

Exhibit F — Communications & “Posted Rules” (Official vs. Unofficial Communications)

Purpose. Establish that any claim “we posted/told people” must be proven by **official** channels; **unsanctioned** lists/groups are **not** official Club communications.

Point: Unsanctioned social channels are not official Club communications. If a “rule” exists, it must be formally adopted by the Board and communicated through official channels before it can be enforced.

1) What counts as official notice?

The Procedures’ *Communications* section distinguishes **Official Club Communications** (the Club **website**, **direct-to-member emails**, and the **newsletter**) from **unsanctioned communications** (Google/Yahoo groups, Facebook, Twitter/Instagram, etc.). It states that these unsanctioned media “are not overseen in any way by the South End Rowing Club or its Board” and that the Club “has no responsibility for what is posted.”

What the Procedures say (quotes):

“This document is to describe and distinguish these methods.”

Official Club Communications include:

Website — “**SERC.COM is maintained by the club**... The Board assures all content is approved and correct...”

Direct-to-Member Emails — “The Board **communicates important information**... via email blast directly to the membership.”

Newsletter — delivered to members (hard copy and digital).
(*SERC Procedures V2.5, “COMMUNICATIONS,” p. 35.*)

“Unsanctioned communications.” “There are several means of electronic communication and social media... These media **are not overseen in any way by the South End Rowing Club or its Board**... The Club does not control the membership of these groups, nor does it monitor or moderate the content... **the Club has no responsibility for what is posted.**”
(*SERC Procedures V2.5, p. 35.*)

Implication for this appeal:

- If the Board asserts “members were told” or “it was posted,” it must produce **official exhibits**: a live **website page** or a **Direct-to-Member email** (with date/time).
- References to Facebook pages, Google/Yahoo groups, or similar forums are **not official** and **cannot** substitute for a duly adopted, published rule.

Implication: A “rule” announced or debated in any unsanctioned group is **not** official Club policy and cannot serve as member notice for discipline. If the Board relies on “it was posted on a Google group / Facebook,” that is expressly non-official under the Procedures.

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2) A written rule must first be adopted.

The By-Laws require the Board to “maintain a set of written rules and procedures” and provide that a **2/3 vote of the elected officers** is required to **adopt, interpret, amend, or repeal** such rules or procedures.

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Implication: Before any new conduct standard (e.g., a “tag-in” requirement at certain hours or a categorical ban on momentary door-holding) can be enforced, the Board must first adopt it by the required vote and make it part of the written rules/procedures—then communicate it through official channels.

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3) What the Board should provide (if it claims a rule exists):

- The **written text** of the adopted rule (or the page in the Procedures where it appears); and
- The **Board action** establishing it (minutes reflecting the 2/3 vote); and
- The **official notice** given to members (link/screenshot from **serc.com**, copy of the **direct-to-member email**, or the **newsletter** page).

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4) Application to this matter:

Absent the three items above, statements that a requirement was “posted” or “communicated innumerable times” in unsanctioned channels are **insufficient** to support discipline. Any alleged expectation not grounded in a **duly adopted, written rule** and **officially communicated** should be disregarded for purposes of this case.

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Requested Board action: Confirm that only **officially adopted, written rules** communicated through **official channels** will be considered in deciding this appeal, and exclude any reliance on unsanctioned social media or email groups.

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Requested action:

Disregard any “we told people” claims unless supported by **official** communications, and if the Board wants a door policy, **adopt it prospectively** and **announce it** via official channels.