



# HALIFAX SAILING CLUB

## RETURN TO SAILING – MEMBER INSTRUCTIONS

You are expected to read this document in advance of coming sailing.

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## 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

We are keen to get back to sailing. In doing so we are aware that the instruction below may seem overly prescriptive, and we hope to be able to relax this over time as we return to more 'normal' conditions. We will always be mindful and adhere to Government and RYA advice and guidance and Yorkshire Water stipulations.

Before travelling you should take account of the latest government guidance on Covid-19 and social distancing. General government advice and guidance is available [here](#).

The Club has implemented the following changes until further notice:

- The Club will only operate formal sailing sessions on Saturday (young people sailing) and Sunday afternoons. We will try to ensure that a Safety Boat is always available during the formal sessions. Sailing under the 'buddy system' is permitted at other times.
- The need for 'Social Distancing' will mean that the Safety Boat is manned by one person only in most cases.
- The period for 'buddy sailing' has been extended until October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- All dinghies should be fitted with an appropriate masthead float to aid recovery.

It is particularly important that anyone using the water is competent and physically able to sail, recover yourself from a capsize or gear failure. It is your responsibility to assess the conditions, sail within your limitations and reduce the risk of needing to call for assistance. Do not visit the Club if you are in any doubt. Whilst we will make every effort to ensure risks are minimised, members must accept that if they visit the Club they do so at their own risk.

## 2. REDUCING THE RISK OF VIRUS TRANSMISSION

- If you are unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend the Club. Current guidelines state must self isolate and get an NHS test immediately.
- Anyone who has contact with a family or household member who is unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend the club for a minimum of 14 days.
- Please cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, and avoid touching your face, nose and eyes.
- All members should always maintain social distancing of 2 metres from each other.
- Everyone to be conservative and considerate in their actions around the club.
- Members to use or bring their own equipment.
- Members to ensure they have provided themselves adequate means of washing or sanitising their hands.
- Everyone to wash their hands after touching common surfaces– and always after coughing, sneezing and before and after arriving and leaving the club.
- Please keep your distance and avoid being face to face with people outside your household always respecting social distancing.
- Avoid surfaces and shared equipment (including seating) that are likely to be frequently touched and consider whether usage is appropriate.

### 3. WHO CAN COME TO THE CLUB ?

- We must avoid overcrowding the club grounds. Only come to the club if you are a member (including family members) – please do not bring any guests.
- If you need to do any boat maintenance, please try to do so outside of the published sailing times avoiding Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

### 4. BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- Bring hand sanitiser, gloves and any food / water you may need.
- We strongly recommend that members change into their sailing kit prior to travelling to the Club. Changing facilities in the clubhouse will be open but limited.

### 5. ON ARRIVING AT THE CLUB

- The club gate must be closed at all times. Please use gloves and/or hand sanitiser when handling the gate, padlock and chain.
- Park well away from the nearest car.
- Please be respectful and courteous to other members, maintaining correct social distancing at all times while rigging and moving about the club grounds.
- **Signing In.**
  - We need to maintain a record of all visitors to the Club for 'track and trace' purposes. The Shore Manager will be responsible for recording the names of all people attending formal sessions. Please make yourself known to the Shore Manager on arrival.
  - If you visit the Club outside normal sailing times, send an email to the following address - [tracking@halifaxsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:tracking@halifaxsailingclub.org.uk). Simply list the name anyone attending the Club and your contact number. The emails will not be monitored unless we need contact you in the event of someone at the Club contracting the virus.
- **The Clubhouse.**
  - The main room in the Clubhouse and the kitchen area are closed until further notice.
  - Changing rooms and toilets are open. Men should enter through the outside door in the men's changing rooms and women will use the main door.
  - Face coverings should be worn when using the changing rooms.
  - Only 4 people will be permitted to use the men's changing room at any time. After changing please clean the area and remove your clothes/possessions from the changing room.
  - Only 2 people will be permitted to use the ladies changing room at any time. After changing please clean the area and remove your clothes/possessions from the changing room.
  - Please take special care to wash your hands with the hand sanitiser available at the entry points.
- If a member wishes to use one of the Club boats, please contact Sue Lamb in advance to ensure availability. Members should not use Club boats without prior permission.

## **6. LAUNCHING**

- Do not crowd the slipway or jetty– ensure you are able to maintain adequate social distancing. Take time to let others launch and move off to keep the space clear.
- Try to limit use of the floating jetty. This should be reserved for safety boat use if possible.
- Double handed boats may only be sailed by members of the same household.
- Take extra care that you properly check your boat before leaving the shore ensuring there are no rigging issues.
- On launching, make sure your trolley is clear of the water and out of the way so that others do not have to handle it. It will help if single handed boats equip a long line to their trolley in case assistance is needed launching/recovering.

## **7. SAILING**

- The rescue cover is very limited and may consist of a single person only. They will be equipped with a mask and gloves but may only be able to provide limited assistance in an emergency.
- It is acceptable to 'buddy sail' with another boat. Informal racing is permitted but boats must maintain reasonable spacing on the water.
- Dinghies must be fitted with an appropriate mast head float to aid recovery.
- Wetsuits or Drysuits must be worn in all weathers.

## **8. AFTER SAILING**

- Continue to adhere to social distancing and other requirements as above.

# Guidelines for 'Buddy Sailing' at Halifax Sailing Club

## Before you go on the Water

- Before you start please remember you sail it is at your own risk.
- Decide who your buddy will be. Ideally 2 boats should sail together. If anyone who does not have a partner, 3 boats can sail together.
- Buddy sailing should only be done if the wind is under Force 4.
- Check and familiarise yourself with each other's boat.
- Decide where you are going to sail.
- Decide how long you are staying out on the water.
- Make sure you carry a whistle and a knife (if over 18years) in case you need help.
- Make sure you have a correct mast head float at the top of the mast.
- Make sure you are both capable of sailing competently within your limits.

## On the Water

- It is important to look after each other. Do not go off sailing separately.
- Stay with your Buddy. Do not go off sailing with another boat.
- Wear suitable clothing - wetsuit or dry suit and a buoyancy aid.
- Keep an eye on each other.
- Keep an eye on the wind. If it starts getting stronger and you think you can not handle it sail back to the shore immediately.

## What happens if something goes wrong

- If one of you capsizes and cannot right the boat, call / whistle for your buddy to come and assist you. Remember the aim is to rescue the person in the water, the boat can be recovered later. Note that with the correct mast head float the dinghy should not invert but may be more easily blown by the wind.
- Make sure you both carry a whistle with you in case you need help.
- If a storm is approaching you must make for the shore.
- If the storm hits you before you can get back to the Jetty make for the nearest shore and stay with your dinghy's.
- A Sailing knife for emergency's only could be carried, but only by those over 18 years old.
- Stay Alert.
- Common Sense must prevail at all times.