

RULES AND BYE-LAWS OF LOCH EARN SAILING CLUB

Since the start of the club's activities it has been found necessary to make remarkably few special rules, thanks to the general good sense of the membership. However, as in any small community of a couple of hundred people, some guidance is needed as to what is or is not permissible within the club. The purpose of these notes is to present those club Rules and committee decisions affecting membership and behaviour not detailed in the club Constitution. This document also sets out items of general information which might be found useful to all members.

APPROVED CLASSES OF BOATS

The club is open to boats with a Portsmouth Yardstick or National Handicap and also to sailboards. Other boats may only be used from club premises with the prior approval of the committee.

Boats proposed by applicants or members must be of a suitable class, size and have prior launching and/or mooring approval from the general committee. Members must seek approval from the committee when considering changing/adding to their existing boats.

Apart from the club's safety craft, power craft may not be operated from the club premises without written authority of the committee. This is given only in special circumstances. Water skiing or the use of jet skis/PWCs from the club is forbidden.

For the safety of members' boats and club premises, all boats should be removed from the site out-with the sailing season. Where boats are left over the closed season they must be secured to prevent them from either being damaged or causing damage to other boats during the winter storms. Storage fees apply.

Racing may be arranged, with separate starts, for Dinghies and Keelboats. Any boat included in the current RYA Portsmouth Number List under "Dinghy", "Experimental", and "Multi" categories will be included in the "Dinghy" start. Any boat included in the current RYA Portsmouth Number List in the "Keel" category or in the RYA National Handicap for Cruisers (NHC) list will be included in the "Keelboat" start. Where any boat, not included in any of the above lists, wishes to race, the sailing secretary (after consultation with the general committee where necessary) shall determine in which start that boat will compete.

1. Safety

The waters of Loch Earn are deep, cold and can be treacherous, and with increasing use by the public the risk of tragedy is never to be discounted. Likewise, weather conditions on the loch can change quickly and unexpectedly and winds can be gusty, variable, and challenging. It is a club requirement that buoyancy aids must be worn at all times during sailing, and failure to comply with this requirement when racing will result in disqualification.

- 1.1 Life jackets or buoyancy aids shall be worn at all times when racing, sailing dinghies and when using the club's powerboats and sailboats.
- 1.2 Children shall always wear life jackets or buoyancy aids when afloat and when on the foreshore and jetties.
- 1.3 Boat class rules define the minimum buoyancy and safety equipment requirements and the owner shall ensure that their boat complies.
- 1.4 Owners shall insure their boats for at least third party liability to a minimum extent of £1,000,000 and ensure they are in a seaworthy condition.
- 1.5 The skipper is responsible for making their own assessment of the competence of their crew and on the weather conditions to determine whether it's safe for them to launch or sail.
- 1.6 The skipper is responsible for ensuring their rescue provision is adequate, and skipper and crew should be able to both independently recover their boat in the event of a capsize and themselves/their crew in the event of a man overboard incident.
- 1.7 Jetties and pontoons are dangerous places; adult supervision is required for children when they are on them.
- 1.8 A responsible adult shall supervise campfires on the club grounds.
- 1.9 The maximum motor vehicle driving speed limit is 5 mph within the club grounds. However, there are often children playing therefore extra vigilance is necessary at all times. Vehicles shall drive along designated roads only.
- 1.10 Members are required to report defects or breakages by emailing committee@lochearnsc.com
- 1.11 The club first aid box is situated in the clubhouse beside the phone. There is also a defibrillator.

2 Safety Boats

The club has two types of powered craft available for the safety boat cover during club racing and on-water events. Firstly, there is one displacement boat powered by inboard diesel engine which is used in support of general on-water activities. In addition, the club also has three Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs), which are more commonly used for the purposes of providing safety boat cover for dinghies during racing, due to their ease of maneuverability and low freeboard.

