

Galway Sailsports Club - Code of Conduct July 2011

From the constitution:

14. Insurance and Safety

- Members of the Club, their guests and visitors, use the Club facilities entirely at their own risk, and the Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to members, their guests or visitors to the Club.
- The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the Club facilities, or out of the participation in any event organized by the Club, whether sustained by members, guests or visitors, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committee or servants of the Club.
- It shall be the responsibility of all boat owners or skipper to ensure that any boat in their charge shall be seaworthy in accordance with class rules and/or Club bye-laws and shall obey any local harbour bye-laws.
- Sailors and persons afloat in RIBs or other boats shall wear personal flotation devices at all times.
- Windsurfers and kitesurfers shall wear personal flotation devices according to the rules of the Irish Windsurfing Association or the Irish Kitesurfing Association as appropriate.
- All persons taking part in any Club event shall obey the instructions of the Officer of the Day and his/her assistants at all times.
- It shall be the responsibility of each boat owner or skipper to ensure that his/her boat has adequate third party risk insurance, and to be able to provide proof of such insurance if asked. The executive committee shall set in place the necessary insurances for the Club as a whole.

Other notes:

- Members should look out for the safety and wellbeing of other members ; always go to the assistance of any one in trouble.
- Members should respect others equipment and the club equipment returning it in the condition in which they found it or better.
- Report any breakages or faulty equipment to the relevant officer.

Conduct on the water

- Always wear suitable clothing for the conditions - it is always colder at sea, and wetsuits in summer and drysuits in winter are recommended. The onset of hyperthermia can be very rapid if you are not adequately clad. Parents/guardians must ensure their children have the right equipment. **The duty officer can warn you not to go sailing if he/she considers you are not suitably equipped.**
- Don't take out a boat that you are not capable of righting in the case of a capsize - dinghies do capsize, be prepared. Practice capsizing but tell the safety boat and the duty officer that you intend to do this beforehand.
- Check that all rigging is sound, and sheets/ropes are not frayed and are rigged properly.
- Be sure you know how the centreboard/daggerboard is operated and check it is easily operated. The same for the rudder.
- If you are unsure of your ability to control the boat with full sail up, reef the sail if possible, if not don't sail.
- Know where the hazards are : the rocks on either side of the beach ; the shipping channel - keep clear and never cross it when a ship is entering or leaving the docks - they go much faster than you think; the submerged causeway to Hare Island - stay to the west of this.
- Know what the wind direction is: where will you be blown if you lose control? don't sail too close to a lee shore.
- Know what the tide is doing - don't leave trolleys or equipment below the high tide line.
- Don't go afloat until the safety boat is on station.
- For club sailing: stay within the designated sailing area - ie. north of line Hare Island to Mutton Island - east of channel - west of Hare Island causeway.
- Keep clear of other boats and know the basic rules of sailing.
- **Don't go afloat if it is too windy!! The duty officer can cancel club sailing if conditions are not suitable.**