



# Gauteng Model Boat Club (“GMBC”) – Regulations

*as at 23 November 2025.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. These Regulations are ancillary to the GMBC Constitution, and may be amended from time to time.
- 1.2. Where there is a conflict between the Regulations and the GMBC Constitution, the latter shall prevail.
- 1.3. GMBC requires its members to abide by these Regulations. At the same time GMBC acknowledges that circumstances may from time to time dictate a need for flexibility in the application of the Regulations.
- 1.4. The decision as to whether a member is guilty of an infringement may involve the application of an objective test in which the conduct of the member concerned is compared to that of a reasonable person under similar circumstances.

## 2. Eligible boats and types

- 2.1. Risk factors such as noise, speed, and the controllability of RC model boats need to be properly mitigated in order to ensure that a harmonious relationship exists between club members, and also between GMBC and the general public. Also, against the risk of boat-on-boat collisions and even the risk of personal injury. For this reason GMBC only allows the operation of battery, steam, or wind powered RC model boats. Nitro, petrol, diesel or gas powered model boats are strictly prohibited.
- 2.2. No autonomous boats are allowed. Boats must be kept under control at all times. For boats that are particularly fast, these should, ideally, only run when slow boats are not on the water. At the very least, they must be kept well clear of the slower models.
- 2.3. Any two Management Committee members, acting jointly, may rule a particular boat as being unacceptable (this will include a boat which the Local Authority might not deem acceptable).

## 3. Radio Transmitters & RF Interference

- 3.1. All radio transmitters must operate in the transmission spectra allocated and licensed by ICASA from time to time.
- 3.2. The use of 2.4GHz MHDSS or MHDSS2 transmitters is recommended. Where longer wavelength transmitters are used, members have an obligation to check that the channel they propose to use at the time does not clash with channels already being used by others.

## 4. General navigation rules

- 4.1. Sailboats (yachts) always have right of way. This means you need to pass a sailboat at its stern and not at its bow.
- 4.2. In a head-on approach, the “keep right” rule applies. This is called a port-to-port pass. It is counter-intuitive for South African drivers but your boat must pass the approaching boat on your starboard side (you move right to pass on its left).
- 4.3. When a boat is approaching from the side, the following rules apply:
  - If the approaching boat is on your 3-o-clock, you pass behind it and it keeps going.
  - If the approaching boat is on your 10-o-clock, you continue going and it will pass behind you.

## **5. Racing rules for RC yachts**

- 5.1. Members participating in a regatta are expected to familiarize themselves with the applicable racing rules for RC yachts. Racing rules are comprehensive and fall outside of the scope of these Regulations.
- 5.2. A basic principle for which the rules of racing are applied is to avoid collisions. However, even having right-of-way is not an excuse for causing a collision.
- 5.3. Always sail with common sense, in safety, and in good sportsmanship.
- 5.4. The most important behaviors to adopt when sail racing are:
  - To carefully watch out for other yachts;
  - To not push the rules too hard; and
  - To give way if another sailboat has right of way.
- 5.5. A sailboat in motion must keep clear of a stationary yacht.

## **6. Code of conduct**

GMBC's mission is to provide a clean and safe (emotional, mental and physical) environment for its members and their guests. To maintain an atmosphere of respect, GMBC stipulates:

- 6.1. No emotional, verbal, physical or electronic/digital abuse, harassment or bullying;
- 6.2. No sexual misconduct, abuse or harassment;
- 6.3. No drugs or alcohol at GMBC's home base;
- 6.4. No begging, solicitation, proselytizing, or gambling;
- 6.5. No weapons, guns, knives, fighting, threatening, intimidating, criminal or illegal behavior. Any violation of local by-law or statute is considered a violation of GMBC's mission;
- 6.6. No yelling or offensive language, noisy and/or disruptive behavior, playing loud music or vandalism; and
- 6.7. That children must be supervised by an adult or a guardian. GMBC does not provide supervision.

Further, that

- 6.8. GMBC's premises form part of the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens. As such, members are required to comply with the Public Open Spaces By-Laws for the City of Johannesburg.
- 6.9. A residential area surrounds Emmarentia Dam and noise must accordingly be limited to the minimum, particularly on Sundays where ambient noise is lower. No shouting, loud laughing or music is allowed (a general rule of all parks).
- 6.10. Where GMBC makes use of private property, e.g. at Maggie's Farm, strict adherence to the owner's terms of use must be observed.
- 6.11. Club members are obliged to bring any complaints they might receive from the public, or from a person representing the Local Authority, to the attention of the Management Committee. The Management Committee must respond accordingly.

