

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD

WEST MIDLANDS
WATER SKI CENTRE

BOAT OWNERS MANUAL

Revised October 2010

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Introduction

This manual does form a part of your membership contract, so please read it carefully.

Welcome back or welcome for the first time to West Midlands Water Ski Centre. The purpose of this manual is to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience during their visit.

As the named boat owner it is your personal responsibility to ensure all your friends, and guests who come to the lake are aware of the relevant safety issues, and etiquette at the lake.

Due the very nature of waterskiing, most lakes or clubs will not employ anyone dawn till dusk seven days to be available to monitor your skiing when you come to partake in your sport.

The WMWSC is no different and there will be many occasions when you will be on your own or just with other boat owners.

This manual is intended to answer most of the common questions from our membership about the practicalities of coming to ski here, and should mean you can safely come and ski independently, in harmony with other users of the water. It will also point out some etiquette we like to adopt in the centre, which help maintain a quality experience for those using the lake.

Please come to the site prepared with everything you need for your session. If you can imagine that you were going to the coast, and skiing on the open sea with no services, and come prepared for that level of independence, then any service we can offer to you will be a bonus. There is a bar and ski school on site, but they may not always be open every time you visit the lake.

Your Boat

Is your boat safe ?

We insist that all boats used on the lake are “safe” and as we cannot take the liability for checking them since we are not qualified marine engineers, we will ask each boat owner to have their boat checked by a qualified person. If your experience in boating is enough for you to feel you could hold yourself out as qualified enough, and take that responsibility then we will accept your judgment.

What we do require is for you to sign the “**Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration**” attached at the back of this manual. We have also included a list of items that one might consider checking, which is not meant to be exhaustive, but as helpful list of the things that you should consider checking

The responsibility lies totally with you as the boat owner to be using a safe and well maintained vessel.

LPG is a highly flammable fuel, please exercise caution when refueling your boat, and run the bilge blower according to manufacturer’s instructions prior to starting the engine. LPG conversion should be carried out professionally and in accordance with approved British Standards and other recommendations and maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

However if it comes to our attention that a boat is obviously or suspected of being deficient, or of a venerable age then we may ask for an independent marine engineers report the cost to be borne by the boat owner.

Where do I store, launch and leave my trailer whilst skiing?

Storage

Boats are stored on trailers on the southern shore to the west of the clubhouse.

Boat parking spaces will be numbered and allocated in advance.

We do expect you to keep the area around your boat tidy and free of litter, for example, old 5 gallon tanks, covers, prop bags, 2 stroke oil bottles, car batteries, lighting boards, should be removed.

Empty trailers from boats on dock lifts should be stored with suitable security, ie wheel clamp or hitch lock, in the compound.

Storage of boats and cars for non members is £500 per year or part thereof renewed annually on December 31st.

A Boat Owner may store **one** boat. Extra boats shall be liable for the usual non members storage fees.

4 x 4s for launch and recovery can be stored on site subject to permission.

Launching

There are two slipways and you are welcome to use either. The etiquette is that boats launching have priority, and that you should clear the slip way and approach straight away, so you do not block it for another user. Since the one slipway is right outside the bar, we ask that you clean boats, prepare them for trailing etc in your parking space .

Please take care as all slipways can be slippery. It would be best to wear a wetsuit and investigate the slipway thoroughly before using it for the first time, so you can see where the ramps end and the best line for launching.

There are a number of members who have 4x4's on site, some of whom are happy to share the costs. This is an independent arrangement that is totally between you and any other member.

We make no warranty as to the safety or otherwise of these vehicles. Each vehicle will have displayed the number of the boat to which it belongs, and by using the web site you can drop the owner an email.

There is no regular 4 x 4 on site, so you must be sure your vehicle is capable of launching and recovering on the slipway. **NO BOATS** should be left moored on the water overnight.

Trailers

Once launched, you should move your car and trailer well out of the way of the slipways, and not to block any other traffic or delivery vehicles.

Please remember some trailers and vehicles have large turning circle requirements so nothing should be left at all in the vicinity of the slipway.

Insurance

Due to the FSA we cannot insist you choose one insurer or another, however we do ask that you certify to us that your boat is fully insured with £2M at least of 3rd party liability. The "Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration" covers this point. R A Carter can provide advice and cover if you require.

