

THAMES WATER REGULATIONS – 1995



INTRODUCTION

In these Regulations reference to the *Club* and to *Thames Water* shall be taken to mean ***Datchet Water Sailing Club*** and ***Thames Water Utilities Limited*** (or their successors) respectively. It must be understood failure of members and guests to comply with these regulations may prejudice the Club's lease. It is essential that they are enforced by the Club and Thames Water's decision on any matter relating to these regulations will be final. Where a regulation repeats a point already dealt with in the lease it is solely for the purpose of emphasis. In the event of any conflict between the wording of any sailing regulation and the express wording of any provision contained in the lease the latter shall prevail.

It should be noted that all requirements set out below are solely to protect the interests of the Company and not be regarded as pertinent to the safety/safe practice of Clubs, their members or guests. "Guests" includes any persons visiting the reservoir as a result of the presence of the Club.

Reservoirs, unless treated with respect, are inherently dangerous. They are usually very cold, very deep and may have strong undercurrents surrounding inlets and outlets. Thames Water expects the highest standards of safety from the Club and cannot accept responsibility for the safety of members or visitors while carrying out Club pursuits.

Use of the word "sailing" should be taken to include other water-based activities (eg. Windsurfing, boardsailing, canoeing, rowing, dragon boat racing as appropriate).

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Thames Water has the authority to call upon any person who has access to the Club premises, or any part thereof, to leave the same if he or she fails to comply with these regulations.
- 1.2 Thames Water will not be liable for any loss, damage or injury to Club members or their guests, services or agents except as required by law.
- 1.3 All users of the reservoir are expected to use common sense on and around the reservoir at all times.
- 1.4 The Club will have a membership registration scheme which is not transferable, and proof of membership must be produced at the request of an official of the Club or an officer of Thames Water. The Club and its members must have adequate third part insurance when sailing.
- 1.5 Guests using the Club as authorised by the Articles of Constitution of the Club shall comply with the Constitution and with all Club regulations. Guests intending to sail must carry adequate third party insurance.
- 1.6 Parents and guardians of all persons under the age of 18 years will be responsible at all times for their safety, unless specifically booked on to training courses with a recognised trainer/coach.

- 1.7 Access is limited to the Club premises, the car and boat parks, the access ramps to reservoirs and areas along the embankment within the limits marked by notice boards. Access to the remainder of the perimeter roads is restricted to cases of accident or emergency.
- 1.8 Vehicles must only be parked in designated areas. Where waterside parking is not available cars must only be used to load and unload trailers/roof racks. Cars must then be immediately returned to car parks. The Club must ensure that this is enforced and in particular drawn to the attention of the guests.
- 1.9 Vehicle weight limit of 4 tons applies to the reservoir embankment; the written permission of Thames Water is required for anything larger.
- 1.10 Unless some alternative arrangement is agreed with Thames Water all members and their guests must vacate the Clubhouse and remove their vehicles from the site by 22.45 hours.
- 1.11 Pollution or other contaminations of the reservoirs is forbidden. Litter must be deposited in bins provided by the club and approved by Thames operations manager or taken away, and loose fittings in boats and boards must be secured so as to avoid loss and sinking.
- 1.12 The Club is under an obligation to keep the water clean at all times. Any floating debris must be removed as soon as is practicable.
- 1.13 The Club must ensure that no dogs or other animals are allowed on the site by its members or their guests.
- 1.14 The Club must ensure there is no shooting/fishing/deliberate interference with wildlife by its members or their guests.
- 1.15 The Club must ensure members and guests do not interfere with plant, valves, machinery, drains or any other operational equipment. Sailing activities should be structured as to avoid operational equipment (eg outlet towers an exclusion zone will be indicated and defined by a floating boom) and as advised by Thames Water.
- 1.16 Powered craft will not be allowed on the water unless of a type approved by Thames Water.
- 1.17 Craft on the water must stay well clear of fishermen permitted to use the banks, jetties or boats for fishing.
- 1.18 Any activity which interferes with the other permitted activities of the other users of the reservoir is not allowed.
- 1.19 The Club shall not permit or place any pontoon, jetties, slipway or any other equipment or works on or adjacent to the reservoir without the written permission of Thames Water.
- 1.20 Petrol and other flammable liquids must be stored in fireproof, sealed storage units that meet current legislation. No refuelling shall take place on reservoir embankment or on the water.

