

# MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT



The Royal Dublin Society would like all Members to have the best experience in the RDS Members' Club. For this reason, all Members of the Society shall be bound by this Code of Conduct.

For the sake of brevity, when the term “the Members' Club” is used in this document, it refers to the Members' Club on Merrion Road, the Members' Terrace also located on Merrion Road and the Members' Bar at the RDS Main Arena, the RDS Library and any other location in the RDS where an event has been organised for Members.

## **Members have a right to:**

- Run for election to committees which form part of the Society
- Privacy and confidentiality concerning personal data unless consent is otherwise provided. The RDS Privacy Policy is available on <https://www.rds.ie/about-rds/governance/privacy>
- Provide the Society with suggestions and feedback using the Feedback Form on the Members' Area of the RDS web site or in writing to the Membership Committee c/o the Membership Development Manager.
- Be informed of the RDS Foundation Programme and of events organised for Members through the Minerva Magazine, the eNews for Members and the Members' Area on the RDS website.

## **Members must:**

- Treat other Members, their guests, staff of the RDS and staff of reciprocal clubs with courtesy and respect.
- Not physically or verbally abuse or harass other Members or their guests or the Staff or members of the public on the RDS premises or grounds.
- Report any inappropriate behaviour of a Member to RDS staff
- Be responsible for the behaviour of their guests
- Pay any fees in relation to an event (e.g. tickets) which that Member has committed to, regardless of whether the Member attends the event or not. If RDS staff are given adequate notice of a cancellation, they will endeavour to issue a full refund.
- Notify the RDS Membership Department of any changes to postal or email address.
- Not use their Membership privileges to purchase tickets to any event or other offering, at a Membership price, for non-members (except for non-members entitled to such prices as nominated from time to time)

## **ACCESS TO THE CLUB**

- Access is limited to current Members and their guests. Lapsed Members do not have access to the Members' Club.
- During the Dublin Horse Show a Member may bring a maximum of three guests into the Members' Club inc. the Members' Bar at Main Arena on any given day. The only exception is on the Friday of the Dublin Horse Show when the Aga Khan Cup is held. On that day, a Member is entitled to bring a maximum of one guest into the Members' Club or Members' Bar at the Main Arena.
- At other times there is no limit on the number of guests a Member may bring to the Members' Club unless specified for a particular event.
- Membership is not transferrable.
- Members may not book a place at an event organised for Members and send a non-member in their place.
- Spouses are welcome to attend the Members' Club with a Member. Unless a spouse is a Member, he/she may not attend the Members' Club in his/her spouse's place.
- Children under 16 years are not permitted in the Members' Club. They are welcome to attend at specific times. These are; the Members' Christmas Eve Lunch, Science Blast, and the RDS Family Day, which is the Sunday of the Dublin Horse Show. Children with tickets to attend a match are also welcome to attend our pre-match rugby hospitality before Leinster and international home games.

- With the exception of guide dogs, Members and their guests are not permitted to bring animals into the Members' Area
- Members will not bring bicycles, scooters or electronic scooters into the Members' Club. Bicycle racks are located outside the Members' Club on the Merrion Road.

### **MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

- Membership cards are issued to all Members when they join the Society. These should be used to gain access to the Members' Club and to gain complimentary access to the Dublin Horse Show.
- Food & Beverage Credit may not be accessed unless the Member presents a current RDS Membership card.
- Lost or stolen cards can be replaced by contacting the RDS Membership Desk at [members@rds.ie](mailto:members@rds.ie) or 01-2407296. A small fee will be incurred.
- Membership cards are not transferrable. Members should not give their card to a non-member to access the Members' Club or RDS grounds. Any Membership card presented to RDS staff by a non-member shall be confiscated.

### **ATTIRE**

- A smart casual dress code applies in the Members' Club. For example, Members and their guests are asked not to wear flip flops or shorts.
- For gentlemen a jacket and tie, while optional, would be encouraged for evening dining in the Members' Club.
- Members visiting reciprocal clubs are asked to check and to adhere to the dress code of the particular club.