GJW Worcester incorporating R A Carter
Cadbury House, Blackpole East, Blackpole Rd, Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 8SG
Tel: 0500141141

We do not check or chase insurances, and make no warranty to other members that each boat is insured. We will just confirm that it is a condition of membership to have the boat insured at all times in the season, and that the owner has told us that it is currently and will in future be insured.

Your Drivers

All drivers must be SBDA qualified and up to date, which means a current member of the British Water Ski and Wakeboard. We will collect your membership fees in March, the new rates are set annually at the AGM of British Water Ski and Wakeboard. Additional memberships can be bought directly from British Water Ski and Wakeboard, during the season if new drivers join you. www.britishwaterski.org.uk

The SBDA can be taken at the club by calling The Principal (contact details available on the website) who will arrange times and dates to suit all, as prices can vary as it is dependant upon the number of candidates, and their relevant experience, and boat that they use.

You will be asked to provide details of your boat drivers on the booking system in advance of the season and confirm they are SBDA qualified. Boat drivers can also renew their British Water Ski and Wakeboard membership through us.

Drivers who are in training can drive if a qualified SBDA holder is in the boat with them. In training is defined as having a date booked with The Principal to take the SBDA test.

Please note it is a condition of membership and a key element of your membership that:

It is the contractual responsibility of the named boat owner to ensure the boat is being driven safely at all times, by qualified people who are properly insured.

The Lakes

The rules (enclosed) cover the operation of boats on the water, but we want to stress a few key points, following an accident four years ago which was beyond question the fault of the driver and skier, but has led to the ambulance chasing lawyers having a pop and costing us all time, and effort in defending a case where driver stupidity was witnessed by a large number of our customers.

It is your responsibility to ski and drive safely, you use the lake and facilities entirely at your own risk.

This includes familiarizing yourself with the lake, taking into account any changes that have happened, provision of bunds, jetty position, level of water, other users and their relevant experience, and anything else that could affect your safety.

You must check to your own satisfaction that it is safe to ski on each occasion. **We make no warranty as to the safety of the lake**, only that it is suitable for waterskiing if one adheres to all the rules, safe practices, common sense, and checks relevant conditions on each occasion.

The BWSF Code of Practice for Safe Driving is enclosed, and it is a rule of membership that all drivers and skiers familiarize themselves with this document.

A few key reminders for drivers and Skiers.

- If in Doubt, **STOP**
- Don't drive/ski close to any fixed object or shoreline, you can always slow down or stop if in doubt. Ensure your speed and course on returning to the jetty facilitate a safe finish by your skier. You can always stop short if in doubt. Safe landings are the drivers and skiers responsibility.
- Don't let the skier build up uncontrollable speed in the turns
- Be aware of the position of any other craft on the water
- Be sure of the correct lines to drive and the circuit to drive
- We drive a **CLOCKWISE CIRCUIT** so the local rule of two boats approaching head on turn is **TURN TO PORT**. This overrides the normal maritime practice, and safe code of conduct
- Children and minors are your responsibility, and should never be left unattended or allowed to wander the site without competent adult supervision.
- Guidelines, issued by the Drinking Water Directorate for anyone involved in watersports on inland waters, should be adhered to.

- Be aware of the water quality, for example following a flood. The lake is not a swimming pool, and you ski at your own risk

No unnecessary swimming in the lake.

Avoid ingestion/swallowing the water.

Do not allow cuts or wounds to come into contact with the water ie cover with a waterproof dressing.

After skiing HAVE A SHOWER AND WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE DRINKING OR EATING [AVOID SNACKING IN THE BOAT!!!!]

It is possible that some sore throats will result from ingestion of the water. These should only last for a couple of days if at all! Any other symptoms, including sickness and tummy upsets, that don't respond to treatment, please consult your doctor.

Consult a doctor for any flu like symptoms.

Please be aware Leptospirosis or Weils disease is at all times a possibility, as you know it is a disease carried in rat urine. This is not a significant risk, particularly after flooding [rats don't swim so well], some water ski clubs issue constant bulletins about this.

All these are precautions that should already be undertaken by people at the lake, as general good practice.

Poor or unsafe driving witnessed

Please remember we do not operate any form of monitoring or policing service so if you witness poor or unsafe driving, and feel it unsafe to use your boat, the following courses of action are open to you.

1. Address it politely with the driver directly, you may well find yourself sharing water time with them in the future, so why not try and ensure you can ski safely together.
2. Please fill in a incident report (copy attached and also available on the internet). We will then take the matter up with the member and any other witness. We will not discuss any matters with another driver without an incident report.

