

# BOAT MEMBERS HANDBOOK

2023 GUIDE



CLIFF  LAKES

# WELCOME

We warmly welcome you and thank you for joining our boat members club. We have put this document together for all members' and guests' safety. These rules apply to your family, guests and pets. Failing to comply with these rules will result in the termination of your membership.

As the named boat owner, you must ensure all your friends and guests who come to the lake know the lake's relevant safety issues and etiquette.

Due to the very nature of water skiing, most lakes or clubs will not employ anyone from dawn till dusk seven days a week to monitor your skiing when you come to partake in your sport. Cliff Lakes is no different, and there will be many occasions when you are alone or just with other boat owners.

This manual is intended to answer most of the usual questions from our membership about the practicalities of coming to ski here. It should mean you can safely go and ski harmoniously with other water users. It will also point out some etiquette we like to adopt at Cliff Lakes, which helps maintain a quality experience for those using the lake.

Please come to the site prepared with everything you need for your session. If you imagine that you were going to the coast and skiing on the open sea with no services, and come prepared for that level of independence, then any assistance we can offer you will be a bonus. On-site, you can enjoy our Aqualand, Open Water Swimming, and SUP activities, but please note they may not always be open every time you visit the lake.

## YOUR BOAT

### IS YOUR BOAT SAFE?

We insist that all boats used on the lake are "safe", and as we cannot take the liability for checking them since we are not qualified marine engineers, we will ask each boat owner to have their boat checked by a qualified person. If your experience in boating is enough for you to feel you could hold yourself out as competent enough and take that responsibility, then we will accept your judgment.

We require you to sign the "Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration 2023, attached at the back of this manual and return the completed form, along with a current copy of your insurance for your boat, to Sue in the office. Also, you must have the correct equipment on board, including first aid kits, a knife, a mask/ goggles, a kill cord (must be tested before use), and a fire extinguisher.

The responsibility lies with you as the boat owner to use a safe and well-maintained vessel. However, suppose it comes to our attention that a boat is obviously or suspected of being deficient or of a vulnerable age. In that case, we may ask for an independent marine engineer to report the cost to be borne by the boat owner.

## **SPOT CHECKS**

New for 2023, random spot checks will now be carried out to ensure all boats adhere to the rules. This can also include breathalysing drivers.

## **LPG**

LPG is a highly flammable fuel; please exercise caution when refuelling your boat, and run the bilge blower according to the manufacturer's instructions before starting the engine. LPG conversion should be carried out professionally and in accordance with approved British Standards and other recommendations and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. The price of LPG is now 99p.

## **STORAGE**

Boats are stored on trailers on the southern shore to the west of the clubhouse. New parking bays have been created and numbered. Please use the numbered bay allocated to you. We expect you to keep the area around your boat tidy and free of litter; for example, old 5-gallon tanks, covers, prop bags, two-stroke oil bottles, car batteries, and lighting boards should be removed.

Empty trailers from boats on dock lifts should be stored with suitable security, i.e., wheel clamp or hitch lock, and may, with permission from Paul, be held in the caravan compound.

A Boat Owner may store one boat.

We want to try and minimise the amount of stuff stored at Cliff Lakes to help us keep the site tidy; only your boat and trailer can be stored there.

## **LAUNCHING**

The slipway is situated on the other side of the clubhouse. The etiquette is that boats launching have priority and that you should clear the slipway and approach straight away to avoid blocking it for another user. Since the slipway is outside the clubhouse, we ask that you clean boats, prepare them for trailing etc., in your parking space. Gates have been installed to stop the public from playing on the slipway and to protect the LPG dock; please enquire for the code, and keep this gate locked at all times.

Please take care, as slipways can be slippery. It would be best to wear a wetsuit and investigate the slipway thoroughly before using it for the first time, so you can see where the ramps end and the best line for launching.

NO BOATS should be left moored on the water overnight unless you have rented a floating mooring space for the season. Boats can wait or be temporarily moored on the large blue landing stage in front of the slipway. But again, only over a brief period.



## **TRAILERS**

Once launched, you should move your car and trailer well out of the way of the slipways and not block any other boat bays or traffic.

Please remember some trailers and vehicles have large turning circle requirements, so nothing should be left at all in the vicinity of the slipway.