A club safety boat will be in attendance during club racing and club events. At all times however, and particularly during weekdays, members sail at their own risk, and the responsibility of deciding whether or not the prevailing conditions are too much for them is their decision alone. This applies even during racing, when the decision to sail or not, to continue or return, rests only with the individual helmsman and not with the race officer.

The club endorses the RYA Powerboat scheme and can provide this training within the club to ensure that wherever possible we can meet the requirements as laid out in RYA guidance. To ensure that we meet our obligations we have set the following rules.

- 2.1 Only persons able to demonstrate competence at RYA Powerboat Level 2 or deemed competent are authorised to drive the club RIB safety boats.
- 2.2 Nobody under the age of sixteen years can operate the club's powerboats unsupervised.
- 2.3 The slow safety boat can be used only by authorised persons after training in starting and handling or to Level 2 or higher in the RYA Powerboat training scheme.
- 2.4 All safety boats are limited to a maximum of eight persons.
- 2.5 Smoking is not permitted in any safety boats.

3 Club Sailing Dinghies

The club owns a number of boats that are available to members to use. Boats are used strictly at members' own risk. The boats are maintained throughout the season; however, all members should assess all kit and equipment for suitability themselves before use. Any defects or damage to the boats must also be reported to the Coxswain (sail) and or a member of committee so that they can be repaired. Members may be liable for repair of damage and will be liable for any malicious damage.

- 3.1 The club's Toppers are primarily for training and learning purposes of junior members. Juniors are not permitted to take out Toppers unless they are supervised by a competent adult and safety boat cover is available.
- 3.2 The club's Wayfarers may be used by members for general sailing who have gained a minimum of RYA stage 2 certificate or equivalent experience but are not intended for this use in more than 20+ knots of wind. This will allow new members the opportunity to sail whilst choosing a boat to purchase.
- 3.3 The club has several other training dinghies. Please approach the training principal for further information on the use of these.
- 3.4 Boats should always be put away in a manner that you would expect to find them.

4 Child Wellbeing and Protection

The club is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for children both on and off the water. Further detail is provided in the club "Safeguarding Policy".

5 Clubhouse and Grounds

The clubhouse facilities and the club grounds are open to use by all members and it is each individual's responsibility to help with the upkeep of these grounds and facilities. Housekeeping is an ongoing task at the club and your support in helping keep the clubhouse and grounds to a standard that we all enjoy would be appreciated.

Remember, the first impressions that any prospective member gets when entering the club grounds are important.

- 5.1 The clubhouse shall be open to members at such times as the committee shall direct. The present normal hours of opening are as follows: 0600 hrs to 2400 hrs.
- 5.2 Sleeping overnight in the clubhouse is prohibited.
- 5.3 SMOKING is NOT allowed in the clubhouse.
- 5.4 The clubhouse galley is available for use by members but they are required to clean up afterwards and to respect the ownership of food and drink placed in fridges by those who own them. Please take home your unused food/drink. Any food found to be out of date will be disposed of.
- 5.5 The clubhouse workshop is available for use by members but they are required to clean up afterwards.
- 5.6 The clubhouse lockers are available for an annual fee but fuel and paint are not permitted to be stored inside them. These are required to be stored in the fuel store.
- 5.7 Our clubhouse and grounds are vulnerable to intruders. Therefore, to ensure that security is maintained, please ensure that you close and lock the gate and if you are last to leave check that all the buildings are closed and locked.
- 5.8 Park cars in the car park, away from the main building and boat parks so that they do not cause obstruction to other cars or to approaches to the clubhouse or slipways.
- 5.9 Members should respect the disabled parking areas and ensure that they are not used for boat or car parking. In addition members should respect the needs of members who have special needs and therefore should ensure that access ways to and from the sailability pontoon are kept clear and free of tripping hazards.

