



HIGHCLIFFE SAILING CLUB LTD (Founded 1962)

“Sea Vixen”, Mudeford Quay, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4AB Tel. 01425 – 274874

Seals Saturdays Operating Principles

Version 1.0 (April 2023)

Highcliffe Sailing Club
Sea Vixen
Mudeford Quay
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 4AB

Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Overriding Principle.....	3
3	Parental Responsibilities.....	3
3	Support from Seals Team.....	4

1 Introduction

This document describes the operating principles that will apply to Seals Saturday events at HSC.

Seals Saturdays are regular events where some of the club dinghies are available free of charge for the use of younger members of the club. The target age group is 8 to 16.

This document has two purposes:

- a) Ensure that parents understand how sessions will be run and how safety will be managed.
- b) Set the expectations of Seals Team Members who may provide support on Seals Saturdays

2 Overriding Principle

Seals Saturdays are run under parental supervision and parents are responsible for the decision to sail.

3 Parental Responsibilities

These include (but are not limited to):

- a) Ensuring children are appropriately dressed including buoyancy aid and helmet
- b) Ensuring conditions are safe for the level of skill of each child under their responsibility
- c) Ensuring that children are capable of swimming 50m unaided
- d) If seeking support from the Seals Coaches, provide an accurate assessment of children's skill levels and experience
- e) Ensure that all club equipment is cared for and packed away at the end of the session carefully and securely
- f) Ensure that Seals are **always** respectful of each other and those around them.

During Seals Saturdays, we expect Seals to speak and act kindly to each other, their parents, any helpers and other members of the public in the vicinity.

3 Support from Seals Team

While the *Overriding Principle* above ALWAYS applies, the Seals Team will aim to provide at least one person to provide additional support to parents and children.

The following lists the ways in which support will be provided where possible. **There is no guarantee that all of these will be in place at every event:**

- a) We will aim to coordinate the allocation of boats to Seals. This may include suggesting which boats might be suitable for varying skill levels.
- b) We will aim to provide a Support Boat on the water during Seals Saturdays. Support Boats must only be helmed by individuals with a minimum of RYA PB2 qualification. Generally, the support boat will have one qualified helm plus one crew. Where parents would like to join the support boat, priority will always be given to those who have PB2 qualification and / or are experienced sailors. Anyone in a support boat must wear a buoyancy aid and should be prepared to get in the water to help.
- c) Where possible, advice and support will be made available to Seals and their parents by providing Seals Coaches. These Seals Coaches may sometimes be RYA qualified instructors but will sometimes be selected experienced sailors. The presence of coaches does not take away the parent's role in taking the decision to sail.
- d) If the Seals in attendance have not filled the boats, it may be possible for parents to ask a Seals Coach or other experienced adult to join children in a boat to provide help. This must be requested by the parents and parents must satisfy themselves that they are comfortable with the adult's level of experience.
- e) If any member of the Seals Team (including Coaches) is present, they may call a stop to Seals Saturday sailing on safety grounds. Potential reasons are:
 - i) Base wind in excess of F4
 - ii) Gusts in excess of F5
 - iii) Less experienced Seals may be asked to return to land at lower wind levels
 - iii) Excessively low or high tides
 - iv) Other water users causing danger
 - v) Any other reason at the discretion of the Seals Team or a Seals Coach

The Seals Team will operate in accordance with the club safeguarding policy. A copy is available on the club website or in the club foyer.