

GUIDANCE WHEN OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE PRESENT AT WEEKENDS, BANK HOLIDAYS AND ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

This guidance is issued on 6th July 2023 and is in force until advised in writing otherwise

It is hoped in future that other water activities can be managed alongside WWSC activities, including at weekends. The responsibility for such activities rests solely with our landlord, WWE, which is owned and managed by Mr Alan Catterall. However, for recreational activities on the water, other than those conducted by WWSC, to take place between 10.00 and 16.00 at weekends and Bank Holidays (and between 18.00 and 22.00 on Wednesday evenings) the prior agreement of the Club is needed. Unfortunately, WWE refuses to discuss such matters with WWSC or even seek such agreement, so none has or can be given until WWE chooses to seek cooperation over hostility.

Such being the case, at present no non-WWSC water-based activities can be properly authorised at the restricted times mentioned above, even though it appears that WWE may have purported to grant such permission to various licensees. This leaves WWSC in the position of having to defend its rights until WWE changes its stance and seeks to cooperate and manage water usage at such times.

Recognising the above, it is essential that no Club Members or Officers act in an aggressive, intimidating, rude or obstructive manner to any person on site, under any circumstances.

But no Member or Officer of WWSC has authority to give or imply permission sought on the day for recreational activities by third parties without the prior agreement of the Club Secretary or Treasurer.

If the situation with WWE changes and permission for another water-based recreational activity has been granted, a note will be issued accordingly.

To manage the current situation, the following guidance is given:

1. TRAINING

If recreational activities by WWE or other persons on the water or land interfere with a Training session, causing the Instructor to have concerns re safety or safeguarding, the offending party should be politely advised that they have no rights to be present and asked to leave.

If the offending party refuses to leave and the concerns continue, the Training session must cease. It will be vital to maintain a detailed record of the incident: time, persons involved, nature of concerns, photos if possible, etc., which should be forwarded to the Club Secretary by email as soon as possible afterwards.

2. RACING

If other recreational activities are present, the setting of the preferred course for the race should not be altered. The safety boat should be sent to politely advise the unauthorised recreational activity that they have no rights to be present, are affecting the Club's racing, creating a hazard, and should leave.

Race participants should be advised that, if recreational activities are present, racing boats are required to act safely and without conflict or intimidation at all times when in the proximity of such parties, even if this means changing course.

The Race Officer should make a detailed record of the presence of the recreational activities: vessels, persons present, numbers, time, impact on race, photographs if possible, etc, which should be forwarded to the Club Secretary by email as soon as possible afterwards.

3. OOD

The OOD should be polite to all persons engaged in recreational activities, but otherwise must not engage with them. It is important that WWSC does not impliedly accept responsibility or liability for such activities. Such would not be covered by our insurance.

The OOD must not grant or imply permission for any activity to be present or under normal circumstances indicate where they can use the water. If asked if they can use the water, the response should be that recreational activities are not permitted without WWE having obtained the prior approval of WWSC, and WWE has made no such approach. The person is to be advised to consult with WWE before coming to the reservoir.

Only in the event of a significant safety or safeguarding concern or incident should they give any instruction to persons involved in recreational activities. In an emergency, safety assistance may be rendered, but otherwise WWSC is not to engage in any way with such activities that might improperly occur.

The presence of the party and any communications with them should be reported to the Club Secretary, preferably by email, as soon as possible afterwards.

4. ALL

The presence of any unauthorised recreational activities during the days and times above, even when causing no interference with WWSC activities, should be reported to the Club Secretary by email as soon as possible afterwards, with full details and photographs if available.

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