**ONSLOW COLLEGE ROWING CLUB: ROWERS’ REPRESENTATIVE**

**ROLE DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTIONS**

The Onslow College Rowing Club recognises the importance of our rowers as central to the ethos and wellbeing of our club. Communicating with our rowers and involving them in decisions about the rowing programme is a key feature of our club, and we are committed to ensuring that rowers can participate in decisions that affect them in the most meaningful way possible.

The OCRC Rules provide for rowers to elect a representative from amongst their number who is entitled to raise issues of concern with the Committee, and who is available to the Committee to contribute to the Committee’s deliberations where appropriate.

The purpose of this document is to clarify the role and functions of the Rowers’ Representative; and to set out guidelines for facilitating their input into Committee decisions.

**The role of the Rowers’ Representative**

The role of the Rowers’ Representative is to:

* Ensure that the views and perspectives of rowers are represented to the Committee when decisions are made that affect rowers.
* Ensure that rowers understand the reasons for decisions that the Committee makes that are of interest to them
* Promote the objectives of the Club, and in particular:
  + To promote the sport of rowing and to show leadership skills, self-discipline, camaraderie & sportsmanship, teamwork and physical fitness as an important role model to all student members of the Club; and
  + To encourage all rowers to strive and achieve their personal best at the highest level.

**The responsibilities of the Rowers’ Representative**

The Rowers’ Representative will need to take care to ensure that they do not simply reflect their own personal views, or the views of their own squad.

In carrying out their role, it is the responsibility of the Rowers’ Representative to:

* Maintain regular contact with the Committee
* Keep informed about issues that are relevant to rowers during their current season
* Maintain regular contact with all squads to ensure that they are fully informed of the different perspectives of rowers across the wider Club

**Establishing a mentor to support the Rowers’ Representative**

To support the Rowers’ Representative in carrying out their role and responsibilities, the Committee recognises that that person will need a mentor from within the Committee to work with the Rowers’ Representative and enable them to meet their responsibilities and participate in Committee decision-making effectively and appropriately.

After each AGM, the College Representative will meet with the Rower’s Representative to discuss their role and agree the support that will be provided by the Committee to facilitate that role. The Rowers’ Representative will be invited to nominate a mentor from within the newly elected Committee to work with during the season.

**The responsibilities of the Committee Mentor**

The chosen mentor will be responsible for ensuring that the Rowers’ Representative is supported and enabled to meet their obligations, and in particular will be required to check-in with the Rowers’ Representative frequently during the season (especially both before and after Committee meetings) to ensure that they are well connected to the wider rower group, and that they are finding the Committee approachable.

At the President’s discretion, the Rowers’ Representative is entitled to attend and speak at any meeting of the Committee. The Committee mentor will be responsible for working with the Rowers’ Representative and the Committee to ensure that the Rowers’ Representative is empowered to attend and speak at Committee meetings as appropriate.

**Agreed by the OCRC Executive Committee August 2016**