice and Agenda of such meeting 14 days before the annual General Meeting.

13. Special General Meeting

By resolution of the Committee or by a Requisition signed by at least 25 members the Hon. Secretary may at any time summon a Special General Meeting by posting of a circular to members giving 7 days notice of the date, place and object of the Meeting which will be held within 3 weeks of receipt by the Hon. Secretary of the Resolution or Requisition.

14. Voting at General Meeting

- 1.) Each "Paid Up" member attending a General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Family Membership shall entitle two of the adult family members a single vote each.
- 2.) Members unable to attend a General Meeting may vote on the Agenda either by writing to the Hon. Secretary prior to the Meeting or by proxy vote referred to the Hon. Secretary before the Meeting.

15. Quorum

At a General Meeting 25 Members shall form a quorum. At a Committee Meeting 4 Members shall form a quorum.

16. Alteration of Rules

- 1.) No alteration or addition to these Rules (except as provided by rule 11) shall be made, except at the Annual General Meeting or General Meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 2.) Fourteen days notice in writing of any proposed alteration shall be given to each member.
- 3.) A simple majority shall be sufficient to carry same.

17. Boats

All boats must be bona fide the property of Members.

18. Insurance

Each member must carry adequate and current boat and third party insurance.

19. Safety Precautions

- 1.) Members must comply with the requirements of the Club's current Health and Safety Statement.
- 2.) It shall be the responsibility of each member to ensure that any boat belonging to or used by him/her shall be buoyant, and that all persons therein wear lifejackets, or other effective buoyancy aids. The Sailing Committee shall be at liberty to exclude from Club events boats, or persons therein, not complying with the foregoing provisions.
- 3.) The Club shall not be held liable in any way for loss or damage to property belonging to any visitor, or member of the Club.

4.) The Club shall not be held liable in any way for injury or loss of life to persons whilst sailing or otherwise.

20. Misconduct

- 1.) A member whose activities in relation to the Club are considered injurious to its good name or interests may be asked in writing to appear at a Committee Meeting.
- 2.) If the member fails to appear or if his/her explanation is considered unsatisfactory he/she may be asked to resign.
- 3.) If a member, having been asked to resign, does not do so and does not initiate an appeal under Rule 13 within 14 days, that member will be considered to have resigned.
- 4.) If the member declines to resign, the Committee will have a Special General Meeting called for the purpose of expelling him/her.
- 5.) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (1) of this Rule the Committee quorum will be two-thirds of the Committee Membership (including co-opted members). Two-thirds of those present must vote in favour before action under sub-paragraph (2) can be taken. A simple majority will apply in the case of subparagraph (4).

Blessington Sailing Club

Bye-Laws

- a.) Tampering with another member's boat or removal of parts or equipment without his/her permission is totally unacceptable, as is the use of another's boat without that member's permission.
- b.) Use of Rescue Boats is for that purpose only.
- c.) Over indulgence in the use of alcohol at the Club or the bad effects of its abuse elsewhere is not acceptable within the Club precincts.
- d.) Sleeping overnight in the Main Clubhouse or Junior Clubhouse is not permitted.
- e.) Smoking is not permitted in either Clubhouse, or the toilet block.
- f.) Parents or guardians are required to supervise at all times juniors and Junior Family Members for whom they are responsible while they are at the Club or its environs. Any exception to this must be applied for and approved in advance by the Committee or otherwise by the decision of the Committee itself.
- g.) Young people who are old enough to understand the rules and bye-laws, and adult members are required to act in a manner which is in their own interest and safety and as a good example to the interest and safety of the more junior members.
- h.) Camping on the Club site by junior members is not permitted at any time.
- i.) Approval of the Committee must be sought in advance of any proposed activity or function related to the Club. Any such activity or function for juniors only must be supervised by at least two previously appointed adult members of the Club.
- j.) The Clubhouse may not be used later than 10.00.p.m. without the prior approval of the Committee and then only to an agreed fixed time.
- k.) Other than in the Main Clubhouse fireplace or with the exception of a normal barbeque, fires must not be lit within the precincts of the Club site or at any place on the shoreline of the lake.
- l.) Each club member has the responsibility to report to a member of the Committee any observation of unacceptable behaviour at the Club.
- m.) Swimming in the lake is not permitted on any occasion except under supervision during sailing or power boat training courses or through misadventure while sailing, or powerboat or committee boat crew.
- n.) Committee members and those members with responsibility for club events or functions have the authority to take appropriate action in the circumstances of dangerous and unacceptable behaviour, and their decision is final.
- o.) In order to fulfil E.S.B. requirements, all boats must be secured by chain and lock to the anchor points provided for this purpose. The Committee may secure any boat not so secured, and impose a fine for its release.

Adopted at the Committee meeting on 4th March 2017