



1. NAME

The club shall be known as Blyth Kayak Club hereinafter known as the Club.

2. OBJECTS

The object of the Club are to provide and promote facilities for the sport and recreation of canoeing.

3. MEMBERSHIP

1. Qualification: Any person who undertakes to behave in the best interests of canoeing shall be eligible for membership regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
2. Classes of membership:
 - a. Full membership - over the age of 16.
 - b. Family members - family group comprising 1 adult and up to 2 juniors under the age of 16.
 - c. Junior members - under the age of 16. Those under the age of 8 will only be admitted when one or both parents are members.
 - d. Concessionary members - registered students or individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance.
3. Election: Candidates for election to membership shall apply to the secretary of the Club on the form provided. The power of election shall rest with the Committee who may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or the sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members.
4. Acceptance: The Committee may decline to accept renewal of membership, from any person, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members.
5. Restriction: A person who has been expelled from, or been refused membership of, the British Canoe Union, shall not be eligible for membership.

4. SUBSCRIPTION

The rates of the annual subscription shall be determined by the Committee and shall be due on election and thereafter at twelve monthly intervals.

5. ACTIVITY FEE

Each applicant for membership, shall, if his/her application is accepted, pay an activity fee, where applicable, the amount of which will be determined by the Committee.

6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member may resign by giving one month's clear notice to the Secretary.
2. Any member violating any of the rules and regulations of the Club or being adjudged guilty of unsatisfactory conduct, may by resolution of the Committee, be suspended or expelled. Appeals against suspension or expulsion may be made to the members.
3. A member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, after notice in writing, he/she has not paid the annual subscription when due.

7. DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING OFFICE

1. Only members entitled to vote are eligible to hold office, except that a Junior Spokesperson may be elected by the Junior members to vote at Committee meetings on issues specifically relating to Junior issues.
2. Any member who is under the age of 18 years, shall not be eligible for election to the Committee of the Club



8. THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Club as a whole and shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and five other officers.
2. Nominations for the positions on the Committee shall be put forward at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.
3. The Committee will elect a Vice-Chairperson from among its number.
4. The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall be eligible for re-election.
5. A member of the Committee will be deemed to have resigned if they fail to attend three Committee meetings consecutively.

9. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Chairperson: The Chairperson will preside at General Meetings and at all Committee meetings of the Club. He/she will be responsible for guiding the activities of the club in accordance with the rules and policies. The Chairperson shall represent or arrange for representation of the Club at regional B.C.U. meetings and meetings of other relevant organisations.
2. Secretary: The Secretary will be responsible for the organisation of meetings and the recording of minutes at such meetings, and all correspondence relating to the Club.
3. Treasurer: The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection of all monies and shall keep books of account as required by the General Meeting. He/she shall audit the books annually and produce balance sheets for the A.G.M. The Treasurer must make the Committee aware of any existing or potential financial or cash flow problems.
4. Other Officers: The other officers will be responsible for supporting the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary with the administrative and running duties of the Club. They shall represent the views of Club members at meetings of the Committee.
5. The Committee is responsible for the general conduct of the Club's business and activities.
6. The Committee will meet once monthly.
7. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary on instructions from the Chairperson or by not less than three Committee members.
8. A quorum shall consist of not less than four members of the Committee
9. In the case of a vacancy on the Committee, the said Committee shall appoint an eligible person to act until the next A.G.M.

10. GENERAL MEETINGS

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in January of each year. There shall be laid before the meeting, a statement of accounts made up to the 31st day of December.
2. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the instructions of a simple majority of the Committee.
3. Not less than 21 days clear notice shall be given of the Annual General Meeting.
4. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the Meeting shall be decided by a show of hands, of those entitled to vote.
5. At all General Meetings, the Chairperson shall preside, or, in his/her absence, a Chairperson will be elected by the members present.
6. At all General Meetings not less than 20% of the members shall constitute a quorum.
7. If after 15 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if requested by the members shall be dissolved, or in any other case, adjourned. If after 15 minutes of an adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present, then the members present shall be a quorum.
8. Accidental omission to give notice to, or the non-receipt of notice of, a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the meeting.

11. LIABILITY

1. The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not, however, be the personal liability of the Committee, but shall be the responsibility of the Club as a whole.
2. All members or other persons who attend Club tours or meets do so at their own risk, and neither the Club nor



its officers can accept any liability for any loss or injury of any kind sustained at its headquarters or whilst on a Club tour, meet or any other activity.

12.VOTING

Only full members and family members over the age of 12 years are entitled to vote at all meetings.

13.ALTERATION OFTHE CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall not be altered, amended, or rescinded except by a General Meeting of the Club. A resolution to give effect of change must be passed by a majority of the members present at the General Meeting.

14.AUDITOR

An independent auditor shall examine the accounts of the Club before the Annual General Meeting and ascertain the correctness of the income and expenditure accounts and of the balance sheet.

15. DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS

The Club may not make payment to its members for participation in the sport which would contravene amateur status, nor can any profit be distributed to its members, but any profits earned shall be contributed to a General Fund for furthering the objects of the Club.

16.TERMINATION

The Club shall not terminate except by a resolution of a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. In such an event, all surplus assets shall be handed over to the Northern Region B.C.U. for use in related amateur sport.

Any other matter not provided for by this constitution shall be dealt with by the Committee, whose decision shall be final

17. RULES

The rules of the Club, drawn up by the Committee for the safe conduct of canoeing, shall be adhered to by all members. Members must also accept and sign the Club Child Protection Policy and Risk Assessment Policy.

18. DECLARATION

Each member upon joining shall sign the following declaration

Name.....

Upon acceptance into the membership of Blyth Kayak Club I understand that activities are under taken at my own risk. I confirm that I do not suffer from any disability or medical condition which may render me unfit for strenuous exercise*

Signed.....

Parent/guardian (if under 18)

*Should a medical condition exist, this will not necessarily preclude you from membership but it must be declared. Should you be in any doubt, advice should be sought from your family doctor.