

# British Federation of Sand and Land Yacht Clubs (BFSLYC)

## Code of Conduct for Recreational Sailing

### *Introduction and Purpose*

The purpose of this Code of Conduct (CoC) is to provide a set of guidelines for BFSLYC members to ensure the safety of pilots, members of the public and others using the area.

These guidelines set the CoC for pilots to be: **Safe, Responsible, Competent, Insured and Traceable**

### *Safety:*

It's a frame of mind; **is it safe to sail?**

Assess the risks and ask yourself the following questions.

- Is it safe to sail – *Consider the following?*
  - *Are you fit to sail?*
  - *How good a sailor are you, know your limits?*
  - *Who is sailing with you?*
  - *What are their competences and experience?*
  - *Are your yachts in good condition?*
  - *Who else is on the beach or area?*
  - *What is the beach or area like and how will it change?*
  - *What's the weather and how will it change?*
  - *What are the tides?*
  - *What are the wind conditions?*
  - *Which sail do I use?*
  - *Where you choose to sail*
  - *What you plan to do*
  - *When and why you stop*

A risk assessment is a simple question – yes or no.

**No**, where one significant risk says no

**No**, if a combination of marginal issues may also make the risk too great.

The risk assessment relies on constant observation as you, the conditions and the people change. You will get tired but you will also be excited and less risk averse. Stop before you no longer feel safe.

### *Where, When and What You Sail*

Recreational sailing is about enjoying yourselves, improving your skills and enjoying the company of other pilots. Recreational sailing should only take place where there is permission to do so.

Recreational sailing is categorised as follows:

- **Closed Club Sailing:** This is sailing on a private site to which the public do not have access.
- **Public Sailing:** This is organised sailing on a public site other than a club beach on dates, times and locations agreed with the beach authorities.
- **Public Club Sailing:** This is sailing carried out on the public beach or site where the club is based.
- **Free Sailing:** There are certain beaches which permit individual recreational sailing without club organisation or supervision but may require prior individual approval or permissions from the authorities.

### ***Relationship with the Public***

Each time you sail you are an ambassador for our sport, and you should always be courteous and considerate to members of the public and other beach or site users.

Where people are curious please take the time to talk to them about your sport. Direct them to your Club or the BFSLYC website if they ask where they can learn to sail.

Chat with animal owners and horse riders to explain what we're doing and how we can use the beach together safely

### ***Organisation***

Normally a minimum of two people should sail together. If sailing alone, it is advised to be accompanied by friends or family to observe and help.

### ***Competence and Fitness***

Level 1 and less experienced pilots should be accompanied by more senior pilots.

If you would not be fit to drive on the road you should not pilot a land yacht

### ***Marking and Warning Signs***

Check any local requirements for marking out a sailing area or posting warning signs

Any requirements and restrictions should be obeyed.

### ***Accidents and Emergency Response***

- If you have been involved in an accident and you, or others are hurt or unable to return to your base, ask for assistance or call for help.
- It is advisable to carry a mobile phone and have the "what3words" app on it.
- Give an accurate location and description of the incident, all casualties and their injuries.
- Assess the situation and make it safe. Apply first aid if appropriate and judge whether further medical support is needed.
- Do not move seriously injured people unless there is a direct risk to life such as drowning
- Help to guide the emergency services to the area. Yachts and their sails help to guide the responders to the accident but they are a risk to helicopters and should be secured and a site cleared for landing.
- Keep records and contact details for those involved and do not leave the site until the emergency authorities have allowed you to do so. Do not remove anything associated with the accident until the authorities are satisfied.
- In the event of an incident involving the public or injury to a pilot, contact your club secretary as soon as possible so that they may inform the BFSLYC insurance officer.

### ***Yachts***

Only yachts of the classes which are permitted on the beach should be used.

You should inspect any yacht you sail for any defects before and periodically during the day,

You should follow the BFSLYC web based yacht inspection procedure and checks recording it either on the web, or your own hard copy which you must keep.

### ***Local Rules***

Some beaches may have specific rules designating where and when you may sail.

Make sure that you have read, understand and comply with the local rules.

Do not sail without authorisation and carry any registration with you.

Familiarise yourself with sailing areas and rules before sailing.

### ***Basic Rules***

1. Understand and obey the BFSLYC rules of the road while sailing
2. Be continuously aware of everyone around you especially when turning

3. Avoid other beach users, horses and other animals
  - a. Be aware of people and keep clear where possible. If not reduce your speed and keep your yacht stable and under full control
  - b. Be aware of horses. Stop and lay the yacht down if the horses come too close to avoid spooking them
  - c. Be aware of dogs. Try to avoid them. Use judgement whether to sail away from them or to stop.
4. Wear appropriate protective clothing – helmet, goggles or visor, foot wear and gloves to be worn
5. Always have a sail number showing
6. Always have evidence of club membership
7. Have evidence of your BFSLYC insurance available.
8. Undertake and record a yacht safety check on each occasion before you sail
9. Maintain a log of your significant sailing achievements in your Pilots Handbook/Logbook
10. Park yachts safely facing into the wind and tipped over or with sail removed when not under pilots control
11. At an organised event always follow the direction of the officer of the day or sailing master.
12. Be polite to other site users
13. Do not bring the BFSLYC or club into disrepute.
14. Obey any requests and instructions from the site/beach and car park authorities
15. Park vehicles sensibly and do not obstruct the public, rights of way or access points
16. Choose a safe place to assemble and disassemble your yacht being aware of obstructions and hazards when moving to the sailing site, particularly overhead cables.
17. Do not rig the yacht if the wind will cause a hazard when moving it.
18. If you are not fit to drive you must not sail.
19. If you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs you must not sail
20. Do not sail if you are tired
21. All junior members must be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible adult
22. Ensure that anything such as spare sails are secured whilst not being used.
23. Carry a mobile phone in a waterproof case if necessary
24. Do not drop or leave litter

## **SAIL SAFE AND RESPONSIBLY.**