

# **RIT Sailing Club Constitution & By-Laws**

Monday April 28, 2014

Authored by the RIT Sailing Club Executive Board, Academic year of 2013-2014

Takes effect at the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year

## **Article I.     Name**

The name of this organization shall be Sailing Club

## **Article II.     Derivation of Authority**

The Sailing Club shall recognize that it receives its right to function as an Institute Organization from Student Government of the Rochester Institute of Technology in accordance with The Club Guidelines and The Student Government Constitution.

## **Article III.     Purpose**

The purpose of the Sailing Club is to encourage all students of different skill levels to participate and enjoy the sport of sailboat Racing. Sailing Club aims to promote the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association and provide an atmosphere for friendly competition and opportunities for experienced and novice sailors alike. The club strives to share basic sailing knowledge and teach one another the technical sport of sailboat racing. The sailing club also would like members to actively participate in club organization and the decision making process which will promote growth and maintain its status as a Competitive Sports Club Federation member. Finally, the Sailing Club's final objective is that participation must remain enjoyable and fun.

## **Article IV.     Rights and Responsibilities**

- Section 1.     The Sailing Club has a right to pursue any approved actives in achieving its stated goals and/or purpose, as long as those activities are not in violation of any rules and regulations of Student Government and the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Section 2.     The Sailing Club shall have at least one member of the Executive Board, or other responsible party present at each regularly scheduled club meeting.

- Section 3. The Sailing Club shall adhere to all the rules and regulations of Student Government and the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Section 4. The Sailing Club has the right to obtain a seat on the Club Review Board, in accordance with the policies of the Student Government Club Guidelines.

**Article V. Membership**

- Section 1. Members shall be recognized by one of two statuses: active and inactive. Each status shall stipulate individual rights within the club.
- Section 2. Membership is open to regularly enrolled undergraduates, and night students, in good standing with the Institute.
- Section 3. Active members shall be those in good standing and who have met the qualifications set forth in the Student Government Club Guidelines. Only active members are eligible to vote.
- Section 4. A member in good standing shall maintain active status by consistently attending practices, classroom practices, workouts, regattas, and other meetings announced by the executive board. Also by paying club dues on time (unless special arrangements have been made with executive board).
- Section 5. A member shall be declared inactive if he/she misses without excuse more than 5 consecutive practices, classroom practices, workouts, if he/she fails to show up to a regatta they committed too, or by missing one "all member" meeting without informing Member at Large before hand.
- Section 6. The rights of an inactive member shall be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- Section 7. An inactive member may be restored to active status by attending 5 events without missing another 5 consecutive practices, as long as dues are paid. Inactive members will return to their previous tier of membership.
- Section 8. There shall be two tiers of active membership: Novice and Advanced.
- Section 9. All members new to the team shall automatically be placed in the Novice tier. Novice sailors participate in all club activities and have all rights Advanced sailors do with the exception of attending regattas. A novice sailor may move up to Advanced sailor through a process overseen by the Member at large.

Section 10. The process to move up to Advanced sailor shall include a written test which must be passed with a grade of 90%, as well as an on the water skill test. This test will be administered at the discretion of the Executive Board.

**Article VI.**     Regatta Roster Selection

Section 1. Only advanced, active sailors members may attend regattas.

Section 2. An interest list will be taken the Monday before a regatta. All eligible members who are able and would like to attend must make sure they are on this list.

Section 3. The Executive Board will meet the Wednesday before a regatta to determine how many will attend the regatta and who on the interest list will attend.

Section 4. Those on the interest list who are not selected will be listed as alternates for the regatta. Alternates must be ready to attend and carry the same obligation to attend as those selected in the event of a no-show.

Section 5. The final roster with alternates shall be made available to all members by the Wednesday evening before the regatta.

Section 6. Consequence for failing to show to a regatta without informing a member of the Executive board will result in inactive member status.

**Article VII.**     Executive Board Officers

Section 1. The duties of the officers in this organization shall be in order of rank: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Other officers of equal rank under secretary will be Logistics Coordinator and Member at Large.

Section 2. Qualifications for office shall be to maintain good academic standing as defined by R.I.T. (not on academic probation). In order to be nominated for office, member must have been an active member in the club during the previous semester (not including summer term).

Section 3. The officers shall be elected in the manner provided in the constitution and shall serve one calendar year, beginning after elections. Officers are eligible for re-election.

Section 4. No officer may hold more than one office simultaneously.

Section 5. An officer may resign from office by submitting the intention in writing to the Executive Board. The resignation becomes effective upon submission to the Executive Board. Upon resignation, the Coordinator of club affairs must be informed.