Courtesy and etiquette

Please try to drive and ski considerately, not spraying the crowd when you finish your run, doing tight turns with a ringo when there are slalom skiers using the lake, power turning when a skier or rider has fallen instead of slowing down and returning gently. Think straight lines, clear driving, and safety !.
Ringos and inflatables are not allowed on the premier lake.

Injuries

Please note, **no supervision or provision of first aid is offered at the site.** It is a rule that all boats carry first aid equipment, and the boat owner is directly responsible for looking after the welfare of their skiers and guests.

If in any doubt we would recommend calling 999.

Should you or any of your guests incur an injury an **accident report form** must be completed by the boat owner immediately or as soon as is practically possible afterwards, and posted to the WMWSC office. Copies are available on the internet, enclosed here, and also at the ski school.

The bookings system

To access the system regularly we recommend saving the following address in your favourites : www.wmwsc.com/booking

You will be issued with a boat number/user name and password.

ALL BOATS MUST DISPLAY THEIR BOAT NUMBER AT ALL TIMES.

Only the boat that is booked in on the booking system may use that slot, unless exceptional circumstances and the boat owners is given prior permission by Dave Quill, Richard Quill or Sue Barnett.

Members must pay renewal fees in full on November 1st in order to keep any pre-reserved slot for the next season.

The Site and Facilities

The BBQ

There is a BBQ on site, please clean up after you use it and put your rubbish in one of the bins provided on the car park. Please leave the BBQ area as you would expect to find it ie clean and rubbish free. This is a collective responsibility; again as we cannot police it for you.

The Changing Rooms

We have some of the best changing rooms for a ski club in the area, so please help us to maintain a standard and leave them as you hope to find them.

LPG

LPG is for sale, and once you have opened up an account with us, you can fill up from the LPG dock at 56p per litre. You purchase a digital key for £250 which will allow you to draw down 446 litres.

The barrier

The barrier has CCTV 24/7 on it. The barrier is for your boats security overnight, and keeping an unwanted element of society out by putting the barrier and fee there that help keep the image and atmosphere of the club the correct one.

The CCTV is there to provide an insurance against those who may be tempted to run the gauntlet and risk damage.

Please note that **each membership pass will only work once in every 15 minutes.**

It has also deterred a gypsy contingent too – what price can you put on that ?

Finally

After all the above – **ENJOY** – that's actually why we have opened this club, which 13 years ago was a field with cows on it, no road, no slipway and no waterskiing. If everyone is sensible and abides by the above we will maintain the happy atmosphere we have all enjoyed every season.

We hope this document has explained the site and its operation to you, so you can happily enjoy the site and facilities at your leisure. If you have any further questions please contact Sue Barnett or Richard Quill on 01827872000 sue@wmwsc.com rich@wmwsc.com

Driving Incident Report Form

Date:	
Time:	
Boats present	
Incident description	
Witnesses present & phone numbers	
Diagram of incident	

Accident Report Form

Date:	
Time:	
Injured persons details: name, address, phone number	
Incident description	
Witness present, name address telephone	
Action taken by those present	

Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration 2011

Please initial each paragraph and sign at the end

I _____ (print name in full) confirm that :

I have read and understood

1. the Boat Owners Manual
2. the Rules
3. the Code of practice for safe driving issued by the BWSF.

I also confirm that as the named boat owner I fully accept responsibility for the safety of my crew and skier and drivers whilst using the lake.

I confirm it is my responsibility to inform all my guests and skiing companions of the rules, and that they use the facilities entirely at their own risk.

I understand that if any of my guests or skier are not happy with this condition then they would not be welcome on the site, and that I should ask them to leave.

I understand that I am responsible for the actions of all drivers of my boat, and skiers or riders behind it.

I confirm that my boat is safe to operate on the lake and has been checked by a competent person, whose details I can be asked to provide upon request.

I confirm that I shall provide before using the lake, a definitive list of the drivers who are insured and hold current SBDA's who may from time to time drive my boat.

I confirm that my boat is and shall be insured at all times when in use or stored on the site at the WMWSC

Signed _____

Print _____

Date _____

RULES:

This contract of membership is with KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD and all cheque's and fees are payable to it.

Your Boat

Your boat must be adequately insured at all times it is in use or on site.

Your boat must be safe and you will sign to say it has been checked by a competent person.

Fees and Payments

A membership runs from January 1st each year.

Payment is due on Nov 1st for the following season.

Unspent ski credits shall not be carried over to the next season if a membership is renewed.

