

Rules and Bylaws of Spinnaker Sailing Club 2026

Spinnaker Sailing Club is a members club that exists to promote and encourage participation in sailing and related water sports. We welcome anyone to join the Club irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Section A Membership

1. All Members are subject to the Rules and Articles of Association of Spinnaker Club (the Articles), the Membership Agreement of Spinnaker Sailing Club and the Rules and Bylaws contained in this document.
2. The annual membership term shall be from 1st January to 31st December of the year of subscription, and is dependent on the payment of the appropriate fee. All memberships are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Pay As You Go Monthly Memberships have a minimum term of three months, with no maximum term. Notice must be provided by an email to admin@spinnakerclub.co.uk to end a Pay As You Go Monthly Membership.
3. The rights and privileges of each category of Membership are set down in the Membership matrix, available at: <https://www.spinnakerclub.co.uk/how-and-why-to-join-spinnaker/types-of-membership>. The matrix is as agreed by the Management Committee. The matrix may be changed by the Management Committee at any time but changes must be communicated to the membership by email and ratified at the next AGM
4. All Members (and any guest for whom they are responsible) are required to act responsibly at all times and shall treat other Members, users of the Club and all staff with courtesy and understanding.
5. Members shall respect Club property and items belonging to others. Any Member found to have caused damage to Club premises, Club safety boats, engines or other Club boats by reason of a wilful act or negligence, or whilst acting without due care and attention, shall make restitution and will be liable for the costs of repair associated with the same if called upon to do so by the Management Committee.
6. A Member shall be liable to immediate temporary forfeiture of club rights or expulsion from the Club by Directors of the Club, Flag Officers, Training Principal, or the Duty Senior instructor for
 - a) Violent or abusive action or language towards any person at the Club.
 - b) Theft (this includes the removal or "borrowing" of any boat, fitting, clothing or accessory without the owner's permission).
 - c) Wilful damage or acting in a negligent manner which causes damage to property or endangers life.
 - d) Any failure to comply with the Rules and Bylaws and the Articles of Association and any other regulations of the Club.
 - e) Failure by any guest for whom they are responsible to comply with the Rules and Bylaws and the Constitution and any other regulations of the Club.
 - f) Any conduct that, in the opinion of the Management Committee, is either unworthy of a Member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the Club.
- In the first instance the forfeiture of rights or expulsion will be on a temporary basis, pending a review by the Management Committee.
7. All purchases made at the Club must be paid for before leaving the premises
8. Members shall enter the names of all guests in the visitors book in the lobby of the club house. Not more than three guests may be introduced in any one day and the same guest may not be introduced more than six times in any calendar year.
9. The Club maintains a policy and procedures in accordance with the Child Protection Act. All members, guests, instructors, staff and volunteers are to comply with these procedures.

Section B Estate

10. Skating, bathing and fishing are prohibited at any time.
11. All children aged under sixteen years must be accompanied and supervised by a Family Member over the age of eighteen or a responsible Adult Member.

12. Any person on or about the lake is there solely at their own risk and liability. In addition, any person under the age of sixteen on or about the lake is there at the risk and liability of their parents or guardians in all things.
13. Trespass on land other than the Club premises is not allowed. Except in an emergency there is no right of access of any kind to any land bordering the lake except the Club premises which extends from the slipway at the South Western end of the Dinghy Park to the furthest extent of the Dinghy Park to the North East.
14. All dogs must be under control at all times on the Club premises. With the exception of registered assistance dogs, dogs are not permitted in the clubhouse under any circumstances. Clearing of any dog fouling is the controlling Members' responsibility.
15. No litter is to be left on the Club premises or anywhere in the vicinity.
16. The entire Club site, from leaving the tarmac of Ivy Lane, is covered by a 5 mph (miles per hour) speed limit which must be observed at all times.
17. Cars may only be parked in areas designated for such parking so as not to cause an obstruction to other cars, movement of boats or to the approaches to the Club premises.
18. The Club premises shall be open to Members at all times. It is the responsibility of the last Member to leave the Club, at any time during the day, to ensure the Club House is locked and both gates secured with the padlocks provided.
19. The sale of intoxicating liquor from the bar will be at such hours as decided by the Committee subject to any restrictions imposed by the Licensing Justices.
20. Smoking and vaping are forbidden at the Club apart from in the designated smoking area(s).
21. External water taps may only be used for washing watercraft, sailing clothing and filling water bottles unless with the express permission of the Chief Instructor or a member of the Management Committee. The boat wash station must not be used for the washing of motor vehicles.
22. External power sockets may only be used with the express permission of the Duty Senior Instructor or a member of the Management Committee. Electric vehicles may not be charged on the Club site.

