

# Hickling Broad Sailing Club

## Ensuring Safe Sailing



### Background

Safety during sailing is always of paramount importance. However, during this exceptional period of Covid-19 it is more important than ever to remain safe as less general safety cover will be available, safety boats will not be accessible at the Club and if you need outside assistance you may be putting those people at additional risk.

### Safety Considerations

- **Under 18 years of age.** Only sail with the express agreement and supervision of your parent or guardian.

### Your Boat and You

- Are you fit and well? Do not sail if you are not.
- Take extra care to ensure all parts of your boat work properly and are unlikely to fail. This is especially true after the long winter lay-off.
- Consider whether you should fit additional safety features on your boat. Particularly in case of capsize consider whether you can easily recover your boat without outside assistance. Consider fitting Righting lines so you can right the boat more easily from the water. Consider using a mast head float to prevent the mast head getting in the mud.
- Wear a buoyancy aid at all times. Dress appropriately for the conditions, so if it is cold or could get colder wear wind-proof layers and a wet/dry-suit.

### On the Water

- Before sailing check the weather forecast; it may be nice now but it can deteriorate quickly. When you reach the Club look at the actual conditions. Consider wind strength and direction, air and water temperature, rain and visibility.
- Decide, depending on your own ability, whether you can definitely sail easily within the conditions. Also, consider the competence of any crew member with you-do not put them into conditions with which they may not cope. **Sail Conservatively.**
- Tell someone where you are going and when they can expect you to return.
- Consider sailing with a buddy. Remember the social distancing rules for all people outside your household group. However, it may still be possible for another member to be on the Broad at the same time as you. Keep an eye out for each other.
- Consider communication such as mobile phones on the water so you can seek help if needed.

**Above all, sail well within your capability. Today is not the day to sail for the first time in big winds or try complex manoeuvres.**

Happy sailing. Lets enjoy the beauty and freedom of sailing on  
Hickling Broad while remaining safe at all times.