



General Information 2026

Rowing Club 'De Delftsche Sport' (DDS)



INTRODUCTION

The Rowing Club De Delftsche Sport (DDS) is an enthusiastic rowing club with about 475 members and a fleet of over 70 boats. Our clubhouse is the beautiful St. Huybrechtstoren building on the Rijn-Schie canal in the centre of Delft, and we can row both ways on the canal, either towards Rotterdam or towards Leidschendam. The club was founded in 1885, and last year (2025) we celebrated our 140th anniversary. Our members are aged from 11 to over 80, and range from recreational weekend rowers to members who compete at national and international level.

Feel welcome to come along on a Saturday or Sunday morning and see what rowing is all about! You may see several rowers each in a small skiff, quietly rowing alone, and others rowing in pairs. Or teams of four rowers getting into 'quad' boats together, or even an 'eight', with a cox steering and a coach cycling alongside. Some row in sturdy boats to make a tour around the canals of Westland, others in competition boats aiming for maximum speed. There are separate groups for junior rowers and adults. We have mixed rowing (men and women in the same boat)...the possibilities are almost endless. And we also row during the week; in the daytime for those with a free day, or in the evening during the summer. It is possible to row all the year round.

As a beginning member, you can follow the 'Basic Rowing' lessons which runs each year in Spring, and then follow further lessons in sculling or team rowing. If you have rowed before, we can help you find a suitable group to join. The boats in the clubhouse are all owned by the club, and can be used by any member after passing the appropriate club test.

Rowing is a team activity and DDS is a really friendly club where everyone helps each other, by giving instruction to beginners, coaching teams, and even just with getting boats in and out of the water. We also maintain our boats and the boathouse itself. Organised events include time trials, rowing tours, and trips to regattas at other clubs. After rowing, we catch up and chat over a coffee or tea in the clubhouse overlooking the water, where also other social events also take place such as cooking evenings, theory lectures, or a Xmas dinner.

HOW TO JOIN

Youth/Junior: If you are under 19, please contact the committee member for youth and junior at com_jeugd_junior@rvdds.nl. Those under 19 can start at various times of the year. They are taught in stable practice skiffs by DDS youth instructors.

Senior: If you are over 19, please contact the committee member for instruction: com_instructie@rvdds.nl

If you are new to rowing: Every year in April the 'Basic Rowing' course for beginners starts. The course consists of about 30 lessons, in which new members are taught the first principles of rowing. Sculling technique (rowing with two oars) is taught, in boats for four rowers and skiffs for one rower. Besides the technique of rowing itself, attention is paid to rowing commands, communication and steering the boat. Note that at DDS commands are given in Dutch, but they are quick to learn and in practice this has never been a hurdle for non native Dutch speakers. The course is run in two groups, each twice a week; one group on Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon (the 'DiZa' Group) and one Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon (the 'DoZo' Group). Instruction is given by experienced DDS members.

If you have rowing experience: The committee member for instruction will make an appointment for an interview and/or a rowing test. Depending on your proficiency, a temporary dispensation will be granted to use certain boats, so that you can train for a club test, which should be passed within two months.

TESTING (ROWING-/STEERING EXAMS):

Members have permission to use certain boats based on their skill. Some boats are forgiving and suitable for beginners, others are more demanding and only for very capable rowers. The association has a fixed testing system, which assesses the skill level of the rower against the difficulty of the boat. In short: the more tests a person has passed, the more boats they can use.

After completing the test at the end of the 'Basic Rowing' course (the so called 'Basisproef'), you can go rowing independently without an instructor on the bank. You can either row in a team, or alone in a skiff. Or you can start sweep rowing (with one oar). As your proficiency improves, you can take further tests. On payment of a deposit (€ 40,-) you can also request a key to the clubhouse.

SAFETY

You are only allowed to row with DDS if you can swim, and you do not have any physical restriction which presents a risk for rowing or swimming. However, not all restrictions make rowing impossible or unsafe, if in doubt please get in touch to discuss your own situation. It is strongly recommended to wear fluorescent orange clothing on the upper body, to be visible to other traffic on the river, which includes commercial shipping. And knowledge of the rules of the river are part of the club tests.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLUB

Members of DDS are expected to actively participate in the activities of the club. Volunteers are always needed for instruction, coaching, serving at the bar, editing the monthly club magazine (Slaggaard), material- and clubhouse maintenance, and staffing of the various committees.

FINANCE

Anyone who joins the club in January or February pays a full year's fees and other contributions. If you join later in the year you pay 1/10 of the full year's fee for each month left in the year.

Entrance fee: New members pay a one-time fee of € 25,00 for registration.

Contribution:

- The basic fee payable for the association year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) is € 290,00 as of 2026.
- Junior and youth members receive a discount as shown in the table below.
- In addition to the annual DDS contribution, each member has to pay an annual contribution to the Royal Dutch Rowing Association KNRB.
- For participation in regional events and tours, a contribution is required, depending on transportation and registration costs.
- Note that there is no further charge each time you use a boat or follow a course at DDS.
- Members who can pay by direct debit from a Dutch bank account receive a reduction of € 5 on the annual contribution.

Contribution fees 2026					
<i>Member</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>DDS Contribution</i>	<i>KNRB & NOC*NSRF</i>	<i>Total of fees</i>	<i>Total by direct debit</i>
<i>Senior</i>		€ 290,-	€ 47,96	€ 337,96	€ 332,96
<i>Junior</i>	<i>Under 23</i>	€ 232,-	€ 47,96	€ 279,96	€ 274,96
<i>Junior</i>	<i>Under 18</i>	€ 232,-	€ 26,93	€ 158,93	€ 153,93
<i>Youth</i>	<i>Under 15</i>	€ 174	€ 26,93	€ 200,93	€ 195,93

Liability: Note that we are not insured against damage to equipment. Rowing boats and oars are fragile, and we expect you to take all reasonable care of them. Normal wear and tear is accepted, but if you cause willful or negligent damage, we may hold you liable for the cost. The Board can provide guidance in such cases.

CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Cancellation of membership has to be done by post or by e-mail to the secretary of the Board

- At the end of a calendar year, with **written notice to be received 4 weeks before year end;**
or
- Within eight weeks after starting rowing, in which case the cost will be 1/6 of full year's contribution fee (=8 weeks) plus the registration fee.

BOARD / COMMITTEES

Board: The Board has eight positions: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, plus five board members for Boats, Buildings, Instruction, Competitions, and Youth / juniors.

Committees: DDS is run entirely by volunteers, who work in various subcommittees. There are the: boats-, building-, instruction-, competition-, youth/junior-, examination-, touring-, Slaggaard-, bar-, events-, anniversary-, finance-, clothing-, complaints and appeals-, safety- and internet-committees.

We want everyone to feel safe and happy at DDS, and we have three 'confidential advisors' who you can contact in complete confidence if you have any personal concerns.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions, please contact the Board via info@rvdds.nl

Our address is: Oostplantsoen 140 2611 WN Delft ; and our website is <https://rvdds.nl>