

Buddy Group Sailing and Safety

1. Background:

Club sailing is permitted at Chew valley every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday subject to club rules and unless otherwise specified.

Rostered duties provide safety cover in accordance with the club's prevailing safety policy over many of the times when sailing is permitted. However, there are occasions when no safety cover is rostered even though sailing is allowable, for example during the day on Thursdays and late on Wednesday afternoon before evening racing commences. This document sets out the requirements to enable sailing at those times.

This approach detailed here will be reviewed regularly, at which time it may be changed, or withdrawn, as deemed necessary by the General Committee.

2. Summary Buddy Group sailing and safety Policy:

- 2.1 At times when conditions are deemed benign, and no formal safety cover has been rostered, the assembled sailors may nominate a suitably qualified RIB helm and crew to oversee sailing activity from a single RIB only (see 3.4 below for guidance on 'benign')
- 2.2 If conditions are not assessed as benign both RIBs launched both must be crewed by a qualified RIB helm and crew.
- 2.3 Two RIBs must always be launched and available for immediate use in case of mechanical failure or breakdown.

3. Conditions:

- 3.1 One person in the buddy group (normally the nominated RIB helm(s)) is responsible for unlocking (if appropriate) and locking the club in accordance with the normal club guidelines.
- 3.2 The nominated safety boat helm(s) should be suitably qualified in accordance with the wider [CVLSC safety policy](#) (currently at least power boat level 2, or 3 years equivalent experience and have completed the CVLSC rescue helm safety training or RYA Safety Boat qualification).
- 3.3 The nominated helm(s) must assess if it is acceptable for safety cover to be provided by a single RIB - if conditions are not deemed benign, Buddy Sailing can only proceed if both RIBs are crewed by a qualified RIB helm and crew sourced from the assembled sailors. The standard risk assessment form (see below) should be completed, and the RIB helm(s) should sign the duty book to confirm the outcome of the assessment. The risk assessment should be placed in the Duty Book at the end of the session.
- 3.4 In order to determine if conditions are considered 'benign' the following guidelines should also be assessed and commented on within the assessment:
 - (a) Wind – strength (if above an average of 15 knots both RIBs should be crewed by a helm and crew. Below 15 knots it may be acceptable to crew only a single RIB - you should also consider the wind direction and gusts and the points below in making this decision).

- (b) Group size (>12 boats – increased risk requiring both RIBs to be crewed by a helm and crew, but if less consider also boat types and likelihood of capsize/inversion)
- (c) Group sailor competence, experience and ability
- (d) No sailing should take place if the wind strength exceeds the maximum limit defined in the club OOD guidelines

3.5 A safety boat must be out on the water at all times when there is any sailing underway as there is the risk of undue delay in attending an entrapment if the safety crew are on the balcony.

3.6 If sailing commences and there are no individuals ashore the nominated RIB helm is responsible for locking up and securing access to the clubhouse areas prior to heading out in the RIB.

4 Covid specific (applicable while there are additional member restrictions/guidelines)

4.1 Anyone attending the club to sail within under buddy group policy must continue to book to sail in advance through the on-line booking until advised otherwise.

4.2 All sailors, RIB crew etc must adhere to the wider [Covid guidelines](#) for members

5 Additional considerations:

5.1 If other sailors turn up when buddy group sailing is underway, they should confirm if it is OK to sail under the cover of the buddy group rescue. The decision of the nominated RIB helm will be final and should include a reassessment of the conditions based the guidance given in Section 3.4 above.

5.2 A school, university, youth group (or other) RIB focused on a specific group cannot effectively provide safety cover for the whole lake and are not considered adequate cover to allow more general sailing activity to commence. However, it is acceptable for the school/university etc group RIB to be viewed as the 2nd RIB for the purposes of the safety policy provided they are agreeable to this on the day – in this case it should be noted in the Risk assessment.

Risk Assessment for General sailing

Date:

This form should be completed by the OOD on each sailing day (or the Race Officer on Weds evenings) and for groups sailing under the buddy sailing policy. If no OOD is rostered, or sailing is continuing under the buddy sailing policy after the conclusion of rostered duty periods, the person taking responsibility for overseeing sailing on the lake should complete this form in it's entirety

Reminder: No sailing is allowed until 2 RIBs are launched on the lake and are available for use

Risk to be assessed	Comments	Actions
Current wind strength, direction and gusts		
Weather forecast (inc. temp and wind chill)		
Lake state and water temperature		
Visibility		
Number and type of boats		
Age and experience of sailors		
Experience and skill of duty team		
Level of shore support		
Any other events on lake (training, racing, fishing competitions)		
Any other known problems		
Any anticipated changes in above during the day		

Conclusions having performed the risk assessment (for completion by OOD, RO or lead RIB helm when sailing is taking place)

Is it safe to allow sailing	Yes	No
Are the boats sailing suitably experienced and competent and Are the number of boats sailing less than 12 and do the duty team agree that conditions are benign? (wind strength less than 15 knots average and limited risk of significant gusts or squalls)	Yes	No* *if no there must always be two RIBs with two qualified helms and crew
Should there be any restrictions?	Yes	No
If additional restrictions are needed, what?		

BUDDY SAILING: Where duties have not been formally rostered or have finished and sailing is taking place under the buddy sailing policy the nominated RIB helm(s) overseeing sailing on the lake should also complete the section below in addition to the sections above.

	Name	Membership No
Rib helm 1*		
RIB helm 2*		

* must be at least power boat level 2, or 3 years equivalent experience and ideally have completed the CVLSC rescue helm safety training or RYA Safety Boat qualification

I have completed the risk assessment above and agree to continue to monitor conditions and any changes in the risk assessment during the day

Name:

Membership Number: