

## CUCBC Rule Changes

The intention of this document is to lay out the thinking of the CUCBC Senior Committee with regards to some rule changes we would like to discuss at the Michaelmas Captains' Meeting. We'd like to get feedback from Captains on the direction to pursue, and will then go away and write up the actual proposed changes, to be voted on in the start of Lent Term meeting.

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### Rowing outside of "college rowing"

- The thinking behind limiting rowing with a different club outside of "college hours" is to provide a level playing field for all college rowers who intend to compete in CUCBC events.
- When someone has dropped out of one of the University Squads, they are allowed to compete in CUCBC events that term provided they then observe college hours for the rest of the term
- University rowing in the Easter term has grown in recent years and is now available both for the development squads, as well as "learn to scull" sessions with the lightweights.
- The same does not apply to rowing with a Town Club - any rowing with a town club outside of college hours in a given term makes said rower ineligible for CUCBC events that term. Similarly sculling outside college hours has the same consequences.
- CUCBC only has jurisdiction over rowing on the Cam
- Some alternatives:
  - Treat university squads the same as town clubs - any training with them in a given term makes that rower ineligible for CUCBC events that term (n.b. university squads are not eligible for Lents, and may only compete in Uni IVs with leave from the squad president (see later proposals though).
  - Relax rules on rowing with town clubs to be similar to university squads; e.g. if drop out of town rowing by certain date, can be eligible for CUCBC events that term.
  - "one club at a time" - train with town club OR college OR university squad, training with two at once makes you ineligible for CUCBC events that term.

## Substitutions in Bumps

- Currently the same rules are applied to all crews in Bumps regarding subs; i.e. CUCBC is just as strict with lower boats as it is for boats in the first divisions.
- This means we often have to say no to requests for subs in lower boats where they're more common because the reason for the substitution isn't "valid".
- Instead, we could apply stricter rules to the top divisions, and allow substitutions for more reasons in the lower divisions. Note that all substitutes would still need to meet eligibility requirements, we'd just be more flexible about when a substitute is allowed for lower divisions.
- For example, first division sub could be for exam or illness only, whilst fourth division sub is ok for any other sporting or academic commitment, or illness.

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## Gender Rules

- In light of changing college admissions policies, propose the following changes. Current rules:
3. *That Women's and Men's races be considered discrete.*
    - a) *That only Men's Crews shall row in Men's races, and only Women's Crews shall row in Women's races, but when the gender of an event is unspecified, mixed crews and crews of either sex may compete.*
    - b) *That a Men's Crew be defined as a crew consisting of oarsmen and no oarswomen, and a Women's Crew be defined as a crew consisting of oarswomen and no oarsmen.*
    - c) *That notwithstanding Rule 3.b above, the coxswain need not be of the same sex as the crew.*
    - d) *That the lowest Men's Crew of a club entered into a set of Bumps be given an exception to Rules 3.a and 3.b and may consist of up to four oarswomen.*
  - Suggested Additions:
3.
    - e) *Rowers who were assigned male at birth, and do not identify as male, and whose testosterone levels are not suppressed below 10 nmol/L and who have not had a gonadectomy:*
      - i) *may not row in a women's boat for their college,*
      - ii) *may row in a men's boat for their college, notwithstanding Rule 3.b above,*
      - iii) *if their college has no men's crews, the rower may choose one college where they are not a student to compete with for the duration of their rowing in men's crews. This*

*choice must be agreed by both the rower and the new adoptive club. They are to be regarded as a full member of that college boat club, and not to be limited to the lowest boat irrespective of CUCBC Regulation for Racing 4 b),*

