



## ALTON WATER SPORTS CENTRE

### Rules and Regulations

#### A. Abbreviations

RYA	Royal Yachting Association	OOD	Officer of the Day (duty manager)
AWS	Anglian Water Services	SBO	Safety Boat Officer
AWSC	Alton Water Sports Centre	IRPCS	International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea

Below are the general rules, orders, regulations and procedures relating to use of AWSC and training services provided by the centre. Titles and subtitles have no standing, they are provided only to aid navigation.

#### B. Definitions

AWSC	Reference to the legal entity includes reference to the reservoir sailing area, centre buildings, dinghy storage area, sheds, storage racks, boat launching area, car parks and land adjacent to the reservoir
Annual Notice of Fees	Annually revised and published list of fees relating to membership, hire and training services provided by AWSC
Car Park	All areas designated for parking within the grounds controlled by AWSC
Centre Management	Refers to the AWSC management committee, the Centre Manager, Duty Manager and to staff and designated volunteers acting under instruction from the same
Dinghy Park	The area protected by fencing, designated for storage of dinghies and safety craft
Low Usage Area	An area of the Dinghy Park designated from time to time by the Centre Manager, for high density storage of vessels for whom fees have not been paid, for vessels considered be unseaworthy and for vessels that are considered at the discretion of the Centre Manager and/or Management Committee, to have had no or very limited usage during the preceding and/or current year
Hire of Equipment	Refers to hire of dinghies, wind surfing boards, canoes, rowboats, sculls and any other equipment that the Centre Management make available for hire
Membership	Relates only to annual subscription members
Visitors	Being persons who do not pay annual membership subscription

#### C. Introduction

The Alton Water Sports Centre has a lease agreement with the water owners Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWS) enabling recreational water activity to take place. The activities allowed are Sailing, Windsurfing, Canoeing and Rowing (skiff or gig). However the decision as to which actually take place rests with AWSC.

The AWS will not become involved with individual groups or water users, as all activities remain the responsibility of AWSC.

#### D. Rules and regulations relating to all AWSC users

##### Admittance to and use of AWSC

1. Those taking part in activities at AWSC shall enter the premises entirely at their own risk and the Alton Water Sports Centre Directors, Committee, Officers or Agents shall not be liable to participants or visitors for any death, personal injury, damage, loss or inconvenience howsoever or wheresoever's caused to them or to any goods and chattels brought by them to Alton Water.
2. In accordance with the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, this does not exclude liability for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Centre, its officers or agents

3. Kite surfing, water skiing, jet skiing, inflatable paddle or rowing craft and motorised boats are not permitted for use by members or the public. All other craft including model boats will be at the discretion of the Duty Manager..
4. Admittance to AWSC is permitted only upon registration and payment of the appropriate fee and only during the period to which the registration and fee relate. Qualifying fees include:
  - a. payment of an annual membership fee
  - b. payment of a day users fee
  - c. payment by a class association of other organising body, of relevant fee in respect of an event
  - d. payment of training course fees
  - e. hire of equipment provided by AWSC
5. Users of AWSC who have not registered with the centre and/or who have not made the relevant payment, have no rights to use AWSC. Where cars, dinghies, boards or other equipment are found to be on AWSC grounds, they are liable to be impounded at the decision of the Centre Management, the pending payment of membership and release fees as prescribed in the Annual Notice of Fees
6. All members, users and/or visitors to the centre are required to conduct themselves in a socially acceptable manner. AWSC does not tolerate poor behaviour and/or partaking or the appearance of being under the influence of intoxicating or prohibited substances. Any member, users or visitors that verbally/physically abuse, or in any way threaten staff, visitors or members of the centre, or give rise to the suspicion of being under the influence of prohibited or intoxicating substances, may be required to leave the premises immediately and will not be entitled to any refund of payments made. The centre reserves the right at all times to request the assistance of the police and to ban such persons from use of the facilities in the future.

