



Stewartby Water Sports Club: Sailing Section

Rules and Regulations

Rules approved: 20250223AGM
Regulations updated: 09/02/2026

Sailing Section Rules

1 Objects

- 1.1 The name of the club is 'Stewartby Water Sports Club', which is divided into four sections and we are known as the 'Sailing Section'.
- 1.2 The burgee of the Section shall be an insignia of a Pliosur on a gold shield with blue and red horizontal background.
- 1.3 The objects of the Section are to promote and facilitate the sport of dinghy sailing in general and social activities in connection therewith.
- 1.4 The Section shall be affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association.

2 Membership

- 2.1 The performance of Support boat duties for non-racing members and Race Officer Duties for racing members as detailed by the Committee from time to time is a responsibility of every member of the Section.

3 Officers

- 3.1 In the event of an Officer retiring during the term of office, the Section Committee shall have the power to co-opt and fill this office until the next Annual General Meeting.

4 Committee

- 4.1 Candidates for election to the Committee shall be those members of the retiring Committee who shall offer themselves for re-election and such other members of the Section whose nominations duly proposed and seconded by members of the Section in writing shall have been sent to the Secretary to arrive 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.2 If a casual vacancy occurs for any reason, the Committee shall co-opt a member to fill the vacancy.
- 4.3 If the number of candidates for election exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled the election shall be by ballot.
- 4.4 A quorum for business at a Committee meeting shall consist of six Committee members.
- 4.5 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt and appoint such sub-committees as it thinks necessary.



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5 Organisation

- 5.1 The Section Committee shall manage the affairs of the Section according to the Rules and shall apply the funds and other assets of the Section for the benefit of the Section.
- 5.2 All properties purchased by the Section become the property of Stewartby Water Sports Club and cannot be the subject of a claim by the Section or any of its members.
- 5.3 At all Committee meetings the chair shall be taken by the senior flag Officer present who in the event of equality of votes shall have second and casting vote.
 - 5.3.1 If at any time any subscriptions or boat berth fees payable to the section by any member or former member shall be three months or more in arrears or an item on club premises is not displaying a current membership identification sticker:
 - 5.3.2 The Committee shall be entitled to move the boat(s) / item(s) to any other part of the premises without being liable for any loss or damage to the boat howsoever caused.
 - 5.3.3 The Committee shall be entitled upon giving One month's notice in accordance with the RYA Abandoned Boat and Trailer Policy, in writing to the member or former member, at his last known address shown in the register of members, to sell the boat/trailers and to deduct any monies due to the club (whether by way of arrears of subscription, dinghy park fees, mooring fees or otherwise) from the net proceeds of sale before accounting for the balance (if any) to the member or former member.
 - 5.3.4 Alternatively, any boat which, in the opinion of the Section Committee cannot be sold, upon such notice as foresaid, may be disposed of in any manner the Section Committee think fit and the expenses recovered from the member or former member. Any arrears as foresaid shall be deemed to be a debt owing to the Club by the member or former member.
 - 5.3.5 Further, the club shall at all times have a lien over members or former members boat(s) / item(s) kept on the club premises in respect of all monies due to the section, whether in respect of arrears of berthing fees or subscriptions or otherwise. Where a member is in arrears with the payment of monies owed to the section by at least four months' in accordance with the RYA Abandoned Boat and Trailer Policy, the section may in any event take possession of the member's boat / item(s)
 - 5.3.6 Provided always that proper evidence is available to show that all reasonable steps have been taken to trace a member or former member and that when and if the vessel is sold the proceeds of the sale (less any indebtedness by the member or former member of the section) shall be placed upon bank deposit account and retained against the eventuality of a claim by the owner (whether by the said member or former member or otherwise) for a period of 6 years.

6 Finances

- 6.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to control and keep a complete account of the Section's finances and to supervise all expenditure made and liabilities entered by and on behalf of the Section and authorised by the Committee.
- 6.2 At the Annual General Meeting in each year an Honorary Auditor shall be appointed who shall audit the accounts of the Section for the then preceding year.



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7 General Meetings

- 7.1 An Annual General Meeting shall normally be held during the month of February and the date, time and place shall be fixed by the Commodore. The Secretary shall notify all members of the meeting at least 28 days before such meeting.
- 7.2 No business other than the passing of accounts and the election of Officers, Section Committee, Honorary Auditor, and any business the Section Committee may order to be inserted in the notice convening the meeting shall be considered at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof is given to the Secretary in writing 14 days prior to such a meeting.
- 7.3 The Committee may on giving 14 days' notice call a general meeting of the Section for any specific business the nature of which shall be stated in the notice convening the meeting and the discussion at such a meeting shall be confined to that business only.
- 7.4 The Section Committee shall call a general meeting on the written request of 25 voting members. Such a meeting shall be held within six weeks of a written request being received by the Secretary.
- 7.5 At a general meeting of the Section, each ordinary member is entitled to one vote and adult family members present are entitled to one vote each. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote. Honorary members, Junior members and Student members have no voting powers.