## **INSURANCE**

Due to the FSA, we cannot insist on who you insure with. However, we ask that you certify that your boat is fully insured with £2M at least of 3rd party liability. The “Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration” covers this point. R.A. Carter can provide advice and cover if you require it. Also, you need to provide a valid copy of your insurance, which must be sent to Sue.

GJW Worcester incorporating R.A. Carter  
Cadbury House, Blackpole East, Blackpole Rd, Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 8SG  
Tel: 0500141141

We do not chase insurance documents and make no warranty to other members that each boat is insured. We will confirm that it is a condition of membership to have the boat insured at all times in the season. So please check your insurance to ensure you are fully covered for all activities on the water, including the towing of inflatables and the number of people you are allowed to tow.

## **BOAT DRIVERS**

All drivers must be SBDA qualified and up to date, which means a current British Water Ski and Wakeboard membership. We will collect your membership fees at the start of the season, and the new rates are set annually by British Water Ski and Wakeboard. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Sue further details about memberships. You can see all the BWSF member benefits on their website - [www.bwsw.org.uk](http://www.bwsw.org.uk).

The SBDA can be taken at the club by calling The Principal (contact details available on the website), who will arrange times and dates to suit all, as prices can vary as it is dependent upon the number of candidates and their relevant experience, and the boat that they use.

You will be asked to provide details of your boat drivers on the booking system before the season and confirm they are SBDA qualified. Boat drivers can also renew their British Water Ski and Wakeboard membership through us.

Drivers who are in training can drive if a qualified SBDA holder is in the boat with them. Training is defined as having a date booked with The Principal to take the SBDA test.

Please note it is a condition of membership and an essential element of your membership that:



It is the contractual responsibility of the named boat owner to ensure the boat is constantly being driven safely by qualified people who are adequately insured.

An observer is required in a boat at all times unless the boat is the only boat on that lake.

# THE LAKE

The rules (enclosed) cover the operation of boats on the water. Still, we want to stress a few critical points following an accident many years ago, which was beyond question the driver and skier's fault. Unfortunately, as a result, this has led to the ambulance-chasing lawyers having a pop and costing us all time and effort in defending a case where many of our customers witnessed driver stupidity.

You are responsible for skiing and driving safely; boat owners use the lake and facilities entirely at their own risk. This includes familiarising yourself with the lake, considering any changes, provision of bunds, jetty position, water level, other users and their relevant experience, and anything else that could affect your safety.

You must check to your satisfaction that it is safe to ski on each occasion. We make no warranty as to the lake's safety, only that it is suitable for water skiing if one adheres to all the rules, safe practices, and common sense and checks relevant conditions on each occasion.

The BWSF Code of Practice for Safe Driving is available from our website. It is a rule of membership that all drivers and skiers familiarise themselves with this document.

Main lake: Maximum of 3 boats at any time. Observers are always required unless only one boat is on that lake. You can ski, wakeboard, use inflatables and surf on this lake.

Middle lake: smaller lake. One boat at a time. You can ski, wakeboard, use inflatables and surf.

Premier lake: Maximum two boats on this lake. You can ski and wakeboard, but this lake only allows smaller boats.

## CRITICAL REMINDERS FOR DRIVERS AND SKIERS

- If in doubt, STOP.
- Do not drive/ski close to any fixed object or shoreline; you can always slow down or stop if in doubt. Ensure your speed and course on returning to the jetty facilitate a safe finish by your skier. You can still stop short if in doubt. Safe landings are the drivers and skiers' responsibility.
- Do not let the skier build up uncontrollable speed in the turns.
- Be aware of the position of any other craft on the water.
- Be sure of the correct lines to drive and the circuit to drive.
- We drive a clockwise circuit, so the local rule of two boats approaching head-on turn is turn to port. This overrides the standard maritime practice and safe code of conduct.
- Boats are NOT PERMITTED ON THE WATER AFTER DUSK/DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS. If you are booked on the lake for the final slot, and darkness falls, please stop skiing and retrieve your boat immediately.
- Children and minors are your responsibility and should never be left unattended or allowed to wander the site without competent adult supervision.
- The Drinking Water Directorate's Guidelines for anyone involved in water sports on inland waters should be adhered to; be aware of the water quality, for example, following a flood. The lake is not a swimming pool; you ski at your own risk.
- No swimming in the lake unless skiing or in the buoyed-off beach area; life jacket rules in this area still apply.
- Avoid ingestion/swallowing the water.
- Do not allow cuts or wounds to come into contact with the water, i.e., cover with a waterproof dressing.
- Some sore throats may result from ingestion of the water. These should only last for a couple of days, if at all! Please consult your doctor if any other symptoms, including sickness and tummy upsets, do not respond to treatment, please consult your doctor.
- Consult a doctor for any flu-like symptoms.
- Please be aware Leptospirosis or Weil's disease is always a possibility. As you know, it is a disease carried in rat urine. This is not a significant risk, particularly after flooding [rats do not swim so well]. Some water ski clubs issue regular bulletins about this.
- Members and guests at the lake should already undertake all these precautions as general good practice. Inadequate or unsafe driving witnessed.