### **Opening Times**

7. Use of AWSC is only permitted during opening times
8. Opening times are published on [www.altonwater.co.uk](http://www.altonwater.co.uk), in AWSC annual brochure and in the foyer of the main buildings
9. Opening times may be varied from time to time by the Centres Management Committee, the Centre Manager or by the Duty Manager

### **Use of AWSC Car Parks**

10. Car Parks administered by the centre are only for the use of members, training course participants or equipment hirers and upon payment of a fee as set out in rule 4 above
11. Visitors may only use the parking area upon payment of a fee as designated in rule 4 above
12. The Management Committee reserve the right to levy penalty fees against cars parked in AWSC car parks for which the Centre Manager reasonably believes does not qualify for free use of the car park as detailed in section 4 above. The Management Committee may choose to contract out to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisation, responsibility taken for enforcement action in such cases.

### **Health & Safety**

13. All children under the age of 12 yrs must be accompanied by and under the close supervision of an adult.
14. Children aged 12 to 16 yrs using the facilities alone must produce written consent from a parent/guardian.
15. The Centre will be opened by the Duty Manager who is an experienced sailor and a recognised SBO. All activities are under control of the Duty Manager and his/her orders must be obeyed. The Duty Manager

may use his/her discretion on opening and closing the Centre. No water activities will commence unless the centre flag is displayed. This flag will be lowered to signal the close of the day or in any exceptional circumstances to indicate that sailing is suspended. In either case all persons must leave the water.

16. Two safety boats will be available for immediate use at all times that members/users are afloat. Safety boats have right of way at all times. Operational procedures for AWSC safety boats are detailed in the AWSC Operating Procedures Manual which is available upon request
17. All persons must check the notice board in the foyer before going afloat, for updated safety advice and information
18. Whilst afloat the recognised IRPCS Rules of the Road apply, unless otherwise stated. All craft must carry third party insurance of a minimum of two million pounds.
19. All dinghy sailors and kayak/canoeists must wear a suitable buoyancy aid or life jacket which must be the correct size for weight ratio and done up according to the maker's instructions. The Centre Manager or Duty Manager may test users own buoyancy equipment and may refuse to allow use of such equipment if it fails reasonable testing undertaken by the Centre Manager or Duty Manager. Windsurfers must wear either a buoyancy aid or harness. It is recommended that all water users carry a whistle. Sailors and windsurfers should consider the safety benefits of also carrying a sailing knife whilst on the water. Windsurfers should also carry a length of 4mm rope suitable for use as an outhaul, downhaul or tow line.
20. Craft must carry sufficient integral buoyancy to remain afloat in the event of a capsized.
21. All water users must be aware of the permitted sailing areas and no craft may go beyond the boundaries without prior consent from the Duty Manager (water users must make themselves aware of these areas using the map in the foyer), and be aware of centre opening/closing times.
22. Water users should always assume that the water is unsupervised; Areas of sailing will be designated according to weather conditions, class or numbers of craft afloat, whilst afloat users/ must be aware of other water users and be prepared to assist or raise the alarm on behalf of another user. Water users are requested to assist staff if the need should arise.  
  
Suitable clothing is essential. During winter months from 1<sup>st</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> March water users should use winter wet suits (minimum 5mm thickness on torso) or dry suits.
23. Swimming in any AWSC water is not permitted except for organised AWS and AWSC approved group swimming activity. Capsizing is an accepted hazard.
24. Children not involved directly in approved water sports activities must be kept out of the water along the foreshore.
25. Craft will only launch and land from the slipways and the shoreline between the fences that mark out the AWSC boundary.
26. Water users must not approach closer than 30m to anglers who appear to be actively fishing
27. Fishing from craft is not permitted.
28. Cycling is only permitted on main driveway and in car parks.
29. All AWSC buildings are subject to a No Smoking ban.

30. Canoeing. Use of canoes is allowed within the confines of the sailing area subject to the following British Canoe Union rules: - (1) closed cockpit kayaks must go out in pairs with the ability to do a “buddy rescue” (2) open top canoes may go out singly.
31. Barbecues and fires are not allowed unless specifically authorised by the Centre Manager.
32. Proper supervision of dogs must be maintained and dogs must be kept on a lead at all times
33. AWSC will organise sailing, windsurfing, powerboat and kayak/canoe courses. Refer to AWSC Operating Procedures Manual (available upon request) for Training Course and Child Protection procedures and guidance.

