



ARUN YOUTH AQUA CENTRE GUIDELINE

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TITLE	HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH AYAC NORMAL AREA	
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APPROVED BY	R. Elliman	Chairman Management Committee
SIGNATURE		

1. PURPOSE

This guideline is for the general guidance of all sailors using the general sailing area defined as the sailing area of the AYAC (Ref. POL. 02).

2. SCOPE

This guideline covers the following:-

- i. Off shore winds
- ii. Littlehampton Harbour Entrance
- iii. Fishing trots.
- iv. Launching and recovery.
- v. Submerged sea defences.
- vi. Tidal flow.
- vii. Swimmers.

3. DEFINITIONS

Sailor Person responsible for a dinghy or safety boat during a Centre session.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Management Committee will ensure that this guideline is available to all Sailor's who attend any AYAC organised event. It will also be issued to all members or adults who retain a dinghy within the AYAC compound.

5. GUIDELINE

1. Off shore winds are always a particular hazard for any dinghy sailor and in particular when inexperienced crew may be part of the fleet. The deceptive flat sea conditions will not indicate to inexperienced helms the difficulty that may be experienced in returning to shore.
2. Whilst the natural inclination will be to launch jib alone and raise the main whilst on the water, generally for Centre sessions this is not recommended as the time involved in raising the sail will vary significantly from crew to crew and the seaward drift will make fleet control difficult.



3. Littlehampton harbour entrance and its approaches should always be treated with caution. Commercial traffic is a particular hazard as their ability to manoeuvre is effectively non-existent. A Pilot vessel flying a white and red flag and generally confined to a period 1 hour either side of high water always accompanies them.
4. On a south to easterly wind the harbour entrance can be particularly difficult and it is not recommended for inexperienced crews in wind strength greater than a F4. Care should be exercised when the training wall is covered on a flood tide from a position up to the line southwards of the first beach groyne especially near the pier (this is buoyed off during the period Mid July to end August).
5. Approaching from the West should be exercised with caution as visibility is severely restricted by the Western Works until the harbour entrance is in full view, traffic will generally keep to the starboard side of the channel and tends to run westwards.
6. The harbour bar is not negotiable by a dinghy or safety craft until 1 hr either side of low water and note should be taken that the tidal flow in the river can reach 5 knots on an ebb tide in the narrows.
7. Generally the surface current will continue to flood for 45 mins after high water in the river and dependant on the drainage water flow will ebb anything up to 2 hrs after low water.
8. Fishing Trots are periodically laid offshore from the Centre's normal launching area particularly during early May and from mid September. They are also to be found off West beach and are identified by a flagged buoy at either extremity. Whilst they generally carry a low level trot (for bottom feeding fish) caution should be exercised and it is recommended that dinghies and safety craft do not attempt to sail over the line.
9. Launching and Recovery is the subject of a separate guideline (Ref. G 06) for condition at high water and the principles apply throughout the sailing area.
10. Submerged sea defences are present for the whole of the coastline either as wood or rock groynes. In all cases the line of the groynes are visible at high water and they generally extend no further than 150 metres from the spring high water mark.
11. Within the immediate vicinity of the launch area is a low concrete covered outfall, the southern extremity of which is clearly marked by a "basket" mounted on a steel tripod. It is not safe to cross the outfall if the basket is more than 1 metre above the water.
12. This outfall is also a potential hazard when partially exposed. It can be slippery. All members should be made aware of the danger and walking on it should be actively discouraged.
13. Tidal flows are from East to West (ebb) or West to East (flood) at a maximum rate of circa 1.5 knots with the flood 2 hrs before HW until 4 hrs after and the ebb 4 hrs after HW to 2 hrs before. The tidal flow increases as expected towards the southern most limit of the sailing area.



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14. Swimmers frequently use the beach in the summer months. Care is therefore needed when sailing close inshore or when leaving or approaching the beach. Where possible crews should will be warned of the presence of swimmers by a suitably positioned safety boat.
15. Beach Duty Personnel should where possible warn bathers in the likely path of approaching boats.



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