Please remember we do not operate any form of monitoring or policing service. However, if you witness poor or unsafe driving and feel it dangerous to use your boat, the following courses of action are open to you.

Address it politely with the driver directly. You may find yourself sharing water time with them in the future, so why not try to ensure you can ski safely together.

Please fill in an incident report (copy attached and available online).

We will then discuss the matter with the member and any other witness.

We will not discuss any issues with another driver without an incident report.

## **COURTESY AND ETIQUETTE**

Please try to drive and ski considerately by;

- Not spraying the crowd when you finish your run.
- Not doing tight turns with a ringo/doughnut when other riders use the lake.
- Not power turning when a skier or rider has fallen.
- Instead, slow down and return to your rider calmly. Think straight lines, precise driving, and safety! Please note that wakeboard boats, ringo's, and inflatables are prohibited on the premier lake.

## **AQUALAND**

Aqualand has a clear perimeter around the edge; any boat, skier/wakeboarder is prohibited from entering this protected area at any time.

## **PADDLE BOARD ARENA**

Boats launched from the main slipway need to make their way around the paddleboard arena, marked with red/white baton buoys heading towards the premier lake at trickle speed, then across the ski school landing stage into the main lake channel that will be marked.

## **OPEN WATER SWIMMING**

Boat drivers gaining access to or from the gas dock, slipway, boat lifts or lakes should proceed with caution at trickle speed and await an indication from a staff member that it is safe to cross the swimming area. When launching or recovering on the slipway, please use the landing stages as a parking spot while waiting for your trailer.

## **FIRST AID, SAFETY, AND SPOT CHECKS**

Please note no supervision or provision of first aid is offered at the site. It is a rule that all boats carry first aid equipment, and the boat owner is responsible for looking after their skier's and guests' welfare. Every boat should have the following safety equipment; a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, knife, snorkel mask and any means of communication.

A first aid kit, a knife, mask/ goggles, a kill cord (must be tested before use), a fire extinguisher, and a form of communication

If in any doubt, we recommend calling the emergency services using 112 or 999. Our recognised address is;

Cliff Lakes,  
Tamworth Road,  
Cliff,  
B78 2DL

Should you or any of your guests incur an injury, the boat owner must complete an accident report form immediately or as soon as possible afterwards and posted to the office. Copies are available on the internet or in the Boat Owner's manual.



# BOOKING SYSTEM

To access the booking system, please head to [member.clifflakes.co.uk/](https://member.clifflakes.co.uk/)

Upon joining the club, you will be issued with a boat number/ username and password.

All boats must always display their boat number on the windscreen and trailer. In addition, you will be issued two small boat stickers that you will need to write your boat number and the current year (2023). You can collect this from the office along with your Aqualand vouchers.

Please ensure that you have booked your boat onto the water before you launch your boat.

A boat may only pre-book one 3-hour slot on any day at the weekend. Towards the end of your session (15 mins before), you may book the next slot as long as that slot is available to book. Only the boat that is booked in on the booking system may use that slot unless exceptional circumstances and the boat owners are given prior permission by Emma Quill, Richard Quill, or Sue Barnett. If any boat owner has pre-booked more than one slot on any day, then the management will cancel additional bookings without consultation.

## AQUALAND

The Aqualand can only be used during a public session, and a booking has been made via our online booking system.

At the start of the season, you will be issued complimentary Aqualand vouchers, which can be used throughout the season on our Aqualand sessions. You may use the vouchers as you wish. To redeem these complimentary tickets, head to our website, book a session, enter the code into the gift voucher box at checkout, and complete your waivers before arriving..

