

# **SUTTON DINGHY CLUB - Water Confidence & Ability to Swim Policy**

## **Purpose & Objective**

This document sets out the level of water confidence and ability to swim required of members and other participants at Sutton Dinghy Club (the Club) participating in water based activities.

## **Participant Requirements**

Members are responsible for their own safety at the club both on and off the water. The Club recommends that all those participating in water based activities at the club should be able to swim at least 25 meters in open water. In addition anyone participating in a water sports activity should have a degree of water confidence sufficient to prevent them panicking or becoming distressed should they enter the water through any eventuality while participating in that activity. Where juniors are participating in on the water activity, their parents should ensure that the junior meets the swimming ability and water confidence requirement.

## **Declaration of Water Confidence and Swimming Ability**

Club Members agree to abide to this policy when they join the club and upon renewal each year. All those participating in Club-run training and coaching courses must sign a declaration concerning their water confidence and swimming ability

## **Use of Personal Flotation Devices**

The club requires that all members and other participants in on the water activities wear an appropriate Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The Club provides a range of PFD's for use by participants which conform to the European Standard (EN number) appropriate to the activity and carry the appropriate CE mark.

## **Non-swimmers Permitted on Water Activities**

If a participant cannot swim but wishes to participate, but has taken a Water Confidence Assessment they will be accepted onto our Sailing Courses provided they or their parent or guardian (if under 18 years of age) sign the application form acknowledging the risks and possible dangers involved while participating in the sport and that they undertake the activity at their own risk.



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Stephen Boyle, Commodore