**Article VIII. Duties of Officers**

Section 1. President

- A. Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization
- B. Exercise general supervision over regular club activities.
- C. Appoint all committees, regular or special.
- D. Preside over the executive Board.
- E. Shall attend or send an alternative member to all bi-monthly CSCF meetings.

Section 2. Vice-President:

- A. Take over the duties of the President in the temporary absence of the President.
- B. Be an ex-officio member of all committees within the club.

Section 3. Treasurer:

- A. Take over the duties of the Vice-President or Secretary in the absence of either, or both.
- B. Supervise all financial transactions of the organization and keep all financial records which includes fundraising and member dues.
- C. Maintain regular contact with the Secretary of Finance of Student Government.

Section 4. Secretary:

- A. The Secretary shall take over the duties of the Treasurer in the temporary absence of the Treasurer.
- B. The Secretary shall keep an accurate roll of members and keep the minutes of all meetings.
- C. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining and updating all paperwork with Student Government.

Section 5. Logistics Coordinator:

- A. The Logistics Coordinator (LC) is in charge of organizing club travels, including transportation and lodging.
- B. The LC will fill out EVR.

C. The LC will work with members to organize lodgings.

**Section 6.** Member at Large:

A. The member at large is in charge of the recruitment of new members.

B. The member at large will be responsible for the distribution of information and important dates to the members of the club.

C. The member at large will be responsible for overseeing the transition of members from novice level to advanced level.

**Article IX.** Executive Board

Section 1. The management of this organization shall be vested in the Executive board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Logistics Coordinator, Member at Large, and Advisors or equivalent titles if appropriate.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet as needed and report to the members at the following meetings.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall fill any permanent vacancy of office by appointment, with the exception of the Presidency.

Section 5. In the case of a permanent vacancy in the office of the Presidency, the Vice President shall take over the Presidency, and a new Vice President shall be appointed.

**Article X.** Meetings

Section 1. Meetings shall be called as needed at a time and place determined by the Executive Board.

Section 2. All member Informational meetings shall take place at the E-boards discretion. These meetings shall be mandatory for all sailors. They will be announced two weeks in advance. If attendance is impossible, a sailor must contact a member of E-board. Failure to attend without correspondence with E-board will result in becoming an inactive member.

**Article XI.** Elections

Section 1. Elections shall take place week 14 of the Spring semester.

Section 2. Nominations for positions will be made in week 13 of Spring semester at an all member meeting.

- Section 3. Voting will be done during week 14 via a secret ballot.
- Section 4. Officers may run for only one position, but may be nominated for multiple.
- Section 5. A voting quorum shall consist of one more than half the active members.
- Section 6. Induction of new officers shall take place at week 15's meeting.

**Article XII.** Impeachment

- Section 1. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary can be removed by impeachment.
- Section 2. Logistics Coordinator and Member at Large can be removed at any time by popular vote of Executive Board.
- Section 3. If  $\frac{1}{4}$  of active members request an impeachment, then the process will begin.
- Section 4. At the following meeting, both parties will defend their positions, and active members, including e-board will vote on the matter.
- Section 5. If  $\frac{2}{3}$  of active members concede to the impeachment via vote, then the officer is removed from power, but not the team.
- Section 6. Filling the opened position follows the same procedure as defined by article 9, sections 4 and 5.

**Article XIII.** Amendments

- Section 1. Any active member may propose an amendment.
- Section 2. The Amendment will be voted on by E-board unless  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the active members would rather the entire population voted on it.
- Section 3. All changes to the constitution must be approved by the Student Government club advisor.

**Article XIV.** Hazing

- Section 1. Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the

purpose of initiation into or affiliation with this chapter, as well as any action intended to subject a member of the R.I.T. community to personal humiliation is prohibited.

Section 2.     HAZING IN THE FIRST DEGREE (d120.16)

A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree     when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or third person and thereby causes such injury.

Hazing in the first degree is a Class A Misdemeanor.

Effective date: November 1, 1988.

Section 3.     HAZING IN THE SECOND DEGREE (d120.17)

A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into an affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or third person.

Hazing in the second degree is a violation.

Effective date: November 1, 1988.

Section 4.     CIVIL PENALTIES

In addition to the consequences of violating RIT policies and state law Prohibiting hazing, both individuals and chapters can be sued in civil court for mental or physical harm that results from hazing acts or practices. Individual group members (and their parents), group leaders, advisors, the student or Institute organization, and national affiliates may be sued.