# SITE BARRIERS

At the start of the season, each member will be assigned two barrier passes and can add their car to the ANPR system. The site barriers are there to secure our site. We are continually improving and developing the site. If you have any questions regarding the barriers, please speak to Richard Quill.

We are installing a 2.4m height barrier at the entrance to the site. So please be aware that if you are accessing/ entering the site, you must consider this.

# FACILITIES

## CARAVANS

Boat owners may purchase a membership with a caravan pitch if pictures are available. A caravan pitch is only allocated to a boat owner for the season on request.

## TOILETS

The toilets are located outside the clubhouse and available to guests during the day. The toilets will be locked at 20:00, and members may use the passcode to gain access. While the toilets are out of hours, we ask that you close these after use to prevent members of the public from gaining access to them. Additionally, we ask that no chemicals or caravan waste is to be disposed of in these toilets. Please enquire at the office for toilet codes.

## LPG

LPG is for sale on-site, subject to price change with market fluctuations.

# MEMBERS AREAS

This area is only for boat owners, caravan members, and guests. The area can only be gained access to a coded gate.

## RULES

- The member's beach and water cannot be used after dusk.
- All dogs are the owner's responsibility.
- Management will occasionally check the beach area, but we expect members to each hold responsibility for this area. This includes keeping it tidy and ensuring furniture is returned to how it was found.
- Users can swim and paddle beyond in the buoyed area. Users should not swim in the main lake or any other lake. Any under-16s playing in the water should be wearing a life jacket. This includes kids playing on the landing stages.
- If you wish to open water swim, please book an open water swimming session.
- It is forbidden to swim in the lake.
- An adult must supervise children under the age of 16 at all times.

# THANK YOU

We hope this document has explained the site and its operation to you, so you can happily enjoy the site and facilities at your leisure. If you have any further questions, then please contact;

Sue Barnett- [sue@clifflakes.co.uk](mailto:sue@clifflakes.co.uk)

Richard Quill - [richard@clifflakes.co.uk](mailto:richard@clifflakes.co.uk)

The Office - 01827 872000





# CLIFF LAKES

## Driving Incident Report Form

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Time:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Incident Description:</b>	
<b>Witnesses presents (with contact Details)</b>	
<b>Diagram of incident</b>	



# CLIFF LAKES

## Accident Report Form

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Time:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Incident Description:</b>	
<b>Witnesses present (with contact Details)</b>	
<b>Action taken by those present</b>	



## Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration 2023

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name in full) confirm that:

I have read and understood:

- The Boat Owners Manual
- The Rules
- The Code of practice for safe driving issued by the BWSF.

I also confirm that as the named boat owner I fully accept responsibility for the safety of my crew and skier and drivers whilst using the lake.

I confirm it is my responsibility to inform all my guests and skiing companions of the rules, and that they use the facilities entirely at their own risk.

I understand that if any of my guests or skier are not happy with this condition then they would not be welcome on the site, and that I should ask them to leave.

I understand that I am responsible for the actions of all drivers of my boat, and skiers or riders behind it.

I confirm that my boat is safe to operate on the lake and has been checked by a competent person, whose details I can be asked to provide upon request.

I confirm that I shall provide before using the lake, a definitive list of the drivers who are insured and hold current SBDA's who may from time to time drive my boat.

I confirm that my boat is and shall be insured at all times when in use or stored on the site at Cliff Lakes.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Print \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_





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Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Print \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Rules

This contract of membership is with KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD, and all cheques and fees are payable to it.

## Your Boat

Your boat must be insured at all times it is in use or on site, a valid copy must be supplied along with safe boat and rules acceptance.

Your boat must be safe and you will sign to say it has been checked by a competent person.

## Fees and Payments

A membership runs from January 1st each year.

Unspent ski credits shall not be carried over to the next season if a membership is renewed.

Ski credits are not transferable to other members.

The membership licences ONE boat only, groups with more than one boat, will need a membership for each vessel.

Where groups have formed to split the costs of the sessions, we will not accept individual cheques, it will be up to the boat owner to collect the funds, and they are responsible for making the correct payment, on behalf of their group.

## Bookings

A booking is specific to a lake and boat. You can only ski on the lake if you have booked with the boat that is booked on.

## Circuit Operation

Only three boats shall use the boat owners lake at any time, and only one boat on the premier lake for 10 minutes or six passes of the slalom course.

