

THE BRITISH FEDERATION of SAND and LAND YACHT CLUBS
INFORMATION for ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Introduction

Associate Membership has been introduced to enable individuals to join the BFSLYC, and encourage the formation of new clubs at suitable sailing sites around the UK.

Associate Membership is open to any land sailor who lives too far away from one of the BFSLYC's existing member clubs and is therefore unlikely to be able to benefit from the advice and guidance available at the nearest club.

Whilst Associate Members can expect a warm welcome at the established member clubs, associate membership is not BFSLYC membership on the cheap. Most of the established Clubs have overheads to support, and they will expect you to join their Club if you sail there regularly. Associate members do not have voting rights in the BFSLYC and cannot hold positions on the BFSLYC Committee.

These notes are intended to provide you with the guidance you would otherwise have received from the members of your nearest Club.

2. Insurance

Our Third Party insurance covers you while sailing at "existing sailing sites" in the UK, and during BFSLYC mini yacht racing. If you want to take part in BFSLYC races for the larger yachts, you will need a Pilot's Licence, obtainable through the member Clubs.

3. Risk Assessments

Before you sail on an "existing sailing site", that is not a club site you will need to carry out your own Risk Assessment for that beach. You should ask yourself the following questions -

Access

Consider how far the car park is from the beach, and the practicalities of getting your land yacht from the car park to the beach. For instance, if you have to wheel it down a narrow busy path, it may be that the yacht is best rigged on the beach, instead of in the car park, to minimise the risk of hitting someone with a swinging boom.

The Beach

Consider the surface - are there any areas of soft sand, holes, gulleys? Are there any streams? Is there a risk of getting cut off by the tide?

The General Public

Consider the general level of public usage of the beach. Are there any areas that are particularly crowded, e.g. near the car park that you should avoid? Note any deserted parts of the beach and assess their suitability for land sailing.

Local Restrictions

Read the signs erected on site. Go looking for signs if there are several points of access to the beach, and obey any restrictions that apply to any land sailing activities.

Are there any other features of this beach that might restrict your enjoyment of it? Consider how your activities could endanger other beach users, or reduce their enjoyment of the beach, and consider how you can alter your planned activities to avoid endangering or upsetting anyone.

If, having asked yourself the above questions, you are in any doubt, then you should not take any chances. DO NOT SAIL.

4. Behaviour

You must read the BFSLYC Code of Practice for Recreational Land Sailing, (section 7 below), and abide by it at all times. You are an ambassador for all of us, and we insist that you take the role seriously.

5. Insurance Cover

Our insurance covers damage to Third Parties only, up to £5m.,

6. Claims

If you abide by our Code of Practice for Recreational Land sailing, no claim should arise. If an accident does occur, be courteous at all times, polite, helpful and generally do your utmost to keep everyone calm. As with cars, take the names and addresses of the parties involved, and witnesses - particularly anyone with a camera - and write down a detailed account of what happened as soon as possible.

Contact the BFSLYC Insurance Officer at the earliest available opportunity.

7. Code of Practice for Recreational Land Sailing

- Make sure you have the site owner's permission to use the proposed sailing site
- Make sure you have valid Associate Membership of the BFSLYC
- Make sure you are wearing suitable clothes, as Safety and Comfort can be combined.

A suitable safety helmet is compulsory as it reduces the risk of damage to your head when you fall out / off; it also keeps the wind out of your ears and keeps your head warm.

Do not use earplugs, headphones, personal music systems, or anything that might reduce your ability to hear a shouted warning at any time.

Goggles keep the dust/sand out of your eyes and good visibility is essential at all times. If you wear glasses to drive a car, you should wear them when sailing.

Waterproofs, jerseys, jackets, trousers etc are a matter of personal preference, but a windswept desolate beach is invariably much colder than the car park, and the weather can change rapidly out on the beach. If in doubt, wear it. You can always take it off later, and don't forget the wind chill. Be prepared. Avoid baggy clothing that might snag on parts of the equipment, or become jammed in pulleys.

Knee / elbow pads help reduce nasty painful injuries.

Hands and feet are the first to let you down in cold / wet weather, so look for warmth as well as grip and wind and waterproofing especially when buying gloves.

Gloves are essential, especially if there is a risk of falling out / off onto a hard surface like tarmac, concrete or even hard flat sand.

