

Protocol for the hire and use of Club dinghies. (updated 3rd May 2015)

To ensure the safety of club members, their families, guests and crew and the seaworthiness and protection of club property from damage, the following protocols will be applied to members using club owned dinghies for recreational sailing and racing.

Club boats should be treated with care and the same considerations as you would afford if the boat was yours. The boats are an expensive club asset and are used for organised RYA Sail Training courses and organised junior activities (Flyers). They are available for hire by full members when not required for training or organised junior activities. A small charge is levied for their private use of £5.00 per boat per hire period of 4 hours. (This charge is not applicable to student members) The hire fee is to be placed in an envelope and posted through the letter box to the office with the hirers name and date of hire and number or name of boat clearly marked. Members who have adopted a boat to ensure the maintenance is carried out are exempt this charge and no credit will be allowable for work party hours. A check sheet will be completed before use and when the boat is returned to shore.

The unsupervised use of club owned dinghies will only be permitted to full members of H(S)SC or those shown as family members over the age of 16 on the membership database, and who have demonstrated a level of competence and knowledge to the satisfaction of the Sailing Secretary or his nominee. They must be capable of launching and recovering the boat using only manual effort or with the club winch (following training) if necessary. Authorisation may be withdrawn if damage is regularly sustained to boats used by any one individual or there is doubt raised concerning an individual's competence to sail safely. All members using club boats must familiarise themselves with the Dingy Sailing Safety Guide and if racing the Notice of Race Dinghy and the Dinghy Sailing Instructions and submit a Dinghy Race Entry Form. These are available to view and print in the members section of the club web site under menu heading Racing.

Children between the age of 8 and 16 years of age are not permitted to use a club dinghy unless supervised on the water by an adult member who has attained 18 years. (This need not be in the same boat). Children under 18 years of age must have the written consent of a parent or guardian.

Any damage sustained to a Club boat or equipment must be reported to the Sailing Secretary at the earliest opportunity. The hire will be responsible for making good any damage caused at his own expense up to the level of the Clubs insurance excess. Unreported damage that affects the safety or seaworthiness of the vessel may result in exclusion from further use of club boats.

Boats may not be booked more than 14 days in advance except for sail training.

Members who have adopted a boat for maintenance purposes have prioritised but not exclusive use. If two members wish to use the same boat on the same day and no other similar boat is available the person who used it last should give way to the other. No one should expect the boat to be available for their exclusive use.

Use of club boats will be restricted to the area specified for club dinghy racing. The permission of the Sailing Secretary must be obtained for use outside this area.

A personal floatation device must be worn at all times and VHF radio carried. No safety boat cover is provided for recreational sailing.

After use boats must be cleaned, returned to their pound space, covered and tied down.

The club will not upgrade boat equipment for race use, members may only alter or modify boats subject to the permission of the sailing Secretary.