

## Queen Mary Sailing Club Safety Policy (latest update + review 20/3/2026, Ross Malloy & Tony Bishop)

**THIS STATEMENT IS IMPORTANT AND EXPLAINS HOW THE CLUB SETS OUT TO ASSIST YOU IN RELATION TO ON-WATER ACTIVITIES. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT.**

**All water users without dedicated safety cover must take responsibility for their own safety, both afloat and ashore, and accept that they go afloat at their own risk. The Club will use its best endeavors to provide on-water safety cover but that does not alter the individual responsibility of club members and other water users. Acceptance of this policy is a condition of going afloat.**

### SAFETY COVER

The Club sets out to provide cover at three levels as follows:

1. When Club or Open Meeting racing takes place, there will be one or more safety boats on the water depending on the conditions and the number of people racing.
2. During water opening times on weekends, there will be a watch kept ashore and safety response as necessary. Response times will be slower during these times.
3. During weekdays and evenings when the water is open, the water will be checked at intervals by the **Duty Officer** (the person responsible, as per the **Daily Information Board**). Response times will be slower during these times.

### INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As user of QMSC facilities, you have a duty to both yourself and other Club Members and water users as regards to safety. That duty includes acting responsibly whilst on Club premises, for example, using boat lifts and winches. You can improve your own safety by:

- Adhering to any instructions given by the Duty Officer, including coming ashore/not going afloat if requested
- Wearing properly fitted and well-maintained personal flotation – unless using a harness for windsurfing
- Sailing where you can be easily observed – where you can easily see the clubhouse from the water
- Be satisfied that you can right or otherwise rescue yourself and your equipment
- Following directions on the sailing areas given on the Daily Information Board \*
- Not sailing or paddling in conditions or in boats or on boards beyond your competence
- Remembering that launch and recovery can be particularly challenging and not sailing when conditions afloat or ashore make it difficult for you launch and return safely
- Taking and following advice from the Club's professionals if in doubt about anything
- Following the Club's 'Byelaws' 'Masthead Floatation Policy & Entrapment Advice', 'Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy' and 'QMSC Code of Conduct' (all displayed in the Clubhouse, on our website as below and available on request).
- Your duty to Club Members and other water users includes:
  - Providing help or seeking help for anyone you see requiring it on the water
  - Alerting the Duty Officer to any situation that you observe that may need attention
  - Observing relevant IRPCS at all times

\*Sailing is normally permitted on the West side of the reservoir only. If you wish to launch into the East Side and sail round to the West Side you must clear it with the Duty Officer first.

To sail under the club safety, crew experience, equipment selection and weather conditions must all be suitable. In general, the minimum experience required to go afloat in light winds is as follows:

Activity	Experience
Dinghy Sailing – single hander	RYA Dinghy Level 2 or equivalent experience
Dinghy Sailing – double hander	Helm must be RYA Dinghy Level 2 or equivalent experience
Keelboating – own boats	RYA Keelboat Level 2 or equivalent experience
Keelboating – QM keelboats	Minimum 3 people per boat. All need to be experienced sailors (Dinghy Level 2 or equivalent experience). Two sailors need to have experience to RYA Keelboat Level 2 standard, one of these sailors needs to be a QMSC approved skipper.
Windsurfing – beginner kit	RYA Start Windsurfing or equivalent experience
Windsurfing – intermediate kit (using a harness)	RYA Intermediate Windsurfing or equivalent experience
Wingfoiling	Be confident in progressing upwind on chosen equipment
Paddling	PaddleUK Explore/BSUPA L2 Race or Tour, or equivalent experience, familiar with self-rescues and avoiding entrapment
Powerboating	RYA Powerboat Level 2 or ICC Power to 10m. All powerboating to be arranged through the Duty Officer