## Use of the Lake and Facilities

- All drivers shall be SBDA qualified or under instruction. Under instruction is defined as having a qualified SBDA holder as a crew, and also having booked to take the SBDA at a defined future date. An SBDA is only valid if membership is current of the BWS.
- Ringos, inflatables and wakeboard boats are not allowed on the premier lake.
- The boat owner must provide us with a list of their qualified drivers, please fill in this information in the 'account profile' page on the booking system.
- The boat membership number must be displayed on the boats window screen and trailer stickers available in reception.
- If in doubt in any situation whatsoever - STOP.
- The slalom course must never be used if there is a buoy missing, please fix it and fill in the log sheet.
- A skier in the water must not be taken aboard without first turning off the engine.
- Ropes should be pulled in immediately a skier has fallen except when there are no other boats on the circuit, or in the vicinity.
- Once a skier has dropped off the boat should then proceed out of the path of vessels looking to commence skiing and retrieve the line.
- Boats returning a skier have priority over those starting off.
- Skiers should use and learn the BWSF approved signals.
- An arm shall be raised by the driver or crew when dropping a skier off to alert those waiting to set off as to their intentions.
- We recommend appropriate safety wear, namely helmet and impact jacket / vest when using the jump or slider.
- All boats must carry the following safety equipment; first aid kit, knife, fire extinguisher, snorkel mask and a
- No finned boards or skis shall be used on the jump.
- A new gate has been installed on the slipway. Please keep this gate locked at all times-code 0182.
- No one shall use the lake under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Boat drivers shall not allow passengers to sit or ride on the boats deck or sides or bow whilst the boat is in motion.

- Those boats launching shall have priority over those retrieving. There is no supervision provided, so you will use the lake totally at your own risk. At the end of your session you must vacate the dock.
- Please show consideration for other ski boats, particularly if you are towing an inflatable.
- It is the boat owners responsibility to check their own.
- Upon hearing one long blast of a horn all boats shall return immediately to the jetty.
- If using towable inflatables all riders must wear soft shell to tow inflatables.
- Boat drivers shall keep as far away as possible from any wildlife.
- There shall be a minimum of two people in the boat when towing a skier, ie a responsible adult as an observer, unless one boat is in use on the lake.
- Boats are NOT PERMITTED ON THE WATER AFTER DUSK/DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS. If you are booked on the lake for the final slot and darkness falls, please stop skiing and retrieve your boat immediately.
- All members and their guests use the lake and facilities at their own risk. A member who invites guests must inform them of these rules. If the guest does not agree, then they are not allowed on the site.
- Cars and vessels using the slip way shall do so at their own risk.
- We reserve the right to ban or revoke a membership of any person and ask them to leave the site without explanation.
- Inflatables cannot be used on the premier lake.
- Any person banned shall not be entitled to any refunds.
- Bookings shall not be used for commercial activities, i.e. private ski lessons.
- It is the responsibility of the person who has made a booking to inform his or her party of all rules and regulations. The member is also responsible for the safe operation and driving of their boat, regardless of whether they are actually driving it or not.
- If you inadvertently damage or break anything on the site, you are responsible for the cost of repair or replacement in full.
- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD reserves the right to close the lake for any period of time when reasonable notice shall be given, except in the event of an act of God or Nature, when the lake shall be closed at our discretion. No refunds are payable regardless of the reason or length of closure.
- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD can cancel any pre-reserved slots for the purpose of holding a competition.
- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD, its management or staff cannot be held responsible for the theft, loss, damage of any property, valuables or equipment on the premises.
- All items are left at the owners risk.
- All dogs to be kept on a lead or under control and their mess cleared
- All children under the age of 16 must wear a life jacket in he water this includes; on the boat, landing stages and in the water in the members area.

### **General**

- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD shall not be responsible for injury or liable for any event resulting from the members use of the facilities, howsoever caused.
- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD makes no warranties as to the safety of these rules or the lake and accepts no liability whatsoever for any accident or injury or any other claim on us arising from your use of the lake and land and facilities.
- KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD reserves the right to add, omit, change or alter any rule, rules or booking times at any time without notice.
- Random boat checks to be carried out by nominated person.
- The right of interpretation as to the meaning of these rules is vested in KINGSBURY WATERSPORTS LTD Its decision shall be final and binding.
- These rules and regulations have been compiled for your maximum enjoyment.
- If there is anything you do not understand or have difficulty in interpreting, please do not hesitate to ask.