8 New Rules, Amendments and Alterations

- 8.1 Notice of any alteration or addition to the Rules intended to be proposed by a member of the section shall be given to the Secretary in writing at least 28 days before the meeting at which the same is to be brought forward and full particulars of any such proposed alteration or additions shall be sent out in the notice convening the next section meeting.
- 8.2 All proposed alterations or additions and any amendments to them which may be proposed and seconded shall be put to the vote of the section meeting and provided that on a show of hands or if demanded a poll, a majority of two-thirds of the votes of these members present and voting, shall be cast in favour of any proposed alterations or additions or amendments then the same shall be deemed to be carried subject to authorisation by the Management Committee of Stewartby Water Sports Club.



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Sailing Section Regulations

Under Rule 6.2 of the SWSC constitution, the Sailing Section Committee is responsible for the Sailing Section Regulations to ensure the safe and proper conduct of the Section activities.

1. The Section Committee reserve the right to inspect and buoyancy test any craft brought to the club. Compound space maybe refused if the boat is not in a seaworthy condition.
2. The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/helmsman sailing the boat who must ensure that the crew and boat are adequate to face the conditions that may arise during sailing. Neither the establishment of these regulations nor the inspection of the boat under these regulations in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/helmsman for the crew, his boat, and the management thereof.
3. Stewartby Water Sports Club - Sailing Section or Stewartby Water Sports Club Limited shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner / helmsman, his skipper or crew, as a result of taking part in sailing section water sports activities. Moreover, every owner / helmsman warrants the suitability of his boat for sailing.
4. Insurance requirements are set as follows:
 - a. All boats must be ALWAYS covered by Third Party and Passenger Risks to a minimum value £3,000,000.
 - b. Every boat must have sufficient buoyancy when swamped to support its occupants for a minimum of 20 minutes.
5. Members are reminded that section safety boat cover is unlikely to be provided other than at club racing times or during organised events. Members going afloat at other times do so entirely at their own risk and it is strongly advised that a minimum of two boat's / craft should be out on the water at any one time.
6. On racing days or during organised events International Code Flag "H" will normally be flown when a section support boat is not available.
7. Members of the Sailing Committee and other members approved by the Sailing Committee shall be nominated as Officer of the Day and, as such, to oversee all sailing section activities and to be responsible to the Sailing Committee and to the Club for ensuring that rules and regulations are strictly adhered to.
8. It is Member's / Sponsor's responsibility to ensure that adequate buoyancy is always worn when they, or their charges, are on the water (except when sailing a windsurfer and wearing a harness). Wet suits or dry suits alone do not constitute adequate buoyancy.
9. A wet suit or dry suit must be worn when afloat from 1st November to 31st March inclusive.
10. No boat shall cross the dividing line buoys while racing or when ski boats are using the lake. It is an "obstruction."
11. Should the Office of the Day consider conditions to be unsuitable for sailing section activities the following flag signals from the shore gantry will apply (The OOD's DECISION ON FLAGS AND HELMS IS FINAL):
 - a. RED FLAG – NO BOATING. Boats on the water when red flag is hoisted (accompanied by three sound signals) must return to shore with minimum delay.
 - b. RED FLAG plus YELLOW FLAG – to be raised where average wind speed measured over a 5 minute interval exceeds 20mph (force 5). LIMITED SAILING / NO PADDLING / NO CLUB BOATS TO BE USED. Individual helms must apply to the OOD for permission to sail.
12. No sailing is permitted after sunset unless duly authorised by the Section Committee.
13. No power-driven boat of any kind is to be used unless authorised by the Section Committee.



