



SKYE SAILING CLUB
SCIO

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Skye Sailing Club – Rowing Rowing Safety Guidelines

Approved by Board of Trustees April 2016

In addition to any safety guidelines issued by Skye Sailing Club, the following additionally but not exclusively apply:

Common Sense should be applied at all times.

1. a. All rowers and scullers must be able to swim 50 m in light clothing. All should be prepared to demonstrate this at the request of person in charge of any session or event.
1. b. Suitable clothing must be worn that is appropriate for the conditions prevailing. Snug-fitting clothing should be worn – loose or baggy clothing is not advised as it can foul the oars and sliding seat thereby potentially causing injury.
1. c. Lifejackets or buoyancy aids must be worn at all times when on the water.
2. a. Care must be taken in deciding whether it is safe for boats to be launched.
2. b. Juniors and Cadets may only row on the water if there is appropriately qualified safety boat operator. All rowers must take into account weather and water conditions, the boat being used and the ability of the young sculler or crew. There must be no doubt that the rowing is as safe as possible – remember the Club's stance is RISK AVERSE.
3. a. All members must make sure that they are fully acquainted with, and at all times obey, the rules of navigation and any local guidance specific to Portree Harbour.
3. b. Rowers may only row when a Safety Boat operated by an assigned qualified person is available. Rowers must wear lifejackets.
3. c. Rowing boats should be launched with their bows facing the loch.
3. d. Before moving away from the slip, make sure that the safety boat is manned.
4. a. Please stay well away from moored boats and any vessels moving about the harbour.
4. b. Turning boats around must not be carried out anywhere along a line from the pierhead to the green navigation mark at 'Black Rock' (see diagram)
5. a. Coaches must ensure that all rowers in their charge are aware of appropriate safety procedures.
5. b. Coaches should carry a rescue line or throw bag with them.
5. c. Coaches should carry VHF radio set on channel 06 for communication with Safety Boat drivers and shoreside personnel.

6. a. Beginners must not use equipment without prior and adequate instruction and must not use any boat unsupervised.
6. b. Beginners are not permitted to use single sculls until they have successfully completed a capsizing drill/swim test.
6. c. In the (unlikely) event of a fall into the water, stay with the boat it cannot sink! Hold on to a rigger or sit astride the upturned hull.
7. If a change of position is required within a boat, this must only be done while alongside a safety boat or pontoon.

In an emergency, assistance may be obtained from the safety boat operator by using the whistle within your lifejacket. If ashore, the Beachmaster will have a telephone to contact the first aider or the Emergency Services, by dialing 999.

Before dialing 999 make sure you know in advance the service you require (police, fire, or ambulance), and where they are to meet you:

The Club slipway address is
Skye Sailing Club
Scorrybreac Boatshed
Portree
IV51 9QU

The main Portree Pier is
Portree Harbour Pierhead
Quay Street
Portree
IV51 9DE

Also tell the Emergency Services:

The location of the incident,
Details of the situation,
Details of access;

The Skye Sailing Club slipway is at the Scorrybreac shore Boathouse, situated on the beach beneath the Cuillin Hills Hotel.

8. Safety equipment and First Aid is available from the kitchen area within the Clubhouse.

All incidents which have the potential for damaging equipment or injuring those taking part must be recorded on an Incident Report Form which should be handed in to the Beachmaster or Principal Instructor once completed.

9. Finally, everyone must be constantly aware of the rights of others who use Portree Harbour. Extend to them at all times the courtesy which you would hope to receive from them yourself.

