



ARUN YOUTH AQUA CENTRE GUIDELINE

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| TITLE | LAUNCHING AND RECOVERY AT HIGH WATER | |
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| SIGNATURE | | |

1. PURPOSE

This guideline responds to the AYAC Risk Assessment Co-ordinating document regarding the launching and recovery of dinghies at high water.

2. SCOPE

The guideline covers the following activities:-

- i. Launching a dinghy at high water with both onshore, cross-shore and off shore winds.
- ii. Recovering a dinghy at high water with both onshore, cross-shore and off shore winds.

3. DEFINITIONS

Crew All personnel in the dinghy for the duration of the session.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Management Committee are responsible for ensuring that the Senior Instructor's who are responsible for the sailing activities are aware of this guideline.

The Senior Instructor's are responsible for ensuring that all members, temporary members, adult helpers are aware of the principles contained within this guideline and where appropriate are shown/instructed on the correct way of carrying out the activity.

5. GUIDELINE

1. As with all coastal locations beach launching and recovery can be particularly difficult under certain combinations of tide and wind. It must be stressed that the Senior Instructor will make a decision based on the current weather forecast and sea conditions prevailing at the time of launching, that decision will at all times be based on his/her experience, a risk assessment undertaken on the day. At all times the safety of those present at the session will be paramount.
2. Normally it is a Southerly biased wind F4 or above (from SE clockwise to SW) on a high water spring tide which may pose difficulties. Northerly biased winds East anticlockwise to West and neap tides generally pose no more problems than considerations normally taken.



3. It is essential that whilst selecting the crew for the dinghy for the session consideration is taken of the experience, size and likely strength of the crew and if necessary assistance for launching and recovering the dinghies is provided from amongst the personnel present. Due recognition must be taken of the state of the tide at the beginning and the end of the session.
4. Safety boat crews and the Senior Instructor should at all times during the sailing session be aware of the conditions developing on the shore. Remembering the priority of safety at all times it may be necessary either to abort the session early or extend the session until the conditions ease.
5. Launching:- If conditions are expected to be within the capability of the Crews it is essential that they are reminded of the essential safety considerations.:-
 - i. Always hold the dinghy to the waves when launching and embark on the windward side. It is usually preferable to have an adult helper holding the bow of the dinghy.
 - ii. The adult helper should assist the crew and ensure as they are released they are reminded to lower their rudder, centre plate or daggerboard.
 - iii. A safety boat will be positioned just beyond the surf line to give assistance if required.
 - iv. It will be left to the most experienced crews to launch last.
6. Recovery:-
 - i. The Crews MUST be reminded before launching that they must disembark on the seaward side of the dinghy and remain either clear of the dinghy or remain on the seaward side.
 - ii. Consideration should be given, dependant on the assistance available on shore to sending either a safety boat and an experienced crew ashore first.
 - iii. It is preferable to have dinghies arriving on shore one at a time so that the available help can assist each dinghy.
 - iv. As with launching, putting the dinghy on the trolley, should be achieved with the dinghy facing the waves, an Adult should hold the dinghy. It is preferable to push the dinghy ashore backwards at all times facing the waves, NOT necessarily perpendicular to the shore
 - v. If conditions are particularly difficult and insufficient help is available on shore it may be preferable to anchor dinghies offshore for later recovery and ferry crews ashore by safety craft.
7. At times when high water coincides with the Centre's normal session completion time additional beach duty personnel will be rostered

REFERENCES

RYA Junior Stage 1 - 3 4 and Adult scheme Level 1 and 2 syllabi.