

Risk Area: Windsurf

**Owner:** Head of Operations

**Date of next review:** 08.04.26

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
<b>Drowning</b> Drowning is an inherent risk in all water activities	Staff and Visitors by falling off of boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buoyancy Aids must be worn, include CE mark and 50N</li> <li>UKSA RYA Qualified Instructors</li> <li>VHF Radio carried or appropriate means of communications</li> <li>Roll mats in safety craft</li> <li>EAP is in place</li> <li>Staff trained in EAP completion</li> <li>Buoyancy Aids are checked by instructors before use</li> <li>Harnesses can be used instead of a buoyancy aid at the CI's discretion</li> <li>Self-inflating lifejackets should be avoided as they are not suitable for windsurfing sessions due to the likely hood of being deployed when not needed.</li> </ul>				
<b>Collisions</b>	Staff and visitors by colliding with other craft, or head injuries resulting from contact with booms and masts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UKSA RYA Qualified Instructors</li> <li>Helmets must be worn (At CI's Discretion)</li> <li>Helmets are checked by instructor before use</li> <li>EAP is in place</li> <li>Students are briefed of the dangers of the rig falling on top of them after they have fallen off</li> <li>Consider the location, wind and tide of the sailing session.</li> <li>SI Afloat to check for suitability during changeable conditions</li> <li>Correct session delivery to be adhered to – students always upwind of rig and board.</li> <li>Space students to avoid contact with equipment</li> <li>Set courses with sufficient space to maneuver</li> </ul>				

<b>Personal injury</b>	Staff and students injuring feet / hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure correct footwear is used. No bare feet.</li> <li>• Ensure students are briefed as to the best way to dismount or falloff of a board</li> <li>• Ensure the location used is as free of hazardous obstacles as possible</li> <li>• Support boards in early stages to develop balance and slow speed skills.</li> <li>• Consider the use of trainers in the early stages of tuition.</li> </ul>				
<b>Drowning</b>	Staff and students from entrapment under sail or within boom / harness lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrapment from falling rig. Students briefed in how to recover from this scenario</li> <li>• Students encouraged to fall to windward</li> <li>• No students to be standing downwind of rigs when attempting to lift rig.</li> <li>• Staff to carry knives to free students from rigging if required.</li> <li>• Quick released harness hooks to be used where possible</li> <li>• Sessions size / course size to be suited to student ability</li> </ul>				
<b>Hypothermia</b> Cold	Staff and visitors due to environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UKSA RYA Qualified Instructors</li> <li>• Wetsuits must be worn (At CI's Discretion)</li> <li>• Dry suits permitted at CI's discretion when winds are low and not planning conditions.</li> <li>• Clothing must be appropriate to conditions</li> <li>• Additional clothing to be brought with on sessions where temperature is low</li> </ul>				
<b>Hyperthermia</b> Hot	Staff and visitors due to environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UKSA RYA Qualified Instructors</li> <li>• Instructors make sure guests are drinking enough water during the day</li> <li>• Instructors make sure sun-cream and clothing is suitable</li> <li>• Water and sun-cream to be brought with on sessions where temperature is high</li> </ul>				

<b>Group Control Whilst Afloat</b>	Visitors behavior and conduct impacting safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Guests receive a safety briefing before going afloat</li> <li>• All Guests are shown hand and whistle signals and there meaning before going afloat.</li> <li>• All Guests are given a sailing area to stay within.</li> <li>• Self-rescue techniques to be introduced at session 1</li> <li>• IC to ensure sessions are appropriate.</li> <li>• SI Afloat to check on control of sessions and offer support where necessary</li> <li>• Excessive offshore winds to be avoided.</li> </ul>				
<b>Guest Medical Issues</b>	Visitors not declaring medical info.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All guests must have completed a medical form before going afloat.</li> <li>• All instructors must check if there any medical issues with the group they are taking out.</li> <li>• Medicines must be placed in a dry bag and kept with instructor at all times.</li> <li>• Medication must be given back to the student at the end</li> <li>• If a guest has a medical issue which may warrant an individual risk assessment the chief instructor will make sure this is completed</li> </ul>				