- 1.21 The integrity of the building, electrical, gas and water supplies shall conform to current legislation.
- 1.22 Camping and other forms of overnight stay will only be with the permission of Thames Water.
- 1.23 Clubs should be aware of the nearest hospital with accident and emergency procedures. The details of such should be publicly displayed.
- 1.24 Thames Water reserves the right to carry out a Health and Safety check on the premises at least annually.
- 1.25 The Club must include safety procedures as an agenda item on at least one committee meeting per year.
- 1.26 A copy of these regulations shall be publicly displayed on site and made available through Club publications.

2.0 WATER USE – GENERAL

- 2.1 Thames Water has the authority to limit the area of water of the reservoir available for sailing and the area or areas withdrawn from use must not be entered save in an emergency.
- 2.2 Only those types and classes of boat approved by Thames Water may be sailed on the reservoirs.
- 2.3 Unless otherwise agreed by prior arrangement with Thames Water the reservoirs are to be used for sailing only between 09:00 and 20 minutes before sunset or 21:30 hours whichever is the earlier. All boats, boards, tackle and gear must be removed from the water by the closing time for sailing specified above. Rescue boats, keelboats and other boats as agreed with Thames Water may be moored overnight.
- 2.4 **Not more than X craft may sail on the reservoir at any one time except on Sunday afternoons during the months of May to October inclusive when up to Y boats may be on the water at any one time**
- 2.5 Clubs must maintain an adequate register of boats. Boats (including those of guests) should be adequately identifiable on and off the water.
- 2.6 All boats are to be fitted with sufficient buoyancy to enable them to float and support the crew when capsized, swamped or holed. A buoyancy aid should also be fitted to the mast of all boats when sailing on pre-war water bodies this to restrict mast travel when capsized. Without prejudice, Thames Water reserves the right to check these buoyancy requirements. Class rules will be a minimum guide.
- 2.7 Thames Water may refuse to allow any boat it considers unsatisfactory to be left at the reservoir site and may forbid such a boat to be put on the water.
- 2.8 Boats and other apparatus shall be carefully and adequately cleaned before launching to avoid pollution of the reservoir. There shall be no use of anti-fouling paint or chemicals without written approval from Thames Water.

- 2.9 The launching or recovery of boats will be from the pontoon, slipway, stagings or "beach" areas provided. If otherwise Thames Water will have to approve.
- 2.10 It is forbidden to work on boats and other gear except on the Club premises or in the boat park. This includes cleaning boats, except that keelboats may be scrubbed periodically on the launching beach.
- 2.11 Boats must be stored in the boat parks designated by Thames Water. Thames Water reserves the right to alter the location of the boat parks in consultation with the Club.
- 2.12 Any person taking the helm may be called off the water by Thames Water or the Club if they appear to be incompetent unless:-
- a) They are accompanied by a competent person over the age of 16.
 - or b) the boat is one of the approved single handed classes and the person is undergoing training to sail that class of boat.
 - or c) they are undergoing adequately supervised training.
- 2.13 Clubs should be made aware of the nearest hospital with accident and emergency procedures. The details of such should be publicly displayed.
- 2.14 Thames Water reserve the right to carry out a Health and Safety check on the premises at least annually.
- 2.15 The Club must include safety procedures as an agenda item on at least one committee meeting per year.
- 2.16 A copy of these regulations shall be publicly displayed on site and made available through Club publications.

