



Gauteng Model Boat Club



Charter and Constitution

Name

The organisation is called the **Gauteng Model Boat Club**, hereinafter referred to as GMBC. The official Web site of the club is www.gmbc.co.za

Charter

The Charter is based on guidelines to which all members, associate and junior members, guests of members and all visitors are expected to respect and adhere. Both the charter and the constitution may only be changed at a Special or Annual General Meeting.

Venue

The club's home port will be the Emmarentia Dam situated within the grounds of the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens

Objectives

To provide without prejudice to any involved parties, reasonable facilities for the sailing of model ships or boats be they electric, steam-powered or yachts. To promote, encourage and provide assistance to any interested person wishing to participate in building or sailing model ships. To assist members wherever possible with information of a general or technical nature. To provide and assist interested parties with workshops with the intention of educating and training in all aspects of construction, building techniques and sailing of model boats.

The club does not however allow any brushless, surface-piercing speed boats, nor any internal combustion engines.

Club Management

Office Bearers: To manage club matters, the following three Office Bearers will be elected annually:

Chairman: A representative will be appointed whose responsibilities will be to head and guide all meetings of club members, and to represent GMBC on matters relating to issues at meetings of other involved parties or affiliated societies.

Secretary and Webmaster: A secretary will be responsible for minutes of all meetings and ensuring information and matters relating to the well-being of club members is conveyed to all members of good standing. It is the secretary's responsibility to ensure that proper banking procedures be followed.

Treasurer: All monetary matters relating to income and expenditure will be recorded. An account will be held with a recognized banking institution. All proposed expenses are to be approved by the committee. The financial year for the club runs from 1st November to 31st October.

Ordinary Members of the Committee: Additional members are elected to assist the elected office bearers with duties relating to managing club affairs. These ordinary committee members may be assigned portfolios by the committee regarding the club's various activities.

Club Membership

1. Full Member

A full member will be expected to have an ongoing commitment to the interests of the club and be an active participant in all matters relating to the Charter.

2. Associate Member

An associate member is deemed to be a person who has an interest in model ships of any kind, yet may not be directly involved in club functions or meetings yet wishes to be kept informed of the club's activities. The committee reserves the right to determine who is an associate member

3. Junior Member

Under the age of 16 years.

Termination of membership

If for any reason whatsoever, the committee is of the opinion that any member's membership should be terminated the committee may take the following steps:

1. notify the member of such beliefs, and
2. call upon the member to attend a meeting of the committee at a time, date and place to be indicated in the written notice, to answer the complaint, and
3. hear any evidence which might be necessary or desirable to investigate the complaint thoroughly, and
4. discuss all the evidence, or postpone the hearing, make such findings as is justified, in private, and
5. inform the member of such findings, and
6. take such steps as the committee might deem necessary or desirable, including the expulsion of the member.

Visitors

Visitors in their own right, or guests of members, are always welcome and should be encouraged at all times. After three visits (consecutive or not) the guest should be approached to indicate their intent as to becoming a member.

Joining Fee

A joining fee of R200 will apply to any person interested in becoming a member. This fee is a once-off payment, over and above the annual membership fee.

Annual Subscriptions

At the AGM, the committee will determine the membership fees for the following financial period. The fee will come into effect immediately. Membership fees shall be paid by 31st January of the following year and become due on the first day of January of every year. New members will pay on a pro-rata basis of R25, calculated monthly following the 1st November. If any member fails to pay his or her membership fee within 31 January as prescribed above, membership of such member may be automatically terminated. The legal liability of the members is limited to the amount of such fees as are payable by the members to the Club. A member may at any time terminate his or her membership by

giving notice thereof to the committee. No fees will be refunded should a member terminate his or her membership

Associate Members & Junior Members: These members will not be liable for membership fee.

Arrears

It is imperative that all persons understand the need to pay for membership as the club cannot exist without certain provisos being met and it is the obligation of all members to actively be involved in the raising or collection of funds.

Control, Powers and Duty of the Committee

Only members in good standing shall be eligible for election to the committee. For the post of Chairman only members who have served at least one year on the committee are eligible for election, unless no such member is available. The Chairman shall not serve longer than two years, whereupon a sabbatical of one year must be taken. Ordinary Committee members may serve on the committee for as long as desired. Elections of committee members at the AGM shall be done by secret ballot. All committee positions, including that of Chairman, must be re-elected every year in terms of the AGM section below. If any of the posts on the committee are not filled by election at an AGM, or if they become vacant during the course of the year, the Committee may appoint a member in good standing to fill the vacancy until the next AGM. The Club committee shall administer the Club's finances; appoint bankers; direct the opening of banking accounts for specific purposes; transfer funds from one account to another; close any such accounts; and fix the manner in which such banking accounts shall be operated. The committee shall control and manage all the affairs of the Club. The committee shall have the power to do everything that is necessary or desirable to control and manage the affairs of the Club, and to promote the purposes of the Club and more particularly to:

1. appoint sub-committees for any purpose - these sub-committees will fall under the jurisdiction of the club committee
2. to frame such rules or regulations for the proper control and management of the Club as may be deemed necessary by the committee.

