



Some hints and tips for remaining safe and keeping others safe when launching and recovering our boats.

Our beach and slipway are often crowded and busy and as consistent users of the beach we need to be aware of those around us that are not aware of the dangers that are posed by our boats coming and going from the dinghy park to the sea so see below some hints and tips to keep ourselves and other beach users safe.

Getting to the beach:

- Having rigged your boat and being ready to proceed to the beach, be aware of other people on the slipway.
- Always be sure that you can stop your boat on the slipway as you proceed to the beach.
- On reaching the beach, place your boat head to wind before hoisting your sails and be aware of other people around your boat especially as the boom clears the deck and swings in the breeze, always be on the lookout for wind changes that can cause your rig to become a hazard.

Launching:

- Once rigged and ready to launch try and choose an area that is clear of swimmers to launch.
- Single handers may wish to obtain help holding their boat until ready to launch.
- If launching into the wind push your boat far enough into the sea that some centre plate can be lowered before pushing off.
- Look for the most direct route through any surf.
- If launching downwind be aware of wind shifts that can cause your boat to gybe.
- Always be aware of swimmers and other watercraft.



Returning to the beach:

- When returning to the beach be aware of the wind direction, sea state, other watercraft and swimmers.
- If approaching the beach downwind, watch for a quiet patch in the wave pattern if possible.
- If approaching into the wind, watch for other water users and be aware of wind shifts that may cause you to tack unexpectedly.
- Try not to surf your boat on the waves as this can lead to a broach and capsize.
- Sometimes it is possible to slow your boat and remain in control by dragging a leg in the water.
- Choosing a spot between the waves to turn your boat head to wind and exiting the boat can be a way of keeping it under control.
- Be aware of people and small children on the water's edge.

Helping others:

- Once you are safely on the beach please look to see if others are in need of help exiting the water.
- Lifting boats clear of the water, warning other water users of approaching boats and bringing trolleys to the water's edge are all of great assistance.
- Be aware of people and small children on the water's edge.
- Once onshore de-rig with care and exit the beach in an orderly fashion, be careful to watch for pedestrians on the beach and slipway.

Please remember that the safety boat will need to be recovered and is easiest when we all stay and help