

# Tonbridge Town Sailing Club

Haysden Lake, Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge, TN11 9BA  
what3words app ref: "grin.focal.trout"

## Buddy Sailing: Rules & Guidelines

The following forms Section 19 of the Club 'Bylaws' document.

### Definition

Buddy Sailing is the system of rules which allows club members to participate in water-sports activity on Haysden Water when a club safety boat is not operating. The Buddy System is **ONLY** available to members of Tonbridge Town Sailing Club. No guests or visitors are allowed to use the buddy system.

### Application

The phrase 'Buddy Sailing' is used to encompass the use of all types of recreational watercraft on Haysden Water. It includes sailing dinghies and stand-up paddleboards.

Adult club members who are competent sailors may Buddy Sail at any time during the hours of daylight, between the start and end dates of the season as advertised on the club website. Buddy Sailing during the closed season is not permitted.

NOTE – Buddy Sailing **cannot** be undertaken when "Tri-Swim" activities are taking place. No water-sport activities can take place on the lake when Tri-Swim sessions are scheduled. For 2026 this will be Thursday & Friday evenings from 5pm until dusk.

### Personal Responsibility

If you wish to partake in any water activity using the buddy system, you agree to abide by all rules of the buddy system included in this policy. Accessing the water using the buddy system is done entirely at the member's own risk.

### Rules

1. For Buddy Sailing to take place there must be at least **TWO SIMILAR CRAFT** on the water.
  - a. For example, two appropriately manned dinghies could buddy boat together. One dinghy and one SUP could not Buddy Sail together.
2. Each (of two) craft must contain at least one competent adult who can assist the person/s in the other craft if they get into difficulties. These will be the **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS**.
  - a. Additional craft (up to a maximum of three) are permitted not to have an adult aboard; e.g. a single handed junior boat.
  - b. Any additional craft must be directly supervised by the **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS**

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- c. It is not enough to know other people are at the club/on the water. Please make personal contact with another individual. Talk through your plans, concerns, where you intend to sail and for how long.
3. Craft **MUST** stay within hailing distance of one another.
4. All Buddy Sailors **MUST** wear buoyancy aids and carry a whistle to attract attention, In April and May they should wear dry suits, or full wetsuits. Water temperatures are very low at the start of the season.
5. Buddy Sailing is not permitted in strong winds. This relies on judgement and the interpretation of 'strong winds' by the **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS**, but should generally be taken to mean winds of Force 4 (18 mph) and above. The limit for SUPs is F3 (12mph).
6. **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS** undertaking dinghy sailing **MUST** carry a safety knife in order to deal with an entrapment should one arise.

## Guidelines

- It is best practice for buddy boaters attending the club when other members are not around to notify someone of the activity they are undertaking and when they expect to get back. This could be a friend/relative/neighbour/etc. Alternatively placing a message on the relevant Club WhatsApp Group can be used to the same effect.
- Mast head floats are advised to be fitted to all dinghies.
- Preparing a safety boat and leaving it ashore 'ready to go' should be considered.

### Document history

Date	Action	Reviewer	Rev
11.3.2026	Document issued	D Smith	-
15.3.2026	Minor comments and amendments	B Bone	1
20.3.2026	Minor amendments	D Smith	A
25.3.2026	Minor amendments	D Smith	B