

HERTFORDSHIRE SCOUTS – SAILING SECTION



Saturday 28th May – Saturday 4th June 2022

Model Sailing Risk Assessment

The Sailing over the Spring Bank Holiday period 2022 will take place under the general guidance of The Scout Association requirements for Water Activities as laid down in the Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules. The leaders are appropriately qualified for the waters on which the activity takes place.

The Sailing and Rescue craft are predominately owned by Hertfordshire Scouts, local Districts and Groups and some personally. They are certified and insured.

Leaders hold First Aid Qualifications and First Aid kits are carried on each support boat.

Support Boat Drivers all hold at least RYA Powerboat Level 2 or RYA Safety Boat Certificate.

Parents have signed a form giving their permission for their children to undertake the activity.

Mainly the Scouts have little or no experience of Sailing when starting at Stage 2, through to some experienced sailors who are undertaking Advanced courses including a Dinghy Instructor course.

Leaders accompany the activity in a number of ways:

- 1) On the water instruction from Powered Support Boats – Where Scouts or Explorers have some but limited ability to sail they will be supported in sailing single-handed dinghies or based in a double handed dinghy with an instructor.
- 2) On the water instruction from a similar Sailing Dinghy – Where Scouts or Explorers have some ability to sail they will be accompanied in a similar Sailing Dinghy with the Instructor sailing it. E.g. an Instructor could therefore supervise 5 Topper dinghies from a 6th Topper dinghy.
- 3) From the shore – Where all the sailors are competent they may be allowed to sail within a defined area and supervised from the shore. The powered support craft would be available if any situation arose that required any closer supervision.

All leaders are in contact with each other by VHF radio.

The Support boats are briefed to spread out so that they can see all sailing dinghies within their supervision and be within easy reach of them should they need to assist any of them for any reason. Support boats will be allocated to groups and specific sailing areas.

Leaders will also have their mobile phones switched on where they possess one.

All leaders will have a list of names of those taking part in the activity for the group they are supervising.

Risk Assessment for Sailing - 2022

Location: On the water activities

HAZARD	Who is at Risk	Possible Result	Assessment	Mitigation
Capsize and falling out of the boat into the water.	Sailing Leaders [X]	Possible bruising, breaks, sprains, unconsciousness, hypothermia and drowning.	High []	Correct Instructor/Participant ratios. Sufficient rescue cover. All rescue boat drivers to be trained to RYA standards. Sessions planned and Instructors and participants briefed on expectations.
	Other Leaders [X]		Low []	
	Scouts [X]		Medium [X]	
	Other (public) []			
Entrapment by harness or other gear		Drowning/near drowning	High []	All Instructors and students to wear approved buoyancy aids and correct clothing for the conditions. All instructors and rescue boat drivers to be practised in current RYA procedures for dealing with entrapment.
			Medium []	
			Low [X]	
Driver being separated from Power boat	Sailing Leaders [X]	Being hit by unattended power boat	High []	All Drivers of Powerboats to wear Kill Cords in a proper manner
	Other Leaders [X]		Low []	
	Scouts [X]		Medium [X]	
	Other (public) []			
HAZARD	Who is at Risk	Possible Result	Assessment	Mitigation
Other water craft on the water.	Sailing Leader [X]	Accidents leading to any of the above.	High []	Keep a look out for other craft. Good crew communication. Instructor in charge to be aware of other water users and to adapt
	Other Leaders [X]		Low [X]	

	Scouts [X] Other (public) [X]		Medium []	sailing areas/activities to suit conditions.
Effects of the weather.	Sailing Leaders [X]	Hypothermia, sun burn, sun stroke.	High []	Ensure that instructors are aware of the weather forecast and ensure that safety comes first.
	Other Leaders [X]		Low []	Ensure that participants are aware of the dangers of the elements. (Part of briefing).
	Scouts [X]	Accidents caused by extreme weather, leading to capsize, injury, or death.	Medium [X]	Ensure that the people participating are wearing proper clothing for the conditions.
	Other (public) []			Come off the water if weather becomes too dangerous to operate.
Sea Conditions.	Sailing Leaders [X]	Tipped into water, bruises, hypothermia and death in extreme cases.	High []	Ensure that instructors are aware of the weather forecast and ensure that safety comes first.
	Other Leaders [X]		Low [X]	All persons wear personal buoyancy.
	Scouts [X]		Medium []	Come off the water if conditions become too dangerous to operate.
	Other (public) []			
Engine break down.	Sailing Leaders [X]	Dangers from wave state, lee shores, other craft.	High []	Have VHF radio with instructor to call for assistance if cannot be fixed by instructor. Pre-course checks to be undertaken to ensure engines and equipment all in good order before leaving shore. Support Boats from other Groups provide interim cover, Bosun informed.
	Other Leaders [X]		Medium []	
	Scouts [X]	Sailing dinghies left with reduced or no rescue cover	Low [X]	Ensure that boats are serviced regularly.
	Other (public) [X]			
HAZARD	Who is at Risk	Possible Result	Assessment	Mitigation
Trapping fingers or other limbs between boat and	Sailing Leaders [X]	Broken fingers or limbs.	High []	Warn people of dangers of coming along side. Instructors to make participants