Footwear should be robust, warm, waterproof and practical. If the wind drops, you may need to walk a long way home. Expensive fashionable footwear does not last long on a wet abrasive windy beach.

- Make sure you are in control of your craft at all times. If you have never used your new land yacht before, refer to the manufacturer's instructions, or get a more experienced user to act as your mentor and show you how it is done. To find a mentor, contact your nearest BFSLYC Club..
- Make sure your craft is fit to sail before setting off. This includes checking carefully that all bolts are tight and nothing is loose, worn, corroded, or likely to fail. Pay particular attention to steering linkages. All welds should be checked for structural cracking, all sails and ropes should be checked for tears and fraying, and all clips, clamps and shackles for secure operation. Wheel bearings and pulleys need to be free-running, and tyres need to be inflated to pressures suited to the sailing conditions.
- The safety of the general public is paramount. All members of the public must be avoided by at least 50 metres. All members of the public have Right of Way over your craft, and you must give way, each and every time, without exception.
- -Make sure you are polite to everyone and behave in a civilised manner at all times. Remember - it only takes one person to complain, and everyone can be permanently banned from that venue. If anyone complains to you personally, be polite and courteous. You do not know who you are talking to and a permanent ban could be one expletive away, so apologise, and do whatever is necessary to calm the complainant, and keep your thoughts to yourself. You are an ambassador for all of us, so behave.

Horses generally do not like flapping sails. If you see a horse 200 metres away, watch it closely. If it appears to be even slightly nervous, then turn your yacht on its side and lie the sail flat on the beach. Do not go within 100 metres of a horse at any time, and remember that the person on the horse will know how to complain and to whom.

Dogs - There is no easy answer to the problem of dogs. Try to avoid sudden changes of course when being chased and it will avoid you, but try if possible to lead it back from whence it came, in the hope that the owner will be able to attract it back once it is within earshot. Remember that the dog has as much right to be there as you - in the opinion of the dog owner - so be polite at all times.

- In situations where other land sailors are sailing ensure that you know and observe at all times the 3 most important rules of land sailing, for your own safety and the safety of others using the site. The 3 rules are

BEAR RIGHT when approaching head-on. This is the direct opposite of the motoring laws and it is absolutely essential that you understand that you MUST bear right to avoid a head-on collision, because that is what the other party will do, and will rely on you doing too.

PRIORITY to the RIGHT. The pilot approaching from your right has priority over you and you must Give Way to them, which means that you must change course and get out of their way.

Do NOT try to overtake on the inside on turns / corners.

- Always observe the rules and regulations applicable to any club where you are a guest
- Take all litter home, and leave nothing but tyre marks.

8. List of British Beaches that are "existing sailing sites"

Note:-

You may be asked for proof of insurance at any of these existing sailing sites.

You will not be insured to sail on any sites other than those on this list of existing sailing sites

This list applies to the sailing of mini yachts only.

Starting at the tip of Cornwall and going clockwise round the country the sites are

Gwithian - 2 or 3 miles of NW facing beach, definitely sailable and good for sailing - Blokarts have raced there.

Westward Ho! - 2 miles of WNW facing sand, with sandyacht's and kite buggies welcome, particularly to the northern end as restrictions apply to the southern end, near the village. Sept 2011 - New restrictions apply.

Brean - this west facing 2 mile stretch of sand/mud is home to the Brean LYC, but do not turn up in the hope of sailing as the beach is very tightly regulated and you cannot sail there unless you are a member of Brean LYC.

Uphill, Weston-super-mare - Barely a mile long, this beach is used for all sorts of sports. It is home to several (non-BFSLYC) Clubs and is popular with Blokarts. Very tightly regulated and not an option for non-members.

Aberavon - 2 miles of SW facing sand at Port Talbot, so very busy during the summer, but seemingly unregulated so anyone can turn up and sail. No sailing in front of the promenade - use the west end only.

Rhossili - 2 miles of west facing beach, backed by high hills. Definitely sailable, but the owner is unknown so you'd never get written permission to use it. The North end is used by mutual consent and anything goes. Access is through a campsite.

Pembrey / Cefn Sidan Sands - 7 or 8 miles long and arguably the best beach in Europe for land sailing. Only the Northern 5 miles are usable, by members of the Carmarthen Land Sailing Club only, but it is so remote this beach is never busy.

