

## **Safe Sailing Policy for TCYC Members - 2016**

### **Who can Sail ?**

Cadet club members can only sail single-handed if they have completed at least their RYA Stage 2 training. Cadet members who have not completed Stage 2 can only sail in a boat:

1. with an adult who has completed RYA Level 2 or equivalent.
2. with another cadet who has completed Stage 4 provided that an adult is on another boat nearby.

Adult beginners may use the club boats but please bear in mind that these boats are mainly for the Cadets and are therefore quite small. Adults should have an appropriate RYA Sailing qualification.

### **Is there enough water to sail ?**

There is enough water to sail at Coombe Cellars approximately two hours each side of High Water. Make sure that you have a copy of the Teignmouth Tide Table at home and if you are not sure how to use the tables ask an adult to help.

In the two hours before High Water the tide flows from Teignmouth towards Newton Abbot and in the two hours after High Water the tide flows from Newton Abbot toward Teignmouth.

Therefore, if possible, plan to sail before High Water as the strength of the tide will gradually reduce making sailing easier to manage.

### **Who can I sail with ?**

Cadet members who have completed Stage 2 can sail on their own in club single-hander dinghies provided that there is a safety boat on the water.

Check the Dinghy Diary on the TCYC website to see if there is racing because the safety boat is always on the water if there is racing taking place.

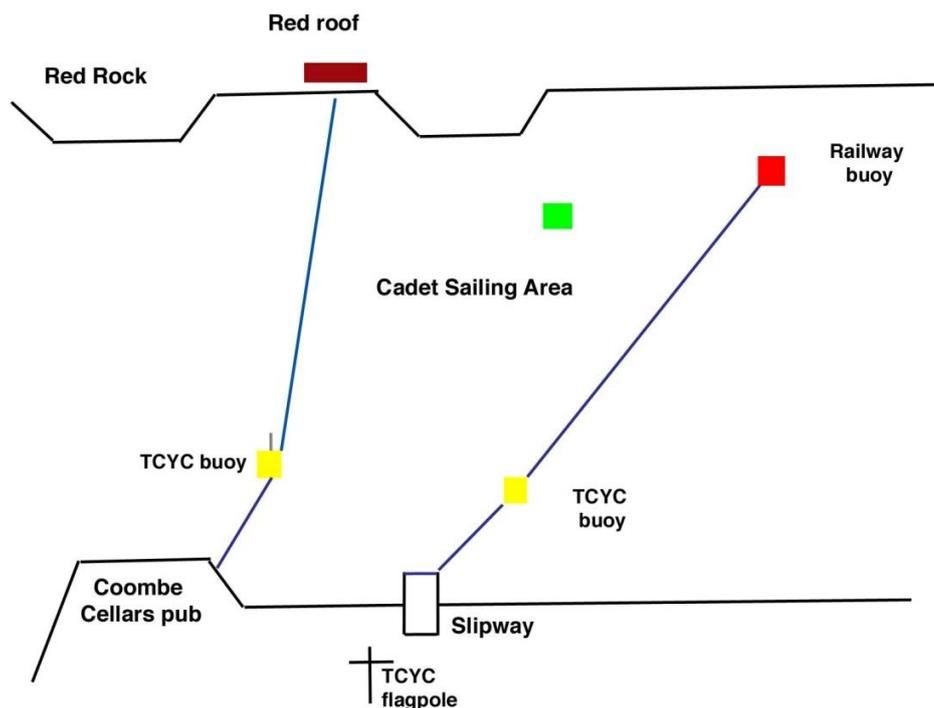
Also check the diary to see if someone has arranged to take the safety boat out to provide cover for free-sailing.

If there is not a safety boat available then parents can arrange safety cover by means of a suitably qualified adult in a second boat. That person must ensure that they are able to recover the cadet member in an emergency.

Adult members may sail without a safety boat on the water at their own risk. However there must be at least two boats sailing and the adults must be able to sail over to assist the other sailors if required.