### **SMOKING**

- Smoking and/or the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is not permitted in the Members' Club.

### **POLICY OF QUIET CONVERSATION**

- Members and their guests must place phones on silent in the Members' Club.
- Members and their guests must answer phone calls only on the Members' corridor, the Members' Foyer and meeting rooms. Phone calls may not be conducted in the Library, the Dining Room, the Samuel Madden Room or the Thomas Prior Room.
- The use of laptops and tablets is limited to the RDS Library, the meeting rooms and the Samuel Madden room.

### **MEETING ROOMS & STUDY DESKS**

- Non-members may not book Members' meeting rooms during Members' Club opening hours.
- Members must not book the meeting rooms in the Members' Club and allow non-members to use the meeting rooms in their place. Non-members must be accompanied by a Member during club opening hours.
- Members wishing to book a meeting room, should request a meeting room through the online booking system. RDS Membership staff will confirm the booking with the Member by email.
- Members wishing to use the study desks in the RDS Library should book directly with Library staff.
- Non-members and lapsed Members may not book the study desks or meeting rooms.

### **PARKING**

- With the exception of Dublin Horse Show week, Members may park in the Members' Car Park while the Members' Club is open. Parking outside of these hours will incur a fee.
- To avail of complimentary parking Members must display a current parking disc issued by the RDS or present a current Membership card to the parking attendant.
- Members without a current disabled driver's permit displayed on their vehicle, must not park in spaces designated for disabled drivers
- Only electric vehicles may be parked in spaces designated for electric vehicle charging

## CONVICTIONS, PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT & ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

- Any Member of the Society found to be guilty of a criminal offence in Ireland or overseas (other than minor offenses as determined by the Council) may be removed from the Membership of the Society by resolution passed by not less than three fifths of those present and voting at a Council meeting, providing the following procedures have been observed:
  - **a.** At least 21 days' notice of the intention to propose the resolution must be given to the Member concerned, specifying the grounds for the proposed expulsion;
  - **b.** The Member concerned will be entitled to be heard on the resolution at the Council meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed.
  - **c.** In the event that the Member wishes to be accompanied he/she must notify the Registrar in writing seven days in advance with the name of the person accompanying him/her.
- If a Member is found guilty of Professional Misconduct by any competent or authorised Body or Tribunal having jurisdiction to make such a determination, the Society may refer the matter to the Membership Committee to consider whether to recommend to Council that his/her membership should be suspended or revoked.
- If a Member is using the Members' Club to conduct fraudulent activities such a Ponzi scheme or pyramid selling, the Society will have the right to refer the matter to the Membership Committee to consider whether it should recommend to Council that his/her Membership should be Revoked.
- If a Member is being investigated by competent State Authorities for illegal activity the Membership Committee shall have the right to consider the matter to recommend to Council that his/her Membership be suspended or revoked pending the conclusion of the investigation.

## BREACHES OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Any Member not behaving in accordance with the terms of the Code of Conduct at a particular event organised by the Society may be asked by an authorised member of staff or member of Council or of any Committee of the Society to leave the event and will not be entitled to a refund of any monies paid.
- A Complaint or accusation of inappropriate behaviour by a Member shall be investigated by the Membership Committee and appropriate action may be taken by the Membership Committee where it finds the Complaint or Accusation established or proven and such appropriate action may include issuing a reprimand or recommending to Council that the Membership of the offending Member be suspended or revoked.

## RIGHT TO APPEAL

- There is a right to appeal
- The grounds for appeal are the following:
  - a.** Information has come to light since action was taken by the Society
  - b.** The appellant feels that the Society is not acting in line with its policies
- Any decision of the Membership Committee to recommend a sanction against a Member may be appealed to the Council whose decision on such appeal shall be final.

