

WSC Club Boat Scheme Rules

1. Introduction

This document describes the Club Boat Scheme (the 'CBS') used to manage boats belonging to WSC.

The purpose of the CBS is to provide access for club members to sailing and other water sports equipment without having to make a significant up-front financial investment. A pay-to-use model enables the cost of the equipment to be met by several individuals sharing the equipment, backed by the Club.

The Club Boat Scheme is a scheme, not a service – nobody else will put the covers back on, wash the boat off or put the gear away if individuals forget. Like the rest of WSC the CBS is run for members by members.

1.1 Scope

Equipment available under the CBS scheme currently includes Teras, Topaz', Visions, Laser, Laser 2000, Wayfarers, YW Dayboat.

It should be noted that availability of boats is subject to usage by other members and WSC cannot guarantee the availability of any item.

WSC does not provide wetsuits, dry suits or gloves. Buoyancy aids may be available from the Club store. Please ask the Club Boat Officer if you wish to borrow a Club buoyancy aid.

1.2 CBS Administration and Membership

The WSC Sailing Committee will nominate a WSC member (the 'Club Boat Officer') to be responsible for day-to-day administration of the CBS and the first point of contact for CBS members (or potential members).

The Club Boat Officer will hold a list of those who have signed up to the scheme and paid the charge.

The Club Boat Officer will hold a list of recognised competent helms volunteering for novice 'taster sessions'. New sailors are entitled to three taster sessions after which they must join the scheme should they wish to continue using club boats.

Apart from taster sessions, anyone that wants to use a club boat either as helm or crew must be a member of the CBS. However, the Club Boat Scheme does not apply to Cadet activities or experienced (or competent) helms taking out an inexperienced crew for organised Social Sails.

Membership of the CBS is open to all WSC members.

For those with Family membership of WSC, every adult member of the family that wishes to sail in a club boat must join the Scheme.

Only those whose experience meets or exceeds the minimum criteria laid out in 2 below are deemed to be competent to helm.

2. Minimum Experience Requirement

Any CBS member wishing to helm must be competent to take the boat out safely and without damaging the boat (or other people's boats). WSC requires that potential CBS helms have a minimum level of experience and/or sailing qualifications, which may be any of the following:

- RYA Level 2 Dingy qualification with relevant experience
- or
- Have at least 2 seasons' experience for the relevant type
- or
- Be assessed by the Club Boat Officer, Sailing Secretary, Vice Commodore or Commodore as competent
- NOTE: this requirement does not apply to the Canadian canoes.

It should be noted that the minimum experience requirements stated above are generic. By allowing an individual to use a club boat, WSC is not certifying or confirming that the individual has the knowledge and experience to sail a club boat safely. The responsibility for deciding to put to sea in the prevailing conditions lies solely with the individual(s) using the boat (or with their parents if under 18).

3. Briefings

The following briefings are required for a new member of the CBS to sail in a Club boat:

- Boat rigging and safety briefing (mandatory).
- Club sailing area and hazards brief.
- This is a requirement for new members but optional for existing members who have been with the Club for a long time and know the area well.

The briefings will be done by the Club Boat Officer or his/her delegate.

The 'boat rigging and safety brief' will cover elements of sailing specific to the boats but it is NOT 'how to sail'. The purpose of setting minimum experience criteria is to ensure that helms already know how to sail before getting to this point in the process.

4. Payment Methods

Annual Fee

- One-off payment for the sailing season
- Fee enables unlimited use (subject to their availability) of the club boats.

5. Boat Reservations

All boats shall be reserved via the Club's booking system, and a reservation is mandatory for use of any club boat. This includes using a boat 'on the day' even if nobody else is around, and even if you pay by annual fee. All reservations must include the name of the helm and crew members, where appropriate. Reservations may be made by helm or crew. Boats may be reserved up to 7 days before use. Only recognized CBS members may reserve the boat – it is not acceptable to reserve a boat on behalf of someone else.

On race days the Club may prioritise reservations by individuals wishing to race.

All helms and crew must be members of the CBS. (normal club rules apply – however; occasional visitors and those on taster sessions are not required to join the scheme.

Listed Competent Helms are not required to be part of the CBS if volunteering in a club boat for a taster session.

6. Handovers

After use, it is the responsibility of the individual who booked the boat to confirm that the boat is damage free when brought ashore.

7. Responsibilities and Obligations of CBS Members

The individual that has reserved the boat is wholly responsible for the boat from the time that the cover is removed until the time the cover is re-secured correctly.

The individual that has reserved the club boat has the following responsibilities:

- Not to launch in current or forecast weather conditions that would exceed his/her capabilities (or those of anyone sailing with him/her) and which might therefore result in personal injury or damage to the boat and/or its equipment.
- Not to launch unless satisfied that the boat is seaworthy.
- To ensure that they (and anyone else on the boat) wears a buoyancy aid.
- To treat the boat and equipment as if it were their own property, recognising that the boat is a shared resource and their actions or omissions may prevent other CBS members from using the boat.
- If intending to use the spinnaker, to check it for damage before going afloat and at the first hoist.
- To ensure that all equipment is rinsed and stored correctly after use, covers fitted and boat tie-downs fixed correctly where applicable.
- To cancel reservations that are not required, and to do so in a timely manner.
- To notify the Club Boat Officer (or in his/her absence, any member of the WSC Sailing Committee) as soon as possible of:
 - Loss or damage to the boat and/or equipment (whether done by that individual or not).
 - Injury arising from use of the club boat.
 - Loss or damage done to third-party boats (including those of WSC members), or any injury to third parties.
- To assist the Club Boat Officer to complete a written report in the event of an insurance claim.
- To make the Club Boat Officer aware of any items requiring maintenance due to 'normal wear and tear'. This may, at the discretion of the Club Boat Officer, require individuals to record such items in a task log.
- Not to remove (or allow to be removed) any component or part of the boat unless for the purpose of maintenance or repair.

8. Maintenance of Club Boats

Members of the CBS have an obligation to donate some of their time to maintaining the club boats and running the Club Boat Scheme, as directed by the Club Boat Officer. This may involve tasks such as:

- Checks and light maintenance to address normal wear and tear (e.g. replacing ropes or blocks, cleaning hulls and covers etc).
- Showing new CBS members how to rig the boats.
- Checking and reporting condition of equipment.

Maintenance tasks will not involve repairing significant accident damage.

Maintenance costs must be pre-approved by the Sailing Sub-committee. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed against receipts.

9. Cost of Loss and/or Damage

The Club will pay for maintenance costs out of the CBS membership fees.

Individuals are strongly recommended to check all parts of the boat before they go out and take date/time stamped pictures of any areas of concern. If an individual notices damage before they take the boat out then they must report it immediately and before they go sailing.

Any loss or damage **MUST** be reported as soon as possible.

All repairs are to be done by an individual or supplier nominated by the WSC Committee.

Under no circumstances are individuals to repair damage caused by them or replace lost items without prior agreement from the WSC Sailing Committee.

10. Safety Cover

WSC does not provide a rescue service (safety cover) of any kind for individuals using club boats unless taking part in an officially organised event.

11. Insurance

Insurance cover provided under the Club Boat Scheme is limited to that provided under the club boat section of the Club's general insurance policy. This does not include cover for personal injury or loss of personal items. It includes cover for the boat whilst racing.