- *this decision is made once, does not need to be approved at the Captains meeting, and does not need to be declared every term,*
  - *when a rower previously rowing with an adoptive club under rule 3 e iii) becomes eligible for 3 f), they may elect to return to the original college or to begin rowing with the women's squad of the adopted club.*
- f) *Rowers who were assigned male at birth, and do not identify as male, and who could provide a letter from their GP stating that either their testosterone levels are suppressed below 10 nmol/L or that they've had a gonadectomy (the letter does not need to be specific about which criteria applies; CUCBC will cover the cost of said letter from the GP; this letter will be seen by one and only one member of the committee, who will not discuss with anyone else):*
- i) *may row in a women's boat for their college.*
- g) *Rowers who were assigned female at birth, and do not identify as female, and have not started testosterone treatment*
- i) *may row in a women's boat for their college, notwithstanding Rule 3.b above,*
  - ii) *may row in a men's boat for their college,*
  - iii) *if their college has no men's crews, the rower may choose one college where they are not a student to compete with. This choice must be agreed by both the rower and the new adoptive club. They are to be regarded as a full member of that college boat club, and not to be limited to the lowest boat irrespective of CUCBC Regulation for Racing 4 b),*
- *this decision is made once, does not need to be approved at the Captains meeting, and does not need to be declared every term.*
- h) *Rowers who were assigned female at birth, and do not identify as female, and have started testosterone treatment:*
- i) *may not row in a women's boat for their college,*
  - ii) *may row in a men's boat for their college*
  - iii) *if their college has no men's crews, the rower may choose one college where they are not a student to compete with. This choice must be agreed by both the rower and the new adoptive club. They are to be regarded as a full member of that college boat club, and not to be limited to the lowest boat irrespective of CUCBC Regulation for Racing 4 b),*
- *this decision is made once, does not need to be approved at the Captains meeting, and does not need to be declared every term.*
- i) *Rowers rowing for an adoptive college under 3e) or 3h) may elect to cox for one of their original or adoptive club.*

## Uni IVs & SBR

- Uni IVs is technically open to University trialists; even though they haven't entered in years. Suggest bringing in line with Lents eligibility rules.
- SBR has been poorly attended in recent years and we often have lots of entries drop out last minute citing college mock exams, among other reasons. However, there isn't really any other time of year where we could hold it and reasonably expect more people to be available and willing to enter, so instead propose tweaking the rules to achieve a more healthy competition structure:
  - Stop offering the Bushe-Fox Freshman's Sculls. It doesn't have a women's equivalent, and then entries won't be split between it and the Fairbairn Junior Sculls. This would result in a simplified structure for the single scull events:
    - "Elite" events: Colquhouns and Delafields
    - Intermediate events: Fairbairn Junior Sculls, men and women; open to all except previous winners of certain SBR events.
    - Novice events: Peter Brandt and Maiden Sculls; only open to those who have never before competed in a sculling race.
  - Tighten up the eligibility criteria to force trialists to enter the "Elite" events.
    - At the moment we suspect some college rowers are discouraged from entering SBR as they think they will come up against, and inevitably lose to, a university rower. At the moment we restrict the Uni IVs entries with the rule "That no Blue, Goldie or Blondie Colour, Lightweight or University Trial Cap, be allowed to row in the Second Division." Could we use the same criteria for the Fairbairn Junior Sculls and the Novice events?
    - This might help revive the Colquhouns/Delafields which have both been poorly entered in recent years.
  - Could consider making similar changes to the events for doubles
  - Change the rules such that University medals and Michell Cup points are not awarded in the non-"Elite" events, unless 4 or more boats actually race.
    - We've had a few straight 2-way finals last year, and is beating one other boat worthy of a University medal? It might make people encourage more of their friends to enter so they have more competition. At the

moment we don't award Michell cup points for the winners of the 2nd division of Uni IVs.

- Change no. 6 in the Michell cup rules ([cucbc.org/handbook/michell\\_cup](http://cucbc.org/handbook/michell_cup)) to include 3rd women's boats, as well as 3rd men's boats.
  - just brings this in line with them having the same finishes now.

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## Eligibility for CUCBC events

- CUCBC receives more and more varied requests for eligibility decisions each year, as the university adapts to providing more of the collegiate structure to post-docs as well as undergraduate & graduate students and fellows.
- CUCBC Bumps is a predominantly student competition. Although there are regularly at least a few fellows or members of staff in some crews, the proportion is very small, but the effort required to provide consistent decisions on these members is disproportionately large.
- Historically, postdocs have accepted that they are no longer eligible for CUCBC events and many switch to rowing in Town crews instead. However, as colleges invite more postdocs to affiliate with them, those expectations may continue to change.
- Most colleges have a limited number of JRF or research associate positions which are appointed by a rigorous application process. It seems fair to consider these people just as much a part of the college as students, fellows and staff. However, a few colleges now provide relatively simple affiliation with MCRs or Post-Doc societies which have very relaxed application processes. It seems unfair to allow these college to have access to a much larger pool of ex-college rowers.
- Many options:
  - Clarify existing rules to make the type of appointment (i.e. full application process / appointment by fellowship committee etc. vs just being nominated by a fellow) the differentiating factor to make the rules very clear and easy to police.
  - Further limit the number of “exceptional members” to a total for the whole club, as well as the limit of two per crew (potentially in combination with the above)
  - Or go more radical and only allow undergraduate & graduate students, and full college fellows.