



HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY (updated April 2024)

1. Introduction

Safety is of fundamental importance to the Club. We aim to take a systematic approach to safety management reviewing safety across all our activities on a regular basis. We seek to reduce risks by identifying hazards, putting in control and mitigation measures before events that affect safety occur. We document our safety procedures, make people aware of hazards, record incidents and seek to learn from experience. Whilst we cannot reduce all risk, we will strive to identify and deal with safety to reduce risks to the lowest possible level.

2. Health and Safety Obligations.

The Club has the following health and safety obligations:

a) Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 it has a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, and safety of all their employees and those who might be affected by their activities. Whilst the club does have any employees, it does employ sub-contractors for example, to clean the club house or run water sports courses. Employees include volunteers doing work for the club.

b) Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 employers have a duty to assess and manage risk by

- Carrying out risk assessments.
- Take action to reduce or eliminate risks.
- Appoint a 'competent person' to oversee health and safety.
- Provide information and training with regards to safety
- Have a health and safety policy in place.

c) Under civil law, the Club has a general duty of care to individuals. This is deemed to apply to members, people taking part in our water sports training, anyone going to clubhouse events, members' guest, visitors, anyone walking along the beach when boats are being launched and anybody who might be affected by or within the scope of the club's activities.

d) As we offer water sports to schools and youth groups, the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations apply to a club. As a RYA Approved Training Centre and Affiliated Club, we need to meet their requirements.

Whilst the Club has a responsibility to reduce risks and provide advice, individuals also have a responsibility for their own safety and safety of others.

3.Areas where the Sailing Club is responsible for Health and Safety.

- a) Boat Park
- b) Beach by Dinghy Park when boats are being launched
- c) Club water sports and training on the estuary at Arnside
- d) Club house
- e) Club nights and water sports training at Killington
- f) Club activities taking place elsewhere

4.Responsibilities for Health and Safety

a) Overall Responsibility

The Club's main trustee committee has overall responsibility for health and safety.

b) Individual Areas of Activity

For sessions which involve an instructor, the Senior Instructor on the day will be responsible for the safety. For other sessions it will be a senior club member, officer of the day or safety boat crew.

5. Reducing risks

a) Risk Assessments

We will reduce risks by carrying out risk assessments of all our activities. We will review our risk assessments on a yearly basis.

b) Control and Mitigating Measures

Based on the risk assessments we will implement controls and measures to mitigate risks. We have operating procedures for water sports at Arnside and Killington.

c) Incident Reports

We will record all accidents, incidents or near misses and identify their causes to be able to prevent similar occurrences.

d) Following national best practise

We will seek to keep up to date with national best practise, for example guidance from the RYA and HSE and conclusions from incidents elsewhere.

e) Making people aware of hazards

We will make people aware of hazards and provide advice on safety.

f) Training

We will provide training on safety issues.

g) Equipment Inspection

Equipment such as club crafts, buoyancy aids, electrical wiring and fire safety equipment will be inspected on a regular basis according to the law and recommendations from national organisations.

i) First Aid

First aid kits will be kept in the Clubhouse, Boat Park and Safety Boats. The Club will arrange First Aid Courses for club volunteers on a regular basis. All instructors have first aid qualifications.

j) Safety Boat Cover

The Club will offer a programme of sailing at Arnside and Killington with safety boat cover for adults, beginners and children. At other times competent members are free to take part in water sports at their own risk.

k) Weather Conditions

The Club will monitor weather forecasts, cancelling sessions if necessary. It will keep members aware of likely weather conditions so that they can make an informed decision on whether to sail or not based on their sailing ability.

6. Conclusion

The Club aims to reduce risk by identifying hazards, taking action to reduce risk, learning from experience, following best practice, providing training and making people aware of risks.