



UKWA NATIONAL WINDSPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS and Champions Cup

Grafham Water Sailing Club – 23rd / 24th September 2023

Volunteer Safety Information

- RO = Race officer
- CSL = Course safety leader

Key team on the shore

- Bob Ingram (event director)
- Sue Ingram (office manager / orange course beach master)
- Jon Eskdale (results)

Key team on the Water

- Chris Lewis (Green Course Lead)
- Paul Sibley (RO Blue Course)
- Tessa Ingram (Principal Race officer, RO Orange Course, Child Welfare Officer)
- Robin Nicol (CSL Blue Course) – on boat BLUE 5
- Rob Strange (CSL Orange Course) – on UKWA boat BUSKA
- James Palin (Deputy Race Officer Orange Course, Safety Lead)

Fleets

- Green Course – 3.5s
- Blue Course – 4.5s, 5.0s and 5.8s
- Orange Course – 6.8s, 7.8s, 7.8 overage, Techno+ 8.5, Raceboard, iQFOiL, Formula foil, Freeride foil and wing foil

All communications should be made through your CSL, they will liaise with Event Director who is responsible for overall event safety. **THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS FOR CODE RED**

Radio Channels:

- Green Course – channel 13 (Spare Channel 72)
- Blue Course - channel 13 (Spare Channel 72)
- Orange Course - channel 37a (Spare Channel 6)

Please don't use any other channels unless instructed to do so by the Event Director or your course race officer.

Important:

You **MUST** hold a Minimum of RYA Level 2 Powerboat in order to helm any boat during this event – No helms “in training” are permitted to drive boats at this event.

A life jacket or buoyancy aid is required by anyone using a rib with no exceptions.

Maintaining proper control - you must keep a good lookout and hand on the throttle lever at all times when in gear, please respect the other courses and others using the water.

Keep off the race course unless instructed to enter, this includes its extensions (sailing area). Keep speeds to a minimum during racing, your boat wake can seriously interfere with racing.

Flags – you must display the appropriate boat flag on your boat for identification purposes. If it is removed for a rescue, it should be replaced as soon as possible. UKWA ribs will not be displaying a flag.

Kill cords - MUST be worn at all times UNLESS you are engaged in a rescue and are assisting with kit or aiding a competitor into the boat.

Boat failures - Try to propel the boat away from the course area – or if you cannot, drop anchor and request the CSL (course safety leader) to direct someone to your location to assist you.

Radio traffic – Make a radio check call with your CSL before going afloat. During the day, keep radio chat to an absolute minimum and listen out for race sequences. Whilst in sequence you are to maintain radio silence unless notifying of a CODE RED or passing an urgent message. The only exception is the designated Pin End Boat on each course.

Going afloat and taking breaks – Notify your CSL before going afloat or if you need to take a break. You will be notified when you can stand down for breaks, lunch and at the end of the day. You must not leave your course area without notifying the CSL. Crews must be on the water before the fleets can be released so therefore check your “on the water times” in the volunteer schedule and with your CSL.

Orange Course Sailors - MUST be escorted out to their course area and back to the shore. (As this crosses the intended Club Racing Area and possibly the Blue / Green Course)

Tallys - The Tally board MUST be cleared and verified by the CSL before the crews are released off the water. If you are notified that a sailor has forgotten their tally notify your Race Officer.

Retirements / Rescues (due to tiredness, cold or kit failure) Notify your CSL before effecting a rescue and pass the sail number to the Race Officer to retire the sailor. Notify your CSL OR RACE OFFICER if you have concerns about a sailor's wellbeing and let the CSL make a decision on whether to stop them racing and return them to shore.

Whistles – all sailors shall carry a SOLAS approved whistle with them at all times. There is a penalty for them not having them, so if you see anybody without a whistle you need to let the Race Officer know.

Windfoils / Wingfoils – All sailors will be wearing helmets and impact vests – you must notify the RO if a sailor is not wearing either of these. Please be aware that under normal operation, these are almost completely silent – so your vigilance is required to ensure you know where they are.

Wingfoil sailors should wear a board and wing leash at all times when afloat. You must notify the RO if a sailor is not wearing either of these.

Note: Foils are extremely sharp and therefore there is additional risk to you, the sailor, their equipment and your boat, do not attempt a rescue unless you are confident you can do so safely. Rescue the sailor and leave the kit to your CSL.

Minor Injuries – notify the CSL of the injury and relay the sail number to the Race Officer. The CSL will notify the Beachmaster of the injury and coordinate the rescue.

CODE RED – In the event of a major incident or a suspected major injury (neck, back, head, major blood loss, breathing difficulty or bone breakage) call CODE RED Call: “CODE RED, CODE RED” Then identify your station call sign and await acknowledgement for the Race Officer. The RO and CSL for each course are responsible for heading up communications during a Code Red and unless you are tasked, radio silence is required by all stations.

We have advanced equipment available for serious injuries and will make a call on using these by using the suitably trained team. Including Neck collars, a Spinal Board and Defibrillator. UKWA boats also carry small first aid kits.

Liaison will be made by RO and CSL with Sailboard Base and Beach (Event Director) in order to deal with the situation. The designated landing area will be the MAIN PONTOON.

DO NOT BE AFRAID to call a code red if you feel it is justified. Most importantly, if you believe a casualty has suspected injury to back or neck, make the call and seek advice before pulling the casualty into your boat.

Once completed a CODE RED incident will be cancelled to return to normal operations state on the Radio by using “ALL STATIONS, ALL STATIONS - CODE RED CANCEL, CODE RED CANCEL.” - radio silence then ends.

Rescue of Windsurfers –Rescuing windsurf equipment badly puts you at risk of injury so please check if you are unsure – please remember to always approach a windsurfer from down-wind.

During racing - keep reasonably clear of the course and keep to your designated patrol area allocated by your CSL.

Local Rules:

BIOHAZARD: it is MANDATORY that you comply with the buyer hazard regulations set by DEFRA, The Environment Agency and Anglia water. **You can be heavily fined for not doing so** Please make sure that all boats are washed down as instructed by the team at Grafham, boats will not be permitted to leave without this being done.

Fishermen: It is requested that you keep clear of fisherman by 20 meters all round. There is no requirement for them move and they have equal water rights to us. Please be courteous to all other recreational water users.

Speed on the water: Although there is a 5-knot speed limit in the moorings, there are no designated speed limits on Grafham Water, however it is expected that all crews will use speed proportionate to their task. Racing to and from the clubhouse for lunch or comfort breaks does not constitute proportionate use of speed. Please watch your wash around the sailors and look out for each other too.

Finally, on behalf of all the UKWA thank you for volunteering to make this event as safe as possible.

If you have any questions at all then please do speak to your designated CSL, RO or the Event Director

Best wishes

James Palin
Safety Lead
07970 578877