other boats or pontoons/slipways.	Other Leaders [X] Scouts [X] Other (public) []		Low [X] Medium []	aware.
Head injuries, from boom while rigging or afloat.	Sailing Leaders [X] Other Leaders [X] Scouts [X] Other (public) []	Head Injuries	High [] Low [X] Medium []	Warn people of dangers from booms. Instructors to make participants aware. If this occurs depending on severity instructor must take action to ensure camp leaders are aware of injury and / or refer to hospital
Participant panicking.	Sailing Leaders [] Other Leaders [] Scouts [X] Other (public) []	Could result in any of the above.	High [] Low [X] Medium []	If this occurs then instructor to try and calm person down. If needed instructor to take over and show the person that boating can be controlled and that they are in control. If the person is still panicking then take them ashore and reassure them.

Hazard	Who is at Risk	Assessment	Control Measure	Monitoring
Risk of Drowning	Scouts and others on the water	Low	Appropriate Buoyancy Aids provided – Instruction in case of immersion and capsize	Leaders alert to correct procedures and instruction being carried out.
Risk of Drowning	Scouts and others on the water – non-swimmers	Low	In the case of non-swimmers appropriate buoyancy aids will be worn at all times and the wearer should be confident in the water if immersed.	Leaders alert to correct procedures and instruction being carried out and aware of any non-swimmer.
Hazard	Who is at Risk	Assessment	Control Measure	Monitoring
Risk of Drowning	Scouts not fully proficient in Capsize procedure	Low	Additional briefing if weather conditions warrant	Leaders monitor Scouts whilst rigging to ensure participants understand what to do in the event of a capsize
Blows to the Head	Scouts		Consider the wearing of Head	Leaders alert to individuals prone to head

		Low	protection or different dinghy with higher boom	injury – refer to First Aiders
Cold	Scouts	Low	Appropriate clothing worn as appropriate – warm drinks available in support boats	Leaders monitoring all those afloat to ensure that nobody appears to be suffering from cold
Cold	Scouts	Low	Scouts appearing to be cold, monitored and removed from dinghy if necessary – see above	Leaders monitoring any cold Scout to ensure that their condition does not deteriorate
Cold	Leaders participating in Support Boats	Low	Ensure supervision – warm drinks available in support boats.	Other leaders monitoring to ensure conditions do not deteriorate
Leptospirosis (Weils Disease)	All those operating near fresh water or agricultural premises.	Low	Information in briefing	Inform parents of children who might be at risk at the end of the event.
Injuries arising from incidents Such as cuts, bruises, crush injuries, fractures etc.	All those on the water	Medium	All leaders holding appropriate First Aid Qualification – Good flow of information as necessary, to other leaders	All leaders alert to calls by phone or radio. Severe injuries needing hospital attention, taken by support boat to nearest road access point.
Propellers of Support craft	All those who may become immersed in the water	Low	All powerboat drivers hold appropriate qualification or have been trained in their specific use for the event. All motors have kill cords attached.	All leaders vigilant to ensure kill cords are used. All leaders vigilant to the correct procedure adopted for rescue of persons from the water.
Lifting boats	All those moving boats	Medium	Instruction in the correct methods for carrying boats. Supervision to ensure no undue loads are carried	Leaders vigilant to correct procedures being followed such as removing water from craft before lifting.
Trips and Falls	All those moving on shore adjacent to the water	Medium	Briefing - a warning to the effect that water edges and uneven surfaces that can be slippery. Appropriate footwear to be worn.	Supervision ashore by leaders.