



OPERATING PROCEDURE No. 33

ISSUE 1 April 2022

OPERATING LIMITS

PURPOSE

This procedure provides guidance to OODs on Operating Limits for our vessels and conditions when limits on boating or cancellation should apply. It should be read by all OODs

PROCEDURE

The decision to proceed or not with afloat activities is to be made by the Officer of the Day, who may be advised by the Principal or a Chief Instructor. This decision will be made using forecast data and by observing actual local conditions and this guidance.

The skipper of a boat has the final decision if he/she is willing to proceed afloat but may not go afloat without approval from the OOD.

GUIDANCE

Forecasts can be obtained from a number of sources. It is often worth using 2 or 3 different sources. But note that forecasts and conditions can change quickly. Decisions should be left as late as possible.

There is no provision to measure wind strength. Judgements will need to be made on the conditions. The wind speeds etc given below are for guidance.

WIND

*Wind strength **Force 0 to Force 4** - (0-16 kts, 0-18 mph)*

- Normal sailing.
- Oscar (RS Venture) to be reefed above 12 kts – *This is RS recommendation and will be subject to further assessment with experience.*

*Wind strength or gusts **Force 5** - (17-21 kts, 19-24 mph)*

- Only experienced sailors on their own in Hansa dinghies, inexperienced sailors with an Instructor and all dinghies reefed. The sailing area is to be determined by the Chief Sailing Instructor or another qualified Sailing Instructor.
- Equaliser and Kanata are to be reefed. No sailing outside Area A, ie. below Dittisham or above Garrow Point, without approval of the Chief Sailing Instructor.
- Oscar not to use spinnaker

*Wind strength or gusts **Force 6 or higher** (22-27 kts, 25-31 mph)*

No sailing or powerboating.

TIDE

The tidal stream, especially on an ebb tide, can be affected by heavy rainfall on Dartmoor during the