

# River Aln Boat Club

## *Safety Policy*

### **Background**

The River Aln Boat Club (RABC) is a not-for-profit organisation which encourages boating of all kinds in the Alnmouth area. It is responsible for the management of moorings in a section of the Aln estuary.

Safety is of fundamental importance to the RABC. We recognise that we can never eliminate risk from our activities, but we will strive to identify and deal with safety hazards appropriately in order to constrain the risks they pose to a level that is justifiable, tolerable and as low as possible.

### **Scope**

The scope of this document includes:

- River Aln moorings
- RABC events including those run on behalf of others
- RABC assets and equipment

In addition we will endeavour to enhance safety, where possible, in those areas for which the Club is not directly responsible including, but not limited to:

- Members' and visitors' own boating activities

### **RABC Safety Policy**

The provision of safe procedures and practices identified here is a primary objective. In striving to meet it the RABC Committee has resolved to:-

- Affirm its ownership of safety and provide clear guidance and oversight of safety issues
- Ensure that Members and Officers are provided with clearly defined responsibilities, authority and accountability in respect to safety issues;
- Actively promote and develop the culture of continuous safety improvement within its sports; and
- Enhance its systems and procedures for auditing and monitoring safety.

In doing so, we will review, scrutinise and assess our operating procedures and control documents regularly and will provide guidance that the wider boating community can adapt for its own use.

### ***Responsibilities***

The Committee: The creation and monitoring of an overall safety policy and responsibility for Risk Assessment, resulting actions and reporting.

The Events Manager (and such Members who take on that role for specific events): RABC events

The Moorings Manager: Safety of moorings.

We also expect volunteers to lead by example and we expect every individual to take personal responsibility for their own safety and actions at every level of activity.

### ***Risk Assessments***

We will undertake and document Risk Assessments for:

- all major RABC events
- our mooring management role, annually or as necessary.

### ***Incident Reporting***

We will encourage Accident and Incident Reporting following the triggers and processes set out in the RYA Safety Management System in order to evaluate them, learn from them and to share any lessons learned. Triggers for reporting are:

- Accident: An unexpected event resulting in death or injury to a person.

- Incident: An unexpected event that is hazardous and has the potential to harm a person or property.

All are to be reported to Committee and, if required, to MAIB. We will then amend our own safety documentation and practices as necessary.

## ***Liaison***

We welcome safety-related inputs from relevant organisations including government (national and local), our landlord, maritime organisations (such as the RYA, Admiralty, HMCG, MAIB and RNLI), insurance companies, local organisations with whom we have dealings, and from our Members.

We will endeavour to provide safety-related outputs resulting from this policy to other relevant organisations including government, chart makers, pilot book authors, etc.

## ***Monitoring***

The Club Committee will review this policy at intervals of no more than three years (or when necessary due to changes in legislation).

I and the committee will do our utmost to implement these resolutions and ensure that adequate resources are provided to manage safety effectively and to train individuals.

Commodore

Date approved by RABC Committee:

January 2025

Date last reviewed:

January 2025

## **Reference Notes**

Current safety-related recommendations to Members include:

- Vessel checks
- Use of Life Jackets
- Use of wet/dry suits for dinghy racing in winter
- RYA SafeTrx app for all sea voyages
- Volunteer briefing for major events & BBQs
- Boating procedures including crossing the bar

## **Related Policies**

See also related RABC policies on:

- Complaints Handling
- Equality
- Moorings (in Club Rules)