Ski credits are not transferable to other members.

The membership licences ONE boat only, groups with more than one boat, will need a membership for each vessel.

Where groups have formed to split the costs of the sessions, we will not accept individual cheque's, it will be up to the boat owner to collect the funds, and they are responsible for making the correct payment, on behalf of all their group.

Bookings

A booking is specific to a lake and boat. ONLY you can only ski on the lake you have booked with the boat that is booked on.

If another owner has a session booked, and has not shown up, and you wish to ski on it, you may as long as there is no one else looking to use it. If there is you must reach a common agreement.

Circuit Operation

Only three boats shall use the boat owners lake at any time, and only one boat on the premium lake for 10 minutes or six passes of the slalom course.

Use of the Lake and Facilities

All drivers shall be SBDA qualified or under instruction. Under instruction is defined as having a qualified SBDA holder as a crew, and also having booked to take the SBDA at a defined future date. An SBDA is only valid if membership is current of the BWS.

The boat owner must provide us with a list of their qualified drivers.

The boat registration number provided must be stuck on the hull, clearly visible and beneath the rubbing strip.

Any 4 x 4 towing vehicles must also have the boat registration number displayed in a tax disc holder.

If in doubt in any situation whatsoever - STOP.

All damaged buoys shall be paid for - £10 per buoy.

The slalom course must never be used if there is a buoy missing, PLEASE FIX IT and fill in the log sheet.

A skier in the water must not be taken aboard without first turning off the engine.

Ropes should be pulled in immediately a skier has fallen except when there are no other boats on the circuit, or in the vicinity.

Once a skier has dropped off the boat should then proceed out of the path of vessels looking to commence skiing and retrieve the line.

Boats returning a skier have priority over those starting off.

Skiers should use and learn the BWSF approved signals.

An arm shall be raised by the driver or crew when dropping a skier off to alert those waiting to set off as to their intentions.

We recommend appropriate safety wear, namely helmet and impact jacket / vest when using the jump or slider.

No finned boards or skis shall be used on the jump.

No one shall use the lake under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Boat drivers shall not allow passengers to sit or ride on the boats deck or sides or bow whilst the boat is in motion.

Those boats launching shall have priority over those retrieving. There is no supervision provided, so you will use the lake totally at your own risk. At the end of your session you must vacate the dock and moor your boat on the shore or on a temporary buoy if you are not retrieving it immediately.

Please show consideration for other ski boats, particularly if you are towing an inflatable.

Upon hearing one long blast of a horn all boats shall return immediately to the jetty.

Boat drivers shall keep as far away as possible from any wildlife.

There shall be a minimum of two people in the boat when towing a skier, unless the driver is a qualified BWS instructor and only one boat is in use on the lake.

All members and their guests use the lake and facilities at their own risk.

A member who invites guests must inform them of these rules.

If the guest does not agree, then they are not allowed on the site.

Cars and vessels using the slip way shall do so at their own risk.

We reserve the right to ban or revoke a membership of any person and ask them to leave the site without explanation.

Any person banned shall not be entitled to any refunds.

Bookings shall not be used for commercial activities, i.e. private ski lessons.

It is the responsibility of the person who has made a booking to inform his or her party of all rules and regulations. The member is also responsible for the safe operation and driving of their boat, regardless of whether they are actually driving it or not.

If you inadvertently damage or break anything on the site, you are responsible for the cost of repair or replacement in full.

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD reserves the right to close the lake for any period of time when reasonable notice shall be given, except in the event of an act of God or Nature, when the lake shall be closed at our discretion. No refunds are payable regardless of the reason or length of closure.

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD can cancel any pre-reserved slots for the purpose of holding a competition.

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD, its management or staff cannot be held responsible for the theft, loss, damage of any property, valuables or equipment on the premises.

All items are left at the owners risk.

All visiting dogs to be kept on a lead or under control and their mess cleared,

General

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD shall not be responsible for injury or liable for any event resulting from the members use of the facilities, howsoever caused.

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD makes no warranties as to the safety of these rules or the lake, and accepts no liability whatsoever for any accident or injury or any other claim on us arising from your use of the lake and land and facilities.

KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD reserves the right to add, omit, change or alter any rule, rules or booking times at any time without notice.

The right of interpretation as to the meaning of these rules is vested in KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD Its decision shall be final and binding.

These rules and regulations have been complied for your maximum enjoyment.

If there is anything you do not understand or have difficulty in interpreting, please do not hesitate to ask.