



## Bye-laws and conditions of membership

**The Rules of the Club require all craft (Including sand-yachts, parakarts or similar vehicles/craft) to be adequately insured for the purpose for which they are used.**

**A copy of the Articles of Association which covers in detail the above requirement is available on the Club Notice Board and from [www.varneboatclub.co.uk](http://www.varneboatclub.co.uk)**

### 1 BYE LAWS:

These Byelaws to be observed by all members (sports and social) and their guests are enforceable by the committee or any appointed officer.

### 2 Objectives of Bye-laws:

- 2.1 Safety of the public, members and visitors.
- 2.2 Preservation of the environment, club property and amenities.
- 2.3 Observation of legal requirements.

### 3 General Provisions:

- 3.1 The Committee, or any Officer appointed by it may, in the interests of safety, regulate the number of members' craft and sand-yachts operating within the inshore area.
- 3.2 The use of the ramp and land occupied by the Club shall be regulated in the interests of safety. Non-members may be refused permission to use the ramp. Only vehicles authorised by the General Committee or an Officer appointed by it shall use the ramp.
- 3.3 No vehicle parked or craft parked or moored may obstruct access to the ramp or launching areas or points of access to the Club.
- 3.4 All craft must be securely fastened to their trailers when negotiating the ramp.
- 3.5 A number, prefixed by the letter 'V', shall be allocated to all powered craft owned by club members and the number allocated shall be affixed to both sides of the craft in such a position that is clearly visible when the craft is afloat. The ideal dimensions of the number should be: height 300mm, width 225mm, thickness of the letters 50mm. Distance between letters /numbers 125mm. Any exceptions to this rule must be authorised by the Committee.
- 3.6 Craft to which the above dimensions cannot be applied must display the number allocated as prominently as possible and to the maximum dimensions practical to each type of craft.
- 3.7 For trial purposes or other reasons considered acceptable by the Committee, a member may launch a powered craft without identification, provided that the Committee or an appointed member has first given permission.

- 3.8 Sailing craft and sand-yachts will be allocated a trailer number only and registered by the sail number of the craft.
- 3.9 In the interest of safety, all trailers shall clearly display the craft number allocated.
- 3.10 All craft heading seaward and returning must use the designated 'Slow Lane' indicated by marker buoys approximately North and South of the Varne Boat Club ramp. In the absence at any time of marker buoys, all craft shall regulate their speed and navigation so that no member of the public is endangered or shall have reasonable cause for alarm. (see 3.11 'Slow Lane' section).
- 3.11 No craft may exceed 8 knots in the 'Slow Lane' or within 100 metres of the water's edge at all states of the tide.
- 3.12 Operators of all craft are required to keep well away from other craft and bathers/beach-users to avoid the possibility of an accident.
- 3.13 At all times when afloat all persons must have adequate buoyancy aids and boats must carry a compass, suitable anchor, towrope and distress flares.
- 3.14 Personal Watercraft must carry a towrope and suitable flares.
- 3.15 Racing of any craft is not permitted within 100 metres of the tide line
- 3.16 Noisy behaviour shall be avoided, in the interests of local residents.
- 3.17 Pollution of sea and shore by noxious material shall be avoided.
- 3.18 The property of the Club shall not be removed from the Club without prior permission of the Committee.
- 3.19 The wearing or displaying of Club insignia is a privilege of membership and ceases upon resignation from the Club.
- 3.20 It is the duty of all members to remove all Club identification from boats, trailers, cars etc, before allowing same to pass into the ownership of non-members.
- 3.21 Crew members may skipper the craft for which they are registered, but only when the full member for that craft is on board. They are not permitted to go afloat alone or in charge of any other craft.

### 4. Guests, Visitors, Watersports members and Social members

- 4.1 **"Guest"** means any person introduced by a Member for the purpose of using the bar or being a passenger on that Member's craft. Every guest must be signed in, and then becomes the responsibility of the signing Member.
- 4.2 **"Visitor"** means any person taking part in a Club Event by invitation. Each visitor will be assigned temporary membership.
- 4.3 Guests and visitors are NOT permitted to use the Club's launch vehicles or launching ramp. Qualified VBC Members must undertake all launching/recovery.
- 4.4 Guests and visitors may use other facilities of the Club, subject to any conditions from time to time imposed by the Club Committee.
- 4.5 The Club Committee may limit the number of guests, the frequency of the visits of any guest, or otherwise vary or restrict the use of the Club's facilities and premises, as it sees fit.
- 4.6 Misconduct or breach of the Club's rules by any guest will be deemed the responsibility of the signing Member, who could be liable to disciplinary action by the Committee.
- 4.7 Liability for damages arising from omissions or negligence or any act of a visitor or guest shall be unlimited.
- 4.8 Social Club Members may enter the Club premises only during those periods when the bar is open, and are entitled to use the facilities of the first-floor club-room and the toilets on the ground floor only. Subject to conditions imposed by the Committee from time to time, including any fee payable, Social Members may also use the showers and changing rooms during bar opening times, if they are entering the club for social purposes, having been using the beach.