## Where can I sail ?

The map below shows the designated safe-sailing area for cadets when not taking part in a formal club event such as training or racing. Cadet members using the club boats for free-sailing **MUST** stay within this area.



## What can I sail ?

Cadet members who have passed Stage 2 or above can use the club Toppers and Q'bas provided that they are not being used for any formal training courses. At the moment there is not a booking system so the boats are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Check the Dinghy Diary to make sure that there are no training courses being run before coming to Coombe Cellars.

The club boats are the five RS Q'bas to the left of the Boat Wash area and the six Toppers on the rack to the right of the Boat Wash area. All other boats (including the River Teign Sea Scouts boats) may only be used with the owner's permission. Specifically, the RS Tera, RS Feva and RS Vision dinghies belonging to the Sea Scouts may not be used without the specific permission of a Scout Leader.

Club boats must be left as-found and must be washed down after sailing. If you capsize make sure that you wash any mud off the sail and mast. Make sure the boat and its equipment has been stored in the correct place and that the boat cover is in place and securely fastened.

Report any faults or breakages to:

[rearcommdinghies@tcyc.org.uk](mailto:rearcommdinghies@tcyc.org.uk)

### **Can I decide whether or not to sail ?**

An important part of learning to sail is to understand the weather conditions and your own abilities and you must therefore be comfortable that you can cope before going afloat. However, once afloat always watch the weather as conditions can change very quickly and return to the slipway if you are unsure.

If told not to launch or to return to the shore by an adult or a club officer then you must comply with their instructions immediately.

### **Can I sail all year ?**

Cadet members can use the club boats for free-sailing between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Between October and April the boats can only be used by cadets taking part in scheduled training/races.

Adult beginners must also follow these restrictions as the colder water in the Winter means that a safety boat must be on duty.

### **Clothing**

Members must wear a wetsuit when using the club boats. Please note that the water is still cold early in the season so make sure you have a wetsuit that is designed for colder conditions. A buoyancy aid **MUST** be worn at all times when on or in the water. This includes helping other boats to launch at the slipway.

## For Cadets - What do my parents do ?

Parents are responsible for ensuring that:

- Their child owns and wears suitable clothing including; buoyancy aid, wetsuit, wetsuit boots (open-toed sandals are not suitable) & gloves, hat and waterproofs. Also ensure that sun block is used even on cloudy days.
- Their child abides by the safety rules. (These will be issued at the 1st training session each year)
- That any club stores that have been opened are locked and the keys returned to their storage places.

Parents **must** remain at the club during the whole session and **help** with the following activities:

- Assisting their children in rigging, de-rigging and storage of all club and their own boats.
- Launching, recovery and storage of safety boats – bring suitable clothing and wellies and be prepared to get wet!
- Launching and recovery of club and junior boats – again bring suitable clothing.
- Cadet membership depends on parents fulfilling duties such as galley duties, assisting with safety boats, clearing up etc.

## **Safety Boats**

The TCYC club safety boats cannot be used by club members under any circumstances without the permission of the Rear-Commodore (Dinghies) or RYA Training Principal. When in use, the TCYC boats can only be used as safety boats to monitor groups of people sailing at Coombe Cellars.

The boat must NOT under any circumstances be used for recreational purposes such as fishing, joyrides, to ferry people, or undertake ANY activity not directly related to the safety of people on the water.

The safety boats must be driven by a suitably qualified adult and must NOT be driven by Cadet members except when they are undertaking formal powerboat training.

The boats must at all times be driven in a responsible manner and comply with the Harbour Limit of 6 knots. The boats must not be driven at high speed unless directly involved in dealing with a casualty.

The boats may be used by suitably qualified members as a safety escort for free-sailing sessions but these sessions must be agreed in advance by the Rear-Commodore (Dinghies) and entered in the online dinghy diary well in advance to enable cadet members to take advantage of the sessions.