

What's the significance of participation levels?

Weir Wood Sailing Club has been a Community Amateur Sports Club, or CASC, for some years. The main benefits of being a CASC are that we get 80% mandatory rates relief and we can claim gift aid on donations. Together, these are worth around £5,000 a year to the club and are benefits we want to retain.

The government tightened the CASC Regulations with effect from April 2015. The club is affected by several of the changes, but individual members are affected by one in particular – participation levels. The 2015 CASC Regulations require at least 50% of the club's members to participate on at least 12 occasions throughout the year, and the club is required to keep records.

When you renew your membership in the coming weeks, everyone included in your membership will be asked to complete a new annual declaration – “I expect to participate on at least 12 occasions during the year” – and we ask that you select “yes” or “no” to the best of your knowledge. We will be writing to all family members and parents of cadets separately in more detail.

Participation includes:

- Sailing, whether racing or cruising, including representing WWSC or sailing elsewhere when WWSC has been involved in promoting that participation
- Undertaking a duty
- Teaching or coaching club members
- Undertaking a training course at Weir Wood or which benefits WWSC such as instructor training
- Preparing or maintaining club facilities or equipment – this would include joining a working party, rigging your child's boat, maintaining or repairing boats, maintaining your boat parking space
- Being an officer or committee member of the club
- Taking part in meetings, eg the AGM, or any other activity organised by the club such as social activities

If more than one of these activities were carried out on a particular day, they would each count as participation – for example, if you join a working party in the morning and sail in the afternoon, that would count as two participations.

This is not an exhaustive list, but should provide sufficient examples for you to assess your level of participation. If you are in any doubt about whether something you do counts as participation, or you have any other questions, please email membership@wwsc.org.uk