



Inclement Weather at Chelmarsh Sailing Club

Evacuating the Water

We have a process in place that tells people to leave the water in an emergency:

- Flag N over B with repeated sound signals to draw attention to the flag.

There is a preprepared flagpole ready to be used, stored by the key safe outside the Gents' changing room door.

It is **imperative** that this flagpole is taken on the water whenever sailors are using the facilities.

When to use this flag?

At a time when a blanket requirement to evacuate the water for such events as:

- bad weather including thunderstorms;
- sailor illness resulting in 100% rescue team focus;
- engine failure on the rescue vessel.

MetOffice Weather Warning Policy - When to prohibit use of the reservoir.

If the MetOffice releases a weather warning of **any colour for 'Wind'** for the postcode of the sailing club (WV16 6BL [link](#) here), at the time of the use of the reservoir taking place, then

no 'on the water' activities may take place on the reservoir. All 'on the water' activities must be cancelled or ceased.

This includes SUPing, Swimming, Sailing, Model-boat sailing.

This includes Tuesdays, Wednesdays, weekends, training days etc.

Who makes the initial decision?

It is everyone's responsibility to adhere to this Safety Provision.

If there is doubt, it is everyone's responsibility to check out the MetOffice website.

How to communicate?

At the club.

Attached to the results desk outside the changing room, there is a red flag, which should be flown from the mast outside the clubhouse. Attention should be drawn to the flag by sound signals to advise that the MetOffice Weather Warning Policy is in effect.

If no flag is flying, this does not necessarily mean that the water is usable.



Chelmarsh Sailing Club

If the weather warning is due to come in effect within 24 hrs.

Any member who becomes aware can communicate to the club members at large. A WhatsApp group will be used as the immediate contact with the membership, however the usual channel of email may also be used.

If the wind weather warning has been forecast, communication could be through TGIF, (however rarely do the MetOffice give more than 48 hours notice).

When not to cancel sailing?

If there are no wind weather warnings for the club postcode, unless directed by the Commodore or VC Water, Sunday racing should not be cancelled until an 'at the club decision' takes place.

If an OOD has concerns, such as:

- snow on the road
- a frozen reservoir
- flooding in the area

making contact with either Flag Officer to enable a decision to be made is the course of action that must be taken to:

commodore@chelmarshsailing.org; AND

vcwater@chelmarshsailing.org;

only then may sailing be cancelled without an 'at the club' inspection being made.

Communication will be in the first instance be via the WhatsApp group.

Join the WhatsApp group by:

- Downloading WhatsApp (from either google, android or apple platforms).
- Creating an account (if you don't have one).
- Scanning the QR code (below) with your phone camera.
- Join the group.

If you also download WhatsApp for PC you will see the messages on your computer as well.

