



Baltic Wharf Sailing Club

Sailing in Bristol harbour

Health and Safe Statement

Version	Date
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Aim

This document is to give Health and Safety advice as part of Baltic Wharf Sailing Club.

Baltic Wharf Sailing Club is a small, friendly, RYA-affiliated sailing club; membership is open to members of the public upon application. As part of the application all members must agree to comply with the club rules and bylaws.

Baltic Wharf Sailing Club is committed to safe enjoyable sailing for all members, visitors and associate's.

Individual member, visitor or associate are responsible for their own safety and that of others at all times.

The main activities of Baltic Wharf Sailing Club races that take place in Bristol Floating Harbour are under the overall safety control of the Harbourmaster (employed by Bristol City Council). The club accepts the responsibility to do all that is possible to ensure that competing boats are appropriately licensed and insured. Regular contact is maintained with the 'Bristol Harbour User Group' to provide a discussion forum for sharing best practices etc. BWSC is a participating member of this group and is represented by a Committee member (Harbour Liaison Officer).

Health

All members of the BWSC are provided with on-line advice for water users and hygiene.

Due to the unique location of the sailing club at Baltic Wharf within Bristol City Floating Harbour, water flows into the sailing area from many different sources brings with it different hazards:

Water sources

- Rain water runoff from the city streets
- Water from the river Frome
- Water from the river Avon
- Cannel water feed
- Sewage overflow

Hazards

- Leptospirosis (Weil's)
- Gastric infections, E.Coli
- Blood diseases.
- Infection of open wounds.
- Poisoning

Bristol City council are responsible for the regular testing and monitoring water quality within the harbour

The Harbour Authority will inform all users if pollution levels or incidents increase the risks above a tolerable level E.Coli levels above 5000 counts per 100 ml at Baltic Wharf all persons should refrain from using the water as instructed by the Harbour Master.

Information about water quality is posted on the notice board at the top of the slipway.

Records indicate that the quality of the water in the harbour presents no greater risk to health than any other open water. Much of the time the quality exceeds that of bathing water standards.

Regular monitoring and baiting is undertaken around the harbour to control the rat population.

General Safety

All members and visiting sailors are briefed about the hazards and conditions present on the day of the race via a pre-race briefing.

The activities at Baltic Wharf Sailing Club take place in 4 main areas each of which have their own Health and safety Risk assessment

1. Sailing area at Baltic Wharf & Race control
2. Dinghy storage compound
3. Pontoon trailer park and slipway
4. Club room

Bristol Floating Harbour is a commercial harbour operated by Bristol City Council. All sailors are required to operate within the IRPCS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea). All members, visitors and associates should be aware of the local rule of giving way to commercial vessels that are under passage within Bristol Harbour.

The designated trailer park and slipway are under the control of the Harbourmaster Bristol City Council and forms part of the pedestrianised walkway; members, visitors and associates are asked to take care when manoeuvring boats on land in the vicinity of the slipway and The Cottage public house as this is an area of public access.

All launch trailers must be parked, in the designated trailer parking area adjacent to the slipway in an orderly fashion reducing the risk of slip trips and falls to sailors and members of the public.

All persons taking to the water launching will endeavour to warn people on the slipway before launching their dinghies.

All race competitors are briefed about the hazards and conditions present on the day of the race via a pre-race briefing. The brief is not a fully comprehensive list of hazards but an aide to safe sailing highlighting the main hazards of the day.

The Officer of the day (OOD1) may cancel all water activities in the event that weather conditions change without warning resulting in multiple capsizes, OODs are instructed to seek assistance from the Harbour Master's personnel.

Club racing is cancelled if the water becomes iced or frozen. OOD1 has the authority to remove members from the race time sheet and request the member to retire/not race if they consider that member to be unprepared for the weather conditions.

It is the responsibility of each individual club member and race competitor to select and wear an appropriately fitting personal flotation device and to sail a dinghy that they are able to right unassisted in normal circumstances.

Members are advised to take personal protective measures in hot weather (baseball caps, T-shirts, sunglasses and sun block), and OODs are aware of the signs of hyperthermia and hypothermia through the on-line OOD notes provided by the club.

All persons taking to the water are encouraged to wear winter grade wetsuits or dry suits during the colder months of the year. If they are starting to feel the cool or starting to feel the effects of the cool they should come off the water and warm up.

Safeguarding

At the safety briefing the OOD1 must be made aware of all minors and must be introduced to the parent, guardian or person acting in loco parents.

All minors must have a parent, guardian or someone in loco parentis sailing in the same boat with them or on the quayside in contact with the OOD1. It is the responsibility of members to inform the OOD1 that a minor is sailing with them, even if the child is their own.

Similarly, any guest sailors must be made aware to the OOD1 and be noted which club member they will be sailing with.

Club members should take any concerns regarding Minors or Adults at risk to either the Club Welfare Officer or in the absence of the welfare officer the Club Secretary. They will take appropriate action as specified in the Baltic Wharf Sailing Club Adult Safeguarding Policy which may include notifying the Police regarding any concerns or allegations of abusive behaviour.

Reference:

Risk assessments

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| 1. | Sailing area at Baltic Wharf & Race control | Risk assessment number 001 |
| 2. | Dinghy storage compound | Risk assessment number 002 |
| 3. | Pontoon trailer park and slipway | Risk assessment number 003 |
| 4. | Club room | Risk assessment number 004 |