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14. Boats that have been in contact with pollution at other waters must be decontaminated, prior to launching, to the satisfaction of the Section Committee.
15. Boats and other tackle and apparatus to be stored or left only in such places and at such times as the Section Committee allow. Members must comply with dinghy park regulations.
16. The Section Committee reserves the right to prohibit the use of any item or type of boat and tackle.
17. The ISAF fundamental rule 1.1 shall be known and acted upon by all on pain of suspension. "A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.
18. Control of Animals - Dogs must be always kept on leads and under control outside, and not allowed to foul areas frequented by members. Dogs may not be taken afloat.
19. Cars shall use only such areas of the Club premises as authorised. Cars are permitted on dinghy park approach road for loading and unloading only.
20. No craft shall beach (except in an emergency) other than on the bank adjacent to the dinghy park.
21. Members shall be responsible for keeping the facilities clean and tidy.
22. Shooting and bathing are forbidden.
23. There shall be no interference with the wild birds, their nests, or other wildlife.
24. Members entering races must comply with the Racing Instructions.
25. No boat may be removed from the premises unless:
 - a. The owner is present or has given written permission.
 - b. The RYA abandoned Boat / Trailor Policy / Procedures are in effect.
26. Barbecues must not be used in the dinghy park or the Sailing Section car park.
27. Section camping weekends are open to all section members on allocated weekends. A camping fee will be charged and must be paid on the first night of the member's overnight stay for the duration of the member's stay. Camping rules will apply in addition to the section rules.
28. During Powerboat Section weekends, no craft will enter the water and no person shall use the sailing section jetties.
29. Maximum length of vessel(s) is 20ft (anything over this will need written permission from the Section Committee) which can only be used for the following:
 - a. Social Sailing.
 - b. Racing, however, 18ft plus needs to be approved by the Officer of the Day (OOD).
30. Foiling Vessel(s) are allowed:
 - a. Social Sailing
31. Keel Drop vessel(s) are allowed:
 - a. Social Sailing
 - b. Racing

Members Under the Age of 18

32. Parents and guardians are warned that the club is only able to provide section safety boat cover during organised events. Outside these hours, parents and guardians have sole and total responsibility for their children/ wards and must appreciate that the club cannot be expected to exercise supervision or control.
33. Members under the age of 14 may only go afloat solo at times when a section safety boat cover is not available under the following conditions:
 - a. Members under the age of 14 should be able to swim, to show that they will be confident in the water, wearing sailing clothing and personal buoyancy (Statement to be signed by the parent or guardian of the member), and
 - b. Another Vessel shall be available to supervise them on the water and to give assistance, as necessary.



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Compound and Berthing

34. All boat's / items are berthed at members' own risk.
35. All members must be allocated a berth by the Dinghy Park Manager before bringing any boat(s) / item(s).
36. All applicants for berthing must apply each year to the Section Committee Membership Secretary.
Applicants will be required to sign a declaration stating that they will abide by the regulations for Compound and Berthing.
37. All member's boat's / items that have been allocated a berth by the Dinghy Park Manager must have an identification sticker applied.
38. All trailers are to be kept within the member's allocated berths wherever possible or where not possible agreed by the Dinghy Park Manager to be kept either in separate paid for berth or allocated trailer park.
39. All boat's / items are to be kept in a good working condition:
 - a. All trailers should be kept in a road worthy and fit for purpose condition.
 - b. All launching trollies to be fit for purpose.
40. Members are responsible for maintaining their allocated berths in good condition, including:
 - a. Spaces must be regularly mowed and kept free from overgrowth to ensure the area remains tidy and well-maintained.
 - b. Notifying the Dinghy Park Manager of any issues (e.g., missing tie-down points) within the berth area.
41. Members are not permitted to make any structural, layout, or other modifications to their allocated berths without prior written approval from the Section Committee.
 - a. For spaces that are regularly waterlogged or for heavier dinghies, the Section Committee is likely to approve only the installation of a grass grid or similar ground reinforcement solution that complies with SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) principles.
 - b. Modifications made prior to 23/02/2025 that do not comply with these rules may remain unless they are deemed unsafe or cause interference with neighbouring berths.
42. The Section Committee may offer members the option of a maintained berth at an additional cost.
 - a. Members who opt for this service agree that the committee has permission to move their boats and equipment as necessary to facilitate berth maintenance.
 - b. While the committee will exercise the utmost care, they accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to boats, trailers, or equipment during this process.
43. A maximum of 10 (ten) berths to each membership will be allowed for berthing. Any more than 10 must have full Section Committee approval.
44. New applicants must be a member of the sailing section
45. The maximum length of boat permitted under the Compound and Berthing rules will be 20ft in length and maximum 300kg in weight (anything over this will need written permission from the Section Committee).
46. All craft will be required to have third party marine insurance to a minimum of 3 million pounds.
47. All members shall remove their boat(s) / item(s) from the water and rigging areas at the end of the day. Boat(s) / item(s) must be securely tied down in the berths allocated to them. Any boat / item in the opinion of the Section Committee, is not securely berthed, may be secured, or removed to another part of the compound without being liable for any loss of or damage however caused.
48. Any member's whose boat(s) / item(s) are found to be breaking any of the regulations will be notified and given an opportunity to take corrective action. If no corrective action is taken upon notification, the Section Committee may require the member to remove their boat(s)/item(s) from the site. Failure to remove a boat upon request will result in the Section Committee enforcing the "Abandoned Boat and Trailer Policy and Procedures".