Pendine - 7 miles of south facing sands, closed during the week for munitions testing, but usable at weekends by members of CLSC - see above - only.

Newgale - 2 miles of west facing hard flat sand, unregulated and perfect for wind sports, but busy during the tourist season as there are 3 beachfront car parks. Restrictions apply during the summer - details on signs in the car parks.

Newport - Barely a mile long, this west facing sandbar enjoys vehicle access and is sailable, but is probably too small and too busy for land sailing.

Borth - sailing is allowed, as long as you set up North of the red brick building.

Harlech - Sailing is allowed. Access is through the golf club and across a fairway.

Shell Island - Sailing is allowed, but you must have proof of insurance.

Porthmadog - Black Rock Sands - It's been raced on before and is definitely sailable, but is warden controlled during the summer months, so restrictions may apply.

Hoylake - Home of the Wirral SYC. The beach is used by club members only.

Ainsdale - A small defined area is usable by anyone with a permit obtained from the local council.

The rest of it - Crosby, Formby, and Southport - is a Nature Reserve and sailing is banned. Rangers patrol the area.

Bolton Le Sands, Morecambe - Popular beach with buggies - Camping, snacks and parking at Red Bank Farm by the beach.

Redcar - actively used.

Filey - Restrictions may apply during the tourist season - March to end of September.

Bridlington - restrictions may apply in the summer months

Fraisthorpe Beach - just below Bridlington is available and open to the public, very remote down a small road with car parking on the grass, access down a small bank to the beach, kite buggies sail regularly, also minis.

Cleethorpes - Antonys Bank at the southern end of Cleethorpes, near Humberston Fitties, has a small area set aside by the council and marked out for wind powered vehicles, used regularly by C8 and mini yachts.

Mablethorpe - Home of the Lincolnshire LYC, but land sailing is subject to seasonal restrictions. For details k11gareth@gmail.com

Old Hunstanton - Land based wind sports are permitted north of the Golf Club.

Greatstone on sea - Home of the Kent LYC - no restrictions, anything goes.

Northern Ireland Benone - Actively used, but restrictions apply on the western end, used by the military.

Inland - 1 Airfield, at Elvington near York - Home of the York Land Yacht Club - non members are able to sail for £15 per day to cover fees.

The following list of beaches are ones where YouTube footage has been recorded. It is essential that if you are considering sailing there that you contact the owner/local council before sailing. You will not

be insured to sail on these beaches without written permission of the owner at which point you should contact the BFSLYC Insurance Officer to have the site added to the list of permissible sailing sites

Perranporth - Sadly no sailing is allowed.

Saunton - 4 miles long and perfect for sailing, but privately owned and land sailing is banned.

Berrow - 3 miles or so of west facing sand/mud. Definitely sailable, but signs are erected saying No sailing or buggying.

Kenfig - On the map there's a good 3 miles of sand south of Port Talbot, backed by dunes and the steelworks, which should be fantastic for sand yachting, but access, is via a long footpath and it might be a nature reserve.

Tenby - Sailing is not allowed by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Also, it's soft.

Porth Neigwl - Hell's Mouth - at the end of the Llyn peninsula - sailable, but no information known on any restrictions that may apply.

Anglesey - including Rhosneigr - No information. C5s raced there 25 years ago and lots of folk have sailed there since, but ... legally?

Penmaenmawr and Conwy - sailable (footage on YouTube), but no information known re any restrictions that may apply.

Lytham St Annes - Home of the sport in the UK, but land sailing is currently banned. Hopefully for not much longer...

Cleveleys / Rossall - A wet beach, used by buggies and boarders at low tide only

The following beaches are sailable, as evidenced by footage on YouTube, but no information is known about any restrictions that may apply -

Seascale

Southernness

Sandhead

Troon

Tiree

Dunnet

Dornoch

St Andrews

Druridge

Whitby - Sailable North of Upgang Lane towards Sandsend - effectively where the promenade ends and the golf course begins.

Skegness - Sailable - as per YouTube footage - but restrictions are likely to apply.

Brancaster - Sailable - as per YouTube - but restrictions may apply.

Holkham - Owned by NT - land sailing banned.

Camber - Sailable, as per YouTube footage.

East Wittering - Sailable, as per YouTube footage

Northern Ireland Tyrella - Sailable, but no information available

Newcastle - Sailable and used for racing in the 1980s

Greencastle - Looks good on the map, but no information is available.