## **7. Environmental**

- 7.1. All boats must be operated in a responsible manner. Emmarentia Dam is home to a number of bird, mammal, amphibian, crustacean, and fish species as well as plants. Protection of fauna and flora is inviolable.
- 7.2. No boat may be used to deliberately chase any water bird. During breeding season, ducklings and goslings will frequent the water. Any person found intentionally chasing these birds with a RC model boat will become subject to disciplinary measures.

Please help to clear discarded fishing line left in or near our harbor.
- 7.3. No batteries may be disposed of in the dam or in the municipal rubbish bins. This applies to all types of batteries. If your batteries run flat, take them home with you and dispose them in a manner as directed by the manufacturer.

## **8. Membership fees**

- 8.1. Fees are determined by GMBC's Management Committee.
- 8.2. The once-off joining fee is currently R250.
- 8.3. The annual membership fee is currently R400 (members joining after 1 May only pay 50%).
- 8.4. GMBC's financial year runs from 1 November to 31 October. In terms of the Constitution membership fees fall due on 1 November, with the very last day for payment being 31 January (3 months later).
- 8.5. Junior members (under the age of 18 years) only pay a once-off joining fee. Once they turn 18 they become ordinary members and liable for the payment of an annual membership fee.
- 8.6. Associate members only pay a joining fee.
- 8.7. Honorary members pay no fees.

## **9. Indemnity**

- 9.1. All members of GMBC are required to sign GMBC's standard Indemnity Form.
- 9.2. Junior members are also required to sign the Indemnity Form but they will need to be assisted by their legal guardian. A junior member does not have to have a parent or guardian as a member.

## **10. Protection of Personal Information Act ("POPIA")**

- 10.1. GMBC has taken steps to be compliant with POPIA.
- 10.2. Note that POPIA does not make it illegal for a club to collect personal information from its members. What it does require however is that, when personal information is collected, it must be properly managed and protected.
- 10.3. Paper records must, and will, be locked away and will only be able to be accessed by certain office bearers. The Act does not insist that a club like GMBC should install very high-tech systems, only that it has procedures in place to protect the information it holds and that it implements a system of accountability.
- 10.4. Note that GMBC office bearers do not need to obtain the permission of members to collect or hold whatever personal information is needed for the "effective management" of GMBC, as long as that is all they do with it.
- 10.5. Office bearers will only use your personal information for correspondence and communications for administrative purposes and will not release it to a third party for any other purpose.

## **11. Instant messaging**

Group instant messaging services, such as WhatsApp and e-mail, allow users to send text messages and voice messages, to make voice and video calls, and to share images, documents, user locations, and other content. To this end GMBC has created several WhatsApp group's for its members. These service the scale, sailing, submarine, and racing interest groups. There is also a group used solely by GMBC's Management Committee.

Unfortunately instant messaging services do have their own unique challenges. To ensure harmony and to mitigate against the risk of unwanted problems members are asked to please abide by the following rules:-

- 11.1. Keep to the purpose of the group. Don't share irrelevant messages about other topics.
- 11.2. Do not spam the group.
- 11.3. Don't be offended if others leave. Not everyone wants the same information.
- 11.4. If you do leave, please politely excuse yourself before you do.
- 11.5. Post your message in a single chunk of text. Don't post every word or sentence in a new message.
- 11.6. Do not have one-on-one conversations in the group. Rather switch to private messaging.
- 11.7. Do not post in any group between 21:00 and 07:00 unless it is a genuine emergency.
- 11.8. No swearing, bad-mouthing, or posting of inappropriate photographs or memes.

- 11.9. No emotional, abuse, harassment, or bullying. Do not attack the character, morals, or integrity of a fellow member, whether on a group or privately on a messaging platform.
- 11.10. Steer clear of politics, sex, and religion. Avoid heated arguments, fear mongering, hyped-up drama, and fake news. Check your sources before you share.
- 11.11. Never berate someone else or air grievances. If you have an issue please address the issue one-on-one with the relevant person. Alternatively, raise the matter with the club Ombudsman
- 11.12. Avoid data-hungry messages. Nobody wants their data used up on uninvited memes.
- 11.13. Some banter is allowed but, before you post, ask yourself (a) is this relevant, (b) is this necessary, and (c) is this a good time to post?