Section C Water Activities

23. Waterborne activities are only permitted during daylight hours.
24. The following craft are permitted to be used on the lake by members within their membership entitlement: monohull dinghies of less than 5m length overall, windsurfers, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, rowing boats, wingsurf boards and wing foil boards. In addition to this wind propelled Model Yachts are permitted afloat when operated in accordance with Appendix M of the Operations Manual.
25. Whilst using the lake users must ensure that they do not adversely interfere with other users. When there are organised activities taking place (such as club racing and training) users should determine how best not to interfere with these activities, including if appropriate requesting guidance from the activity's organiser.
26. For the duration of an open meeting or championship the Sailing Committee may elect to close the lake to all non participants. Members will be notified by email in this event.
27. Lifejackets, or buoyancy aids to an approved standard (as a minimum ISO12402-5) must be worn by all persons when afloat in any craft and additionally by all Junior Members when in the vicinity of, or on, any pontoon, jetty or water frontage.
28. Either wet or dry suits must be worn when sailing, paddle boarding, wind surfing, or canoeing between 1st November and 31st March. Wetsuits, as a minimum standard, must be of "long john" design and provide thermal insulation up to the wearer's shoulders.
29. It is the sole responsibility of each person to wear clothing and safety equipment appropriate to the activity undertaken.
30. All craft using the lake must have adequate insurance, to include a minimum third-party cover at the level recommended by the RYA.
31. All members shall be responsible for clothing and other equipment which is brought to the Club. The Club reserves the right to sell or otherwise dispose of any equipment deemed by the Management Committee or its representatives to be lost property and any proceeds of sale shall be retained by the Club.

32. Club Members are expected to undertake duties to assist with Club events and racing. All members are expected to undertake two duties a year and regular racers (as decided by the Sailing Committee) are expected to undertake three duties a year. Members will be fined for failing to turn up for a duty or for failing to find a suitable replacement for their duty. The Sailing Committee, may at their discretion, waive this fine in exceptional circumstances, but may request the Member's presence at a Committee meeting to explain their reason for letting down the Club. Failure to discharge the fine within 30 days will result in Membership being cancelled. For Members who are unable to do Club duties there is the option to pay to "opt out" at the time of joining the Club, details can be found with the membership fees.

Section D Club sailing boats

33. Members entitled to hire Club boats shall complete the booking online. Payment of the hire charge must be made before use. After use, a dinghy must be returned to its place in the Dinghy Park, the cover securely fitted, the sails neatly stored, the ties to the ground made fast and any damage or faults reported.

34. All damage must be notified to the club boatswain either in person or via email. The Club reserves the right to claim payment for any damage. Failure to abide by these rules may result in further use being denied.

35. Lost rudders and dagger boards must be paid for in full.

36. It is a condition of hire of club boats that members provide their own buoyancy aid.

Section E Powered boats

37. Only powerboats owned by the Club and other boats authorised by a member of the Management Committee or the Chief Instructor are permitted to be used on the lake.

38. The helm of a powered craft shall hold an RYA Powerboat Level 2 Certificate or higher qualification from within the RYA Powerboat Scheme, unless authorised by the Training Principal or Operations Manager and under the direct instruction of an RYA Powerboat Instructor. Instruction to unqualified helms must not take place whilst providing safety boat cover for organised activities.

39. An appropriate "kill cord" MUST be used and correctly attached to the driver of all and any outboard engine powered craft when the engine is running. The electric motor provided by Spinnaker Sailing Club for the committee vessels is exempted from this rule.

40. Powered craft can be used for authorised training, course management, and Club race/safety duties only, unless expressly authorised by the Sailing Committee or their representative.

41. Members who are authorised to use the Club powered craft shall enter their details in the Club Powerboat Log Book on each occasion of use. They shall ensure the boats and engines are left secure and all keys returned. Any damage or defect noted during use must be recorded in the Log Book.

42. Drivers of any powered craft under motor must be sixteen or over unless under instruction on an approved training course or under the direct supervision of the chief instructor, Training Centre Principal or other such person given express authority by the Committee.

43. Members who are under sixteen years of age may be in attendance in the powered craft when it is safe and appropriate to do so; Junior Members or Junior Family Members under the age of 12 MUST NOT be aboard when employed as a safety boat, unless being rescued.

44. Guests and visitors to the Club are not permitted to use the powered craft unless they are acting in a formal capacity at the behest of the Club.

45. If a Flag Officer, Race Officer or RYA Instructor views the driver of any powered craft to be acting irresponsibly or feels they are driving in an unsafe or inconsiderate manner, then they have the authority to instruct the operator to cease using the craft and ask them to leave the lake. Such instruction shall be complied with immediately.

Section F Dinghy park

46. All members shall abide by the separately listed Berth conditions.

47. All members shall abide by the separately listed Disposal Conditions.