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Sailing

INTRODUCTION

Thurston is an RYA recognised centre. Sailing can be offered on the general course programme as well as specialist courses of a longer duration.

VENUE

Usual venue is Coniston Water.

STAFFING

- Ratio: The normal instructor/student ratio.
- Staff should be trained and experienced to the level of the appropriate RYA qualification or have in-house approval.

EQUIPMENT

For Dinghy Sessions:

- Wet suits should be used when water temperatures are low and there is a good chance of capsizing.
- Suitable footwear is essential.
- Buoyancy aids must be worn by staff and students when afloat, being on the jetty and when swimming.
- Helmets should be considered on single-handed boats during gusty or extreme conditions.
- Staff should carry a knife, whistle and means of communication, i.e. a mobile phone.

RESCUE BOAT

- When sailing dinghies are in use the safety boat should be in attendance.
- Safety boat ratio should not exceed 6 student dinghies to 1 safety boat.
- The safety boat is only driven by those with an RYA Powerboat qualification or the equivalent in-house training and experience. The lake speed limit of 10mph must be observed except in rescue situations.
- The kill cord must be used at all times.

OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

- Wind and water conditions should be checked before the session and monitored throughout.
- Consideration should be given to sail choice or reefing and if conditions become unsuitable the session should be abandoned.
- In strong winds single handed boats may be limited in number and students pair up if appropriate.
- The activities of other lake users should be considered, in particular other boats and ferries.
- Clear instructions must be given on choice of sailing area and boundaries.
- Report any breakages or damages in the repair book