- 5.10 Dogs must be kept under close supervision at all times, restrained on a lead during events and their owners are responsible for clearing up and disposing of any fouling immediately.
- 5.11 The club has bins for general, recycling and glass waste – guidance on what should be placed in each bin is clearly displayed on the bins and must be followed to avoid fines from Perth and Kinross council. Waste collection dates are also displayed on the bins – members are encouraged to put the bin out of the gate if they are the last one to leave the site/present during the week.
- 5.12 Members are not permitted to dispose of equipment, oil, fuel, antifouling, solvents, or rubbish in the club grounds or in the loch.
- 5.13 Members shall behave with consideration and courtesy both to one another and visitors at all times.
- 5.14 Members should ensure noise levels are kept to a minimum after 2300 hrs to minimise the disturbance to other members.
- 5.15 Members with Keel boats must make provision to have their boats either launched or moved from the dinghy park area and caravan site prior to the First Fling at the start of the season. Keel boats not launched by the end of April will incur a weekly summer storage charge from 1st May.
- 5.16 At all times, the launching areas should be kept clear to allow ease of access to and from the water for those trailers that require use of the launching bar.
- 5.17 Trailers are to be either removed from site or stored in the trailer park after launching. They should not be left in the car parking area. To free-up space and improve boat stability, those wishing to leave their dinghy road trailer on site are encouraged to stack their boat and trolley on top of the road trailer in the dinghy park.
- 5.18 All boat trailers/launching trolleys left on club premises must have a yellow identification tag. Tags are available via the website.

6 Limitation of club Liability and Guests

Members are encouraged to bring new members to the club and, to accommodate this, visitors are allowed to sail at the club for up to six visits before we would expect them to apply for membership. The only conditions that the committee would like to draw your attention to in this respect are:

- 6.1 Members are permitted to invite their friends to the club while the member escorts them.
- 6.2 Guests are bound by the bye-laws and these club rules. The club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to the members, guest, or visitors. Members are responsible for ensuring the club rules are made available to their guests.
- 6.3 The club will not accept liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the club premises and any other facilities of the club either sustained by members, their guests or visitors or caused by said members, guests or visitors whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by neglect, default or negligence of any officers, committee or servants of the club.

7 Moorings

Due to the restricted areas that the club can use for moorings there is a limit on the number of keelboats that can be accommodated during the sailing season. To cope with this limitation and the ever increasing demand, a moorings convenor reports to the main committee to represent the needs of the Keel boats.

- 7.1 The moorings are managed annually through the committee and the mooring rules are displayed in the clubhouse and on the website.

8 Caravan Site

Members are required to complete a full year's membership before they can request a place on the caravan site waiting list. The main committee allocate vacant sites to members who sail regularly and take an active role within the club. Members can camp in the field overnight (there will be a charge for this) but due to restricted space they are required to make prior arrangements with the caravan site convenor who reports to the main committee and represents the needs of the caravan site users.

- 8.1 The caravan site and caravans are managed annually through the committee and the caravan rules are displayed in the clubhouse and on the website.

9 Abandoned boats and Equipment

Boat parking is always at a premium at the club and a continuous effort is made to ensure that active sailors are parked within reasonable proximity to the slipways. Boats that the committee consider to be unused or unlikely to be used during the season may be moved to a more suitable storage location in consideration of those who sail regularly.

- 9.1 Abandoned boats and equipment shall be identified and disposed of in accordance with "Loch Earn Sailing Club Policy on Abandoned Boats and Equipment".
- 9.2 Boats, trailers, and trolleys must be marked up with a means of identifying ownership. See Rule 5.17.

10 Members' Involvement

New members will complete a probationary period of one calendar year from the date of their election, during which a commitment to sailing or racing is required with participation in club events both on and off shore including regattas, racing and work parties.

The continuing good health of a small club such as ours is dependent upon the contributions of its membership whether through serving on the club committee, making skills or resources available, taking part in the work parties, and taking turns on the OOD/safety boat driving roster. Relevant training is available: just ask a committee member.

Please ensure that you participate, rather than leaving everything to "someone else".

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