#### **General**

34. The Management Committee reserve the right to alter or amend any rules or fee by posting a notice at the Centre and/or at [www.altonwater.co.uk](http://www.altonwater.co.uk) one week prior to this alteration taking effect.
35. The interpretation of the rules is vested in the AWSC Management Committee and its decision is final.
36. Users of AWSC are deemed to have given consent for photos taken by or on behalf of Centre Management, to be used in promotional literature including its web site and brochures, for the illustration and promotion of the centres activities.

### **E. Rules and regulations relating to all AWSC Members**

#### **General**

37. Rules and regulations relating to all AWSC users shall apply to Members
38. Annual membership fees are due on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Management Committee may choose to offer incentives to reward members who pay in accordance with this requirement.
39. Members who do not settle by the due date may be subject to a rejoining or late payment fee as published from time to time in the Annual Notice of Fees. Late payment is a material breach of AWSC rules.
40. The Management Committee and Centre Manager reserves the right to withdraw a membership giving notice in writing, at any time. In this instance no refund of fees will be made.
41. Members shall have the right to use AWSC facilities free of charge (excluding hiring, training services, participation of race events and use of Dinghy Park), to receive AWSC newsletters, to receive invitation to and to attend the AGM and to put their name forward for election to the committee, subject to being properly proposed and seconded by other qualifying members
42. Members attending the AGM are permitted to vote on matters properly proposed prior to the AGM. Individual and senior citizen members are permitted a total of one vote per proposal. Family membership is allocated a total of two votes per proposal.
43. Members are required as a condition of membership to supply and keep the Centre Management updated as to their home address, current email address and phone number. Failure to keep the Centre Management up dated with current details is deemed a material breach of AWSC rules.

44. Material breach of AWSC rules may render the member liable to immediate expulsion from membership and/or the privileges pertaining to membership.

### **Dinghy Park**

45. Use of the Dinghy Park is only available to Members/authorised users and is subject to the advance payment of the fee as published in the Annual Notice of Fees
46. The Management Committee reserve the right to refuse use of the Dinghy Park to a member without requirement to provide explanation
47. Members use the Dinghy Park entirely at their own risk. Centre Management accept no responsibility for damage to or loss of equipment that might occur while using the Dinghy Park
48. Where designated canoe/kayak rack storage is available, members wishing to store such craft are required to use the racks provided
49. Motor vehicles are not permitted within the confines of the compounds.
50. It is the member's responsibility to ensure that craft are securely tethered when not in use. Failure to do so will constitute a material breach of AWSC rules
51. Centre Management have the right to move craft and reallocate storage spaces within the Dinghy Park.
52. The Management Committee reserve the right to impound and if necessary dispose of any craft still in the Dinghy Park after its storage period has expired. The member will be allowed a period of 30 days from expiry date to remove the craft during which time the Centre Manager will endeavour to contact the owner at their last known address. Upon expiry of this period, the craft is liable to be disposed of with any proceeds being used to defray against fees owed and against the disposal administrative fee that becomes payable to AWSC in such an event.
53. The Dinghy Park is intended for the storage of member's craft that are used regularly. Use of the park purely for craft storage is an abuse of the facility. Where no/low usage is suspected, the Centre Manager may without notice to the member, move the craft to the Low Usage Area.
54. Members who's craft are suspected to have been subject to low/no usage, may not be offered use of the Dinghy Park upon annual renewal of membership.
55. Craft stored in the Dinghy Park must be maintained in a fully seaworthy condition. Craft which in the opinion of the Management Committee are not in a seaworthy condition must be removed from the park within 30 days of the member being given notice to his last known address. Failure to comply may result in the craft being disposed of with any proceeds being used to defray administrative costs incurred by AWSC.