



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS APPLYING TO ALL CRAFT, WHETHER RACING OR NOT

Sailing from GWSC is controlled by the Club and is subject to the Club's Rules and Byelaws, the Byelaws of Anglian Water and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea <https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/e-newsletters/up-tospeed/Pages/understanding-colregs2.aspx>.

The decision to open or close the water for sailing is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The decision to start, cancel, postpone or abandon racing is the responsibility of the Race Officer in consultation with the Coxswain.

The decision on which safety flags (see below) should be hoisted on the fuel shed is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The helm of the craft is responsible for their personal safety and that of any others on the craft. It is the helm's decision to sail or not. In making their decision sailors must consider their fitness and that of their crews and craft for the expected weather conditions.

- a) Insurance: All craft shall be covered by third-party insurance for claims up to £2 million arising in any one accident. All craft owners shall sign a certificate stating that they have such insurance. New members shall sign this undertaking before they are allocated a berth. Craft whose owners have not lodged this document in the Office may not be launched.
- b) Personal Buoyancy: No-one is permitted on the water in any type of craft (dinghies, windsurfers, stand-up paddleboards, safety boats, or committee boats) without adequate personal buoyancy. Wet suits and dry suits are not deemed to be adequate buoyancy. Personal buoyancy to Specification BS EN ISO 12402 is advised. Craft carrying persons not wearing buoyancy considered adequate by safety personnel will be required to return to shore immediately.

For windsurfers only:

- Those who are proficient to at least RYA Intermediate Level, are able to wear a waist or seat harness without an additional Personal Flotation Device (PFD), where the waist or seat harness provides sufficient personal buoyancy. If the waist or seat harness does not provide sufficient personal buoyancy, then an additional PFD is required.
- All Windsurfers aged 17 or under, must wear a buoyancy aid regardless of the above.
- Those who are not proficient to RYA Intermediate Level must also wear a buoyancy aid.

Where class rules permit the use of weight jackets, these must have the provision for immediate removal, and be worn over all other clothing, trapeze harnesses, and buoyancy aids.









c) **Boat Buoyancy:** Buoyancy chambers or other buoyancy equipment and their fastenings must be maintained at all times in good and effective condition and must comply with any class rules that specify minimum buoyancy requirements. Owners shall sign a certificate to this effect annually. New members shall sign before they are allowed a berth. Boats whose owners have not lodged such a certificate in the Office may not be launched. The Club may ban from the water any boat which they believe does not comply with this rule, and the owner may be required to provide independent evidence that any imperfections have been rectified before the boat is again launched. These provisions do not apply to keelboat tenders without masts.

d) **Safety:** The attention of sailors is drawn to the safety recommendations posted around the Club.

- Craft may be launched subject to restrictions indicated by the flag(s) displayed on the pole by the fuel shed. These flags are depicted here and on the website at <https://www.grafham.org/sailing-racing/safety-on-the-water.html>

Club Safety Flags

Version 2.1i

Flag	Meaning	Commentary
	No launching	For those afloat: With a single long sound from shore, the lake is closing in 30 minutes and you must be onshore within this period With repeated sounds, come ashore immediately
	Closed with exception(s)	See the monitor or noticeboard in the Cafe about the exception(s)
	Sailing without restriction with reactive safety cover*	Water is not necessarily being watched A patrol boat is on the slip or on the water
	Sailing without restriction with safety cover†	A patrol boat is on the water with driver and crew available
	Windsurfers and experienced boat sailors only (wind at 13–27 kt)	Experienced means that you can right your boat and return to the Club's shore unaided
	Experienced windsurfers only (wind at 28 kt or higher)	Experienced means that you can water-start your rig and return to the Club's shore Water closed to dinghies, catamarans, and keelboats
	Open: wet or dry suit must be worn by sailors (except for those on cruisers)	1st November to 31st March, and when the water temperature is less than 5°C
	Open: blue–green algae present	Wear suitable protection and wash after sailing

Notes

Flags are displayed alone or with other flag(s) on the pole next to the Coxswain's slipway

A single, short sound signal from shore means the flag has been changed

You also need to look at the map that shows the fixed buoys and the no-sailing areas

For your safety, you are advised to stay within sight of the Coxswain's lookout and wear a brightly coloured or fluorescent hat

*Reactive safety cover

There is not necessarily anyone watching the water but someone is on site to assist if called

You are advised to borrow a VHF handheld from the Coxswain to radio for help

†Safety cover

The water is under observation by staff or volunteers

Particularly in extreme conditions, patrol-boat assistance might be limited to what is practicable

- Water users have a responsibility to be vigilant at all times, to assist others in difficulties when this does not endanger themselves or their crews, and to take any necessary action to avoid close contact and collisions with other craft. This is particularly important when sailing high-performance craft that sail at significantly faster speeds than most club boats. Failure to do so on repeated occasions may result in exclusion from club sailing.
- Members and visitors sailing must comply with requests and advice from the safety boat service—eg, when to abandon their craft and be taken aboard a safety boat.

- The first priority of a safety boat is to rescue and return to the club premises sailors judged to be in danger, whether injured, sick, exhausted, or cold. Craft will be retrieved and returned to the club when, and if, practicable.
- Boats shall keep clear of a safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty.

e) Permitted Sailing Times: All sailing shall cease 60 minutes before sunset or at such times defined by the Club. A list of permitted sailing times is displayed on the Club's website. The closing time is also displayed on the gate hut.

A long sound signal will be made from shore 30 minutes before closure of the water (and the red flag will be displayed) and a further long sound signal will be made to signify the final closure of the water. The Clubhouse and grounds will be locked 30 minutes after the water closes.

f) Sailing Area: Restrictions on sailing in certain areas are shown in a map available on the Club's website and from the Office.

g) Racing areas may be indicated on a map of the lake displayed near the signing-on sheets in the Cafe. Boats not racing shall keep clear of these area(s).

h) Sailing boats shall keep clear of boats actively engaged in fishing, avoiding an area extending 20 metres in any direction from them.

i) Stand Up Paddle-boarding is permissible in accordance with the following:

- Between 1 April and 30 September
- Within an area defined as follows: Western club boundary – marks W – M – K – E – Eastern Club Boundary
- Wind strength below 13 knots