

# BOAT MEMBERS HANDBOOK

2026 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 2026, 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**

Random spot checks will 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 Andy, 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: Operating with only one boat at a time you can ski and wakeboard on this lake. Due to a new element going at the top of Aqualand this will be subject to review.

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. When on the main lake, please allow plenty of room when turning between your boat and the the buoy line of Aqualand.

## **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;

Kingsbury Watersports Limited  
Tamworth Road,  
Cliff,  
B78 2DL

What3Words: ///nerves.wishes.washing  
(To the main gate)

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.cliffflakes.co.uk/](https://member.cliffflakes.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 (2026). 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 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 follow the steps below

How to Redeem Your Pass:

1. Visit our [booking system](#) and pre-book your chosen activity as usual.
2. At checkout, enter your gift card number and it will take the value off your booking.

How to find your gift card number

1. Open your gift card email, scroll down, and select View Gift Card.
2. This will take you to your online gift card, where you can see how much money is on the card, its expiry, and your gift card number (located below the QR code).
3. Enter this code at checkout to redeem your gift card.

# SITE BARRIERS

At the start of the season, each member will be assigned 2 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, then please speak to Richard Quill or Jordan Mann

We have installed a height barrier (2.4m) at the entrance, which keeps the site safe overnight. The gates will be open during office hours but closed outside of these hours.

# 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 when our office closes, and members may use the passcode or their barrier fobs 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.t

## 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 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 (over 18) 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>Wintesses presents (with contact Details)</b>	
<b>Action taken by those present</b>	



## Safe Boat and Rules Acceptance Declaration 2026

I \_\_\_\_\_ confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with all rules, safety procedures, and operational requirements contained within the following documents, and any updates issued by Kingsbury Watersports Limited:

- The Boat Owner's Manual
  - The Site Rules
  - The Code of Practice for Safe Driving issued by the British Water Ski & Wakeboard Federation (BWSF).
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- As the named boat owner, I accept full responsibility for the safety of my crew, drivers, and any skiers or riders using my boat whilst on the lake.
  - I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure all guests and skiing companions are informed of and comply with the site rules.
  - I acknowledge that all guests and participants use the lake and facilities entirely at their own risk. Any guest unwilling to accept these conditions must not use the facilities and should be asked to leave the site.
  - I accept responsibility for the actions and conduct of all drivers operating my boat, and all individuals skiing or riding behind it.
  - I confirm that my boat has been inspected and deemed safe to operate by a competent person, and that evidence of this inspection may be requested.
  - I will provide a definitive list of authorised drivers who hold a valid Ski Boat Driver Award (SBDA) and are insured to operate my boat.
  - I confirm that my boat will remain fully insured at all times while stored or operated at Cliff Lakes.

### Rules and Regulations

This agreement forms part of the membership contract with Kingsbury Watersports Limited. All membership fees and payments must be made to this company.

### Boat Requirements

- Boats must be adequately insured at all times when stored on site or used on the lake.
- Boats must be safe to operate and must have been checked by a competent person.
- The registered boat number must be clearly displayed on the hull.
- Boats must carry the stipulated safety equipment as set out in the boat owner's manual.

### Fees and Membership

- Membership runs from the third weekend of March to the third weekend of October.
- Unused ski credits cannot be carried forward to the following season.
- Ski credits are non-transferable between members.
- Each membership licence covers one boat only.
- Groups operating multiple boats must hold separate memberships for each vessel.

- Where groups share session costs, payment must be made in full by the boat owner, who is responsible for collecting funds from their group.

## Bookings

Bookings are specific to both the lake and the registered boat. Only the boat associated with the booking may use the reserved lake slot.

## Circuit Operation

Boat Owners' Lake - three boats may operate simultaneously and must run in a clockwise direction, and head-on boats turn to port

Middle Lake – One boat at a time.

Premier Lake – Has a limit of two boats, only one boat is permitted at a time for:

- 10 minutes, or
- Six passes of the slalom course.

## Use of the Lake and Facilities

### Driver Qualifications

- Drivers must hold a valid Ski Boat Driver Award (SBDA) or be under instruction.
- "Under instruction" means the driver has:
  - A qualified SBDA holder on board as crew, and
  - A confirmed booking to complete the SBDA.
- SBDA qualifications are only valid if BWS membership is current.

### Equipment Restrictions

Ringos, inflatables and wakeboard boats are not permitted on the Premier Lake.

### Driver and Skier Safety

- A minimum of two people must be in the boat when towing a skier:
  - Driver
  - Responsible observer
- (Exception: a qualified BWS instructor operating alone when only one boat is on the lake).
- A skier in the water must never be taken aboard until the engine is switched off.
- Tow ropes must be retrieved immediately after a fall, unless no other boats are nearby.
- Once a skier drops off, the boat should move clear of the circuit before retrieving the rope.
- Boats returning to collect a skier have priority over boats preparing to start.

### Signals and Communication

- Drivers and crews must use BWSF-approved hand signals.
- When dropping a skier, the driver or crew must raise an arm to indicate their intentions.

### Slalom Course

- The slalom course must not be used if a buoy is missing.
- Missing buoys must be repaired and recorded in the log sheet.

## Operational Rules

- Boats must keep a safe distance from wildlife at all times.
- Passengers must not sit or ride on the deck, sides, or bow of the boat while in motion.
- Boats must not operate after dusk or during hours of darkness.
- At the end of your session, boats must vacate the dock immediately.
- Boats launching have priority over those retrieving.

Upon hearing one long blast of a horn, all boats must return immediately to the jetty.

## Conduct and Safety

- Alcohol or drugs must not be consumed before or during lake use.
- Members must show consideration for other boats at all times.
- Members are responsible for informing all guests of the site rules.

If a guest does not accept the rules, they must not remain on site.

## Site Use

- The slipway is used at the owner's risk.
- Any damage caused to site property must be paid for in full by the responsible party.
- Dogs must be kept under control or on a lead, and owners must clean up after them.

## Membership and Conduct

Kingsbury Watersports Limited reserves the right to:

- Suspend or revoke membership at its discretion
- Remove individuals from the site without explanation
- Refuse refunds following removal or suspension

Bookings must not be used for commercial activities, including private ski instruction.

## Liability

Kingsbury Watersports Limited, its staff and management:

- Accept no liability for injury, loss or damage arising from the use of the lake or facilities.
- Are not responsible for theft, loss, or damage to personal property on site.
- Reserve the right to close the lake at any time, including due to weather, safety concerns, or events.
- No refunds will be issued for closures.

## Rule Changes

Kingsbury Watersports Limited reserves the right to add, amend, or remove rules or booking arrangements at any time without prior notice.

These rules are intended to ensure safe and enjoyable use of the lake for all members. If you have any questions regarding their interpretation, please ask a member of staff.

Signed

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Print

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Date

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