

Personal Buoyancy Policy

Personal Buoyancy is compulsory in the following circumstances when members and guests use the club facilities to go afloat.

1. All members using club owned yachts, tenders, dinghies, kayaks and paddleboards.
2. All crew operating club owned power boats, or passengers being carried.
3. All participants in club organised dinghy sailing, paddling or 'multi-activity' events.
4. All under-18s in any tender, dinghy, gig, kayak, paddleboard or windsurfer.
5. All non-swimmers.
6. Anyone going afloat in the hours of darkness.
7. All coxswains of rowing gigs.

The following exceptions can apply when appropriate:

1. During a stop ashore e.g. a visit to Sword Sands or other beach.
2. Adults on night trips in rowing gigs, providing there are at least two boats supporting each other or accompanied by a powered support boat, and where the session leader/row leader deems conditions acceptable.
3. Whilst performing race officer duties on board 'Bruce', a yacht or other large boat.

Recommended appropriate Personal Buoyancy for gig rowing is a manual gas-inflate life jacket or flat-fronted Buoyancy aid with no belt.

Whilst on board a yacht or motor cruiser, the Club rule can be replaced by the RYA guidance on the wearing of personal buoyancy. i.e. it should be worn unless there is a good reason not to.