3. the committee shall cause minutes to be kept of all proceedings at meetings of the Committee and Special and General Meetings of members and for such minutes to be delivered to the relevant recipients.
4. the Chairman shall at each Annual General Meeting report on the activities of the Club and the Treasurer shall submit a financial statement for The Club.
5. proxy and nominations for new committee posts: proxy must be a written letter (with signature) or E-mail appointing a member who has the right to vote. The letter needs to be handed to the Chairman before the election.

Club Meetings

- 1. Annual General Meeting:** An Annual General Meeting is to be held in at the end of the calendar year, for which a 14-day minimum written notice must be given. All matters pertaining to the Club may be discussed at an Annual General Meeting. Members may add items to the agenda which must be done in writing by 7- days in advance of the meeting and must be addressed to the Chairman. A quorum for the AGM shall be 25% of members in good standing. An Annual Awards Event is to be held annually in December following the AGM.
- 2. Ordinary Monthly Club Meetings:** Ordinary monthly club meetings are to be held as given on a schedule posted on the Web site, with provisions to be made as to the activity taking place on that particular day.
- 4. Committee Meetings:** The committee shall meet as often as is necessary. A quorum for all committee meetings shall be three members, with at least one office bearer present. Should a vote of the committee meeting or AGM be undecided, the chairman may cast the deciding vote.
- 5. Special General Meetings:** Special General Meetings are to be held if the committee deems such Special General Meeting necessary or desirable, or if a written request, stating reasons, is made by no fewer than five members who are in good standing. A Special General Meeting shall only be held if no less than 14 (fourteen) days' notice in writing has been given to all members by the Committee. If any member feels aggrieved about any matter pertaining to the Club or about any matter affecting his or her membership of the Club, such member shall inform the committee of the grievance. The committee shall then examine the grievance and take steps as it may deem necessary to resolve it as given above.

If such member is thereafter not satisfied with the decision of the committee or with the steps taken by the committee to resolve the issue, such member may call for a Special General Meeting.

Actions at law

No member or their guest will have any right of legal action against the club, nor against any other members for any damage or injury suffered by him/her or to any property through any default or neglect of any other member or their guest or by any other cause whatsoever.

Commercial Enterprise

The club or its facilities may not be used to promote any enterprise for personal financial reward. Trading of goods or services between members is permitted, and this should be based on goodwill and in the interests of furthering the aims and objectives of the club. All dealings (transactions) should be legal, open and transparent.

Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution may only be amended at an Annual or Special General Meeting and shall be passed by no less than two thirds of the members present. No such proposed amendments shall be considered unless 14 (fourteen) days' notice in writing has been given of such proposed amendments.

The Constitution of the GMBC as amended at 13 December 2017. These rules are to be read and accepted upon joining the club or by any person joining the club events and activities on a day or as a full time member etc.

Addendum

Club Rules: The following rules apply to all members, and they are accountable for their visitors and family. Anyone not adhering to these rules will be asked to leave the property and / or will be held accountable to the authorities and could lose their membership and could be prosecuted by the Johannesburg City Parks Department.

1. Members will not cause unnecessary noise that will upset residents, park users and other members etc.
2. Members will respect other members' property and boats and will not interfere with such in any way - this includes radio frequencies. The onus is on each member to check the frequencies being used and ensure that they operate on an unused frequency or share accordingly.
3. Members will respect the lakes/dams and botanical gardens being used and adhere to all rules regarding such, and will not damage the property, plants or waters in any way and will leave the water and grounds in a condition that is better or the same as that in which it was found.
4. All wildlife, fish, fowl, etc. will be respected and treated in a humane manner and none will be harmed by members or their family or friends or their boats in any deliberate manner.
5. Children are to be controlled at all times by an adult, so as to abide by the rules and to maintain their safety near the water's edge.
6. Safety is to be kept to the highest standards in order to prevent accidents, injury and loss of life and fires etc.
7. The club, its members, chairman and committee are not to be held liable for any action, injury or death etc, that may occur to any member his property or visitor or his family members.
8. All expenses incurred by any member or their party are to be settled in full before leaving and may not be passed on to the club in any way whatsoever.
9. Any damage caused by a member or their party, to other's property etc. is for their own account and will not be covered by the club or its members, chairman or committee.
10. All members and their party will abide by the rules of the Johannesburg City Parks Department and the local authority and members will make it their duty to familiarise themselves with the parks rules.
11. It is the intention of the GMBC to provide a safe, hospitable and (above all) friendly environment for the enjoyment of model boating by all who attend and all members should actively support this strategy.

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