

Stewartby Water Ski Section

The Club House, Green Lane, Stewartby, Beds MK43 9LY
Tel: 01234 280071 Email: Committee@StewartbySki.co.uk



Rules

Safety is paramount and must take precedence over any rule

General

- No launch unless current copy of Scrutineering, Insurance and SBDA (for **ALL** drivers) filed in Bungalow
- Everyone** signs in & any Skiing Guests paid for as necessary. If no OOD please make a note in Guest Book of amount due so we can collect later
- Check map in Bungalow for updates on course, hazards and restrictions. Keep clear of anglers on bank
- Prepare boat away from slipway to keep clear for others and don't moor near slip itself
- No boats on Sailing Lake on Sunday before 6pm (**even if no sailors present**)
- No jumping / swimming in harbour. 'Beach' used at own risk with parental supervision. Keep clear of jetty
- Camping permitted during Ski diary Camping events only

Boat Safety

- Boats may use lake from 1hr before sunrise to 1hr after sunset. Do not drive or ski after consuming alcohol.
- Drivers must attach a kill cord & crew must be seated when the boat is moving
- Rear facing Observer must be used when towing and be 10 years+ unless written Committee approval
- Buoyancy aid / impact vest mandatory for skiers and recommended for driver and crew

Ski Lake

- Skis, wake / knee boards, trick skis, wake skates, discs & barefoot permitted. Do not tow more than **2** people
- Tickover speed in harbour. Give way to boats circuiting the lake when joining. Never follow directly behind another boat towing a skier.
- Drive anti-clockwise, turn **BEFORE orange buoy** & keep our side of centre line white buoys (see Exceptions)
- Raise flag when dropping skier at jetty, heading for harbour or skier in water awaiting recovery / pull
- If skier falls - raise flag, slow boat, turn to RIGHT if possible, return to skier keeping skier visible on driver's side. If second skier is being towed they must let go immediately too.
- Landing jetty approach - raise flag, drive parallel to jetty, drop skier & turn hard left into Recovery Zone (avoiding Take Off area). Ensure boat and rope is in the Recovery Zone before stopping to retrieve rope
- Only weighted drop skis to be used (available in Bungalow) & be dropped away from normal skiing lanes

Use of the Competition Area

- Approach to Competition area:** If another boat is moored or using it then tickover speed from Orange Buoy to a point opposite Hut but clear of slalom course. Wait until other boat returns to jetty or they wave you across. Cross slalom course at tickover to minimise wash
- Rota:** One boat using Competition area at a time. Max of 10 minutes / 6 passes per boat, in turn, if others waiting. Non-slalom use is recommended in area between course and bank to avoid shallow depth hazard
- Do not drag rope around Slalom buoys. **Do not take off** across course unless in Tournament Ski Boat

Exceptions

- If **NO** sail boats are sailing or moored on jetty you can extend your circuit to include the Sailing lake. Give way to boats on Ski Lake when re-joining. Do not include Sail Lake though if in use for Barbells (see below)
- "Barbells" – In poor weather, if the Sailing Lake is not in use (see above), it may be preferable to use the sailing bank for 'barbells' in the sheltered water. Still **turn** before Orange Buoy line to keep wash away from Competition area users. If other boats wish to do Bar Bells then rota as per Competition Area. If Ski bank is sheltered and **no other boats are circuiting** the lake then Bar Bells can be done along that bank too

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Rule Notes

A little background to some of our rules....

Sailing Lake

We are not entitled to use the Sailing Lake but the Sailors let us providing no sail boats are on it or tied up at the jetty. Please respect this and the additional 'Sundays' rule.

Competition Area Wash

Unlike other Ski Clubs there is no earth 'bund' separating the slalom courses from the rest of the lake. Skiers on the course can be crossing the wakes at speeds in excess of 60 mph and a ski tip hitting unexpected wash from the main ski lake can cause dangerous falls and injuries.

If boats circuiting the lake turn **before** the **Orange buoy** then wash usually doesn't reach the course.

Some members' boats have a hull design creating more wash than normal that will still affect the course despite correctly turning before the buoy so sometimes boats will be moored at the top jetty waiting for the wash to die down before running the course.

Slalom Course & Damage

The slalom courses consist of a complicated structure of metal tubing and steel cables that are submerged 1 meter below the surface. The course buoys are attached to it with cord and a rubber band – just enough 'give' to stretch with wave heights but firm enough to maintain position.

The buoys are easily snapped off if a **trailing ski rope** in the water is allowed to wrap around them. It is time consuming to launch the workboat to lift the submerged poles to reattach buoys. They are covered in a thick algae slime and mussels that need to be scraped off. The mess and smell is revolting !

An **outboard / sterndrive** prop will dig deeper than 1 meter as you take off and can easily damage the cables and poles under the water, not to mention the prop itself. Some of the worst damage we have seen on the poles must surely have caused gearbox damage too. PLEASE **do not take off across the course** if you have this type of boat.

Experienced slalom drivers are on the Committee and would be very happy to spend 15 minutes in the Competition Area with you showing 'best practice' and the low depth areas – please just ask !

Observers

An observer needs to be mature enough to give the right observations at the right time to the Driver as well as be physically capable enough to assist recovery of an injured skier from the water. It is unusual for anyone under 10 to meet these requirements.

"Beach" area

Popular with younger members on Summer days for splashing but parents must take care of their children in this area – it is particularly dangerous if children swim near the landing jetty because the wash of a passing boat will make it crash up and down and can cause head injuries