## **5. Club House, Boat Compound and Car Parks:**

- 5.1 All members (Sports and Social) must display their windscreen sticker at all times.
- 5.2 Sporting and Social members are NOT permitted to give access to the clubhouse to non-members unless authorised by a member of the committee. Any member doing so will have to answer to the general committee.
- 5.3 Any member or guest wearing wet or dirty sea-going protective clothing is not permitted on the first floor of the clubhouse.
- 5.4 Emergency exits are to be kept clear of obstruction.
- 5.5 Fire extinguisher equipment shall be provided in accordance with the Fire Officer's requirements.
- 5.6 Kitchen facilities shall be used in accordance with directives of the House & Social Sub Committee.
- 5.7 Varne Boat Club members are also members of the Varne Social Club
- 5.8 On Club premises vehicles must proceed slowly with due regard to all members and other vehicles.
- 5.9 Dogs in the Clubhouse must be on a lead and kept under control.
- 5.10 Overnight caravanning or camping on the Club premises is not permitted unless authorised by the local civic authority.
- 5.11 Sleeping in the Clubhouse is not permitted unless authorised by the Committee under exceptional circumstances.
- 5.12 No inflammable liquids to be stored by members in the clubhouse.
- 5.13 The compound is for storage of paid up members' craft. If a craft is left longer than 6 months after relinquishing membership, the committee has the right to dispose of said craft.

## **6. Launching vehicles:**

- 6.1 Launching vehicles to be driven only by Full members (including Crew members) Drivers must possess a full valid driving licence. All members driving launching vehicles do so at their own risk.
- 6.2 Tuition in the use and care of the club's launching vehicles must be obtained and a test passed before permission to drive is granted.
- 6.3 It is forbidden for a passenger to travel on the Club's launching vehicles. Any accident resulting from an infringement of this rule will be the liability of the driver.
- 6.4 Launching and recovery of craft must be done with due regard to the risk of submerging the launching vehicle. Any loss or damage arising from negligence shall be the personal liability of the driver or member responsible.
- 6.5 The instructions for care and use must be observed at all times.

## **7. Fishing Section:**

We work to best practice with due regard to the NFSA rules 2006

## **8. Powerboating Section:**

All power boating members must be aware of the international regulations for avoidance of collisions at sea. (as applicable to small craft operating in in-shore areas)

## **9. Sailing Section:**

All events to be covered by I.Y.R.U. Rules and local sailing instructions.

## **9. Water Ski-ing Section:**

- a) It is recommended that all powered boats towing water-skiers shall be occupied by two competent persons, thus enabling the driver to concentrate on navigation and the water ahead, whilst the second person is responsible for watching the skier and relaying his signals to the driver.
- b) Members who wish to tow a water-skier without an observer must have fitted a rear view mirror and fly an orange flag / pennant during the entire period of this activity. This activity must be kept at least 500 metres from the water's edge.

## **10. Personal Watercraft Section (Jet Skis, Wet Bikes):**

The Varne Boat Club is not affiliated to any governing body. The Rules and Bye-laws of the Varne Boat Club shall apply at all times. (See Section 3).

## **11. Slow Lane:**

This lane, as marked by the buoys, is provided for the safe passage seawards and return. It must not be used as a socialising or a mooring area.

## **12. All other Watersports or Foreshore related sports:**

All activities to be governed by and will adhere to any rules laid down by a particular sporting activity's governing body. All sports persons are expected to know and to adhere strictly to the local Bye laws and requirements governing the area of operation and to encourage all other sports persons to comply with such Bye laws and requirements.

## **13. Parental control:**

Parents wishing to allow their children to participate in any sporting activity, sea or land, must ensure that they do so safely without endangering other persons and that their insurance cover is adequate. Parents will be held responsible for their children's actions on the water and in the clubhouse.

## **14. ALL MEMBERS:**

**ALL VARNE BOAT CLUB WATERSPORTS MEMBERS MUST BE AWARE OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR AVOIDANCE OF COLLISIONS AT SEA. (as applicable to small craft operating in in-shore areas).**