



Registered Charity  
SC053271

## Nairn Sailing Club

# Powerboat use Policy & Procedure

### Document Control:

<b>Date of Board approval:</b>	May 2026
<b>Date of next review:</b>	May 2028

### Update History

Version number	Changes summary	Author	Date
0.1	Initial draft	Stuart Fox	26 April 2026
01	Updates applied for approved version	Stuart Fox	10 May 2026

## 1. Introduction

Nairn Sailing Club owns and operates two powerboats for the purposes of supporting water-based activities. This policy is applicable to both Nairn Sailing Club (NSC), and any organisations affiliated to NSC.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and responsible operation of powerboats, protecting members, members of affiliated organisations and the public while maintaining compliance where appropriate.

The term 'Helm' is used in this document. The Helm is the lead user of each powerboat.

## 2. Powerboat use and operational requirements

- All Helms operating Nairn Sailing Club powerboats must hold as a minimum, valid RYA Powerboat Level 2 qualification.
- All Helms supporting dinghy sailing activities must have completed NSC support boat safety training.
- Crew member(s) supporting the helm may be required depending on the support required and the conditions. This will be at the discretion of the event organiser(s)
- Where affiliate organisations are using the powerboats, they are responsible for determining helm/crew/skill level requirements to meet their operational and insurance requirements
- Affiliate organisations must have their own insurance policy for liability and vessel damage/loss (NSC insurance does not cover Affiliate Organisation use)
- At least one person onboard must be competent in VHF use
- VHF radios must be checked for correct operation prior to departure
- Kill cord must be worn by the driver whilst the powerboat is underway
- All users must wear appropriate Personal Floatation Devices while afloat
- The Helm has ultimate responsibility for go/no-go decisions based on conditions
- Powerboats are for supporting club events and are not to be used for personal/pleasure rides by individual members of NSC or its affiliates
- Boats must not exceed manufacturer's capacity or safe working limits

## 3. Familiarisation requirement

- Before operating any club powerboat, all users must complete a familiarisation session. This session will include:
  - Orientation with the specific powerboat(s) to be used.
  - Review of onboard equipment, safety procedures, and emergency protocols.
  - Introduction to harbour access, local navigation rules, and relevant tidal conditions.
- No user may take a powerboat out unsupervised until the familiarisation session has been successfully completed.

#### **4. Supervision and compliance**

- All powerboat operations must adhere to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, governing body guidelines, harbour rules, and club safety procedures.
- NSC reserves the right to restrict or revoke powerboat access if a user does not comply with this policy.

#### **5. Non-member use:**

- Use by non-members of NSC or affiliated organisations (e.g. a coach) must be approved by the organisation running the event, and must meet the requirements outlined above.

#### **6. Procedure after powerboat use**

After use, all powerboats should be left ready for use by the next user, including:

- Fuel topped up to full
- Safely tied to the pontoon or recovered on its trailer to the yard
- Engine fully tilted to lift clear of the water (if left on pontoon)
- Battery isolated at isolation switch
- Covers applied
- Clean, tidy, washed down
- If recovered to the trailer:
  - The (running) engine should be flushed through with fresh water for 5 minutes minimum
  - The trailer to be washed down with the wheel hubs flushed with fresh water
- Key returned to key storage locker
- Grab bag removed and put in the key storage locker
- Replacement of any consumed items from grab bag (e.g. first aid kit components)
- Any faults or issues identified reported to the NSC Vice Commodore

#### **7. Policy review**

This policy will be regularly reviewed every 2 years or sooner if required.