The Management Committee reserves the right to remove or suspend a non-compliant member's access to an instant messaging group.

## **12. Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure**

- 12.1. Should any member have any grievance or complaint of whatsoever nature that may impede good fellowship amongst members of GMBC, or be counter-productive for the effective management of GMBC, such complaints or grievances must be lodged in writing with the club Ombudsman.
- 12.2. Depending on the seriousness of the grievance or complaint, the club Ombudsman may then co-opt two or more senior members to serve on a Disciplinary Committee.
- 12.3. The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with such cases as may be referred to it by the club Ombudsman. All disciplinary matters shall be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.
- 12.4. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to investigate such grievance or complaint in order to obtain a satisfactory solution, or to recommend corrective action to the Management Committee.
- 12.5. The Disciplinary Committee shall hold a Disciplinary Enquiry and shall make a determination of guilt. This ruling shall be binding and shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- 12.6. The Disciplinary Committee does not have the authority to impose a sanction on a member. This is the sole responsibility of the Management Committee.
- 12.7. If a member has been found to have committed any willful breach of the rules, by-laws or regulations of GMBC, or to have been deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest and reputation of GMBC, whether within GMBC's premises or outside them, the Management Committee shall have the power:
  - 12.7.1. To inform the member in writing (Notification of a Disciplinary Enquiry) of the alleged infringement and to call upon such member to appear before the Disciplinary Committee and to explain his/her conduct;
  - 12.7.2. Where deemed necessary, to suspend, without prejudice, any or all the benefits and advantages of membership until such time as the Disciplinary Enquiry has been concluded.
  - 12.7.3. To deprive such member of any or all the rights, benefits and advantages of membership for such time or period as the Management Committee, in its absolute discretion, may deem fit, or to revoke the member's membership.
  - 12.7.4. To call upon such member in writing, through the Secretary, to resign within 7 (seven) days of the date of such request.
- 12.8. All proceedings and decisions taken are to be documented and retained on file. Any appeal against a disciplinary decision must be lodged, in writing, with the Management Committee, within three days of the decision.
- 12.9. The rights that are available to the member will be outlined in said Notification of a Disciplinary Enquiry.

### **13. Disciplinary code**

- 13.1. GMBC makes a distinction between acts involving serious misconduct and acts involving improper conduct. These acts carry different sanctions. The sanctions differentiate between membership being revoked, time-based suspension, and other disciplinary measures that may otherwise be deemed to be appropriate.
- 13.2. As a general rule a member may be entitled to engage in club activities, may enter competitions, and may exercise voting rights, etc. until such time as a Disciplinary Enquiry is completed.
- 13.3. The notice period for the Disciplinary Enquiry will depend on the charges (7 days would normally be a reasonable notice period).
- 13.4. Should a person refuse to sign the Notification of a Disciplinary Enquiry, it does not render the Notice invalid. A witness will then be requested to sign the Notice, stating that the member refused acceptance of the Notice.
- 13.5. Should the member elect not to appear at the Disciplinary Enquiry the Ombudsman is entitled to proceed with the process in the absence of the member as long as the Notification of a Disciplinary Enquiry has been issued.
- 13.6. Whether or not a sanction or punishment is fair will be determined by the facts of each case and the reasonableness of the specific sanction or punishment.
- 13.7. Membership fees already paid will not be refunded in the event of suspension or revocation of membership.
- 13.8. Acts Deemed as Serious Misconduct:
  - 13.8.1. Any act that is considered to bring the name of GMBC into disrepute;
  - 13.8.2. Gross insubordination or insolence towards the Management Committee;
  - 13.8.3. The possessing, consuming and/or distribution of any substance prohibited by law;
  - 13.8.4. Theft or fraud, including the forging of any person's signature;
  - 13.8.5. Any act deemed as dishonest in terms of the laws of the country;
  - 13.8.6. Assault, fighting, and any act of aggression;
  - 13.8.7. Immoral behavior or any form of harassment including sexual provocation;
  - 13.8.8. Acts of racism;
  - 13.8.9. Foul language;
  - 13.8.10. Possession or use of any weapons or dangerous items at any club venue or gathering;
  - 13.8.11. Vandalism or willful damage and destruction of members' or club property; and
  - 13.8.12. Excessive complaints, repeatedly disrupting operations, or causing a divisive and/or an existential threat to GMBC.