3.0 WATER USE – SAFE PRACTICES

- 3.1 No boat or board is permitted to sail on either reservoir on its own. In order to meet this regulation the minimum acceptable requirement combinations for any reservoir is:
- a) two or more boats
 - b) one boat and a rescue boat
 - c) two boards
 - d) one board and a rescue boat
- 3.2 Single-handed sailing, except of such boats as are suitable for such sailing and are approved by the Club and Thames Water, will not normally be permitted except with prior agreement of the Club and Thames Water.
- 3.3 All persons, including rescue boat crews, must at all times while afloat wear adequate personal buoyancy. If the buoyancy is of the inflatable type it must at all times be inflated sufficiently to support the wearer in the water. All children under the age of 12 years must wear personal buoyancy at all times except when inside the clubhouse or on other areas agreed by Thames

Water. All personal buoyancy shall be maintained in a satisfactory condition and meet the standards laid down by the relevant national authorities.

- 3.4 Any persons on jetties, beach areas, pontoons or other areas within the reservoir basin must wear adequate personal buoyancy.
- 3.5 Board sailors should wear a float coat and carry a spare line.
- 3.6 All groups should carry a means of signalling distress.
- 3.7 Personal clothing should conform to the recommendations made by the relevant governing body. The current are strongly recommended:-
 - 1 November – 30 April, at any other time when the International Code Flag Y is flying, or when the reservoir temperature is below 9 degrees C.
 - Dinghy/Multihull sailors – full wetsuit/drysuit/steamer with appropriate thermal undergarment.
 - Keelboat sailors – as dinghy sailors – though polar suits may be substituted for wet/drysuits.
 - Canoeists/rowers – as dinghy sailors.
 - Board sailors – “winter” wetsuits/steamer with appropriate thermal undergarment.

 - 1 May – 31 October:
 - Board sailors – a wetsuit covering legs, tops, trunk and chest is required. Shoulders and arms should be covered but this need not be wetsuit material.
 - Other users – it is strongly advised the dress code for board sailors is adhered to.
- 3.8 Footwear for persons sailing must be commensurate with the activity being undertaken.
- 3.9 When organised race sailing is taking place a Race Officer must be appointed. Governing Body and Class rules must be adhered to. The Club should make extra provision to accommodate local conditions.
- 3.10 Deliberate bodily immersions is not permitted except for the safe launching and recovery of craft or as part of governing body regulated training courses.
- 3.11 The minimum age of sailing is 16 years except that a person under that age may sail a boat on the reservoirs:
 - a) if he or she has satisfied Thames Water or the club that he or she is competent to sail a boat.
 - or b) if he or she is accompanied by a person aged 16 or over.
 - or c) if he or she is accompanied by a person under that age who has satisfied Thames Water or the club that he or she is competent to sail a boat.
 - or d) if the boat is in one of the approved single-handed classes and he or she has either satisfied Thames Water or the Club that he or she is competent to sail that class of boat or is undergoing a test for that purpose.

- or e) if, being a visitor, he or she produces to Thames Water or the club evidence of his or her membership of the Club of which he or she, the visitor, is a member.
- or f) if under supervising training.

- 3.12 A rescue boat or boats, of a type approved by Thames Water will be ready for immediate use at all times when sailing takes place. It will be staffed whenever organised sailing/racing takes place and at all times from 1 November to 30 April inclusive.
- 3.13 All rescue boat staff will be trained by RYA approved standards. The Club will maintain a register, with accompanying documentation, of those approved staff.
- 3.14 All rescue boat staff should be aware of the current governing body recommendations on rescue procedures.
- 3.15 Any organised training must be under the supervision of staff qualified to governing body regulations standards. Where these standards apply in addition to the Club they must be adhered to.
- 3.16 Clubs should notify members, servants or agents of the potential problems of algal bloom upon joining the Club. The Club should issue periodical reminders at relevant times.