

## Stokes Bay Sailing Club Water Users Guide July 2025

Please read SBSC Club Byelaw 5 relating to Watersports and Casual Sailing

<https://www.stokesbay-sc.co.uk/club-rules/>

This code of conduct is further guidance for water users. Sailing, wing-foiling, windsurfing, paddle boarding, kayaking and swimming all carry an element of risk, but with some simple steps this can be reduced to a minimum and enable all our members to rise to the challenge of being on, or in, the Solent. Ultimately the decision to launch or enter the water lies with the individual who should do so with a clear-eyed view of the risks they are accepting and how they are being managed. Respect other water users and enjoy!

All water users are encouraged to:

- Join their national governing body (NGB). Other than for paddle boarding, kayaking and swimming, this is the RYA. Their safety guidance can be found at <https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge/safety>.
- Be responsible for themselves and their equipment by receiving instruction and acquiring information on local hazards and risks specific to Stokes Bay. Courses are run by NGBs, for example <https://www.rya.org.uk/training/wing-surfing-foiling>
- Consider the safety of other beach and water users.
- Check weather and tidal information before going on or in the water, and keep a weather eye open. This information can be found on the website. **As a guide, in Stokes Bay the tide flows west 2 hrs before High Water and 3hrs after High Water.**
- Leave the beach in company and **communicate intentions** or a plan to someone ashore.
- If going on the water without patrol boat cover, consider taking a mobile phone or radio afloat in a waterproof case.
- Use recommended **safety equipment** such as helmets, impact vests, leashes, buoyancy aids. (The latter are compulsory when racing.)
- Wear clothing appropriate for the conditions and time of year.
- Have personal 3<sup>rd</sup> Party insurance. (This is compulsory for sailing members.) Note that full RYA membership offers free cover to windsurfers, paddle boarders, wing surfers and kite surfers <https://www.rya.org.uk/membership/benefits-category-listing?categoryname=Insurance>
- Respect boats who are racing and keep clear of busy areas (starts, finishes, rounding marks).
- **To protect beach users and swimmers, keep outside the 50m area (local byelaw) and marked by a line of yellow buoys, unless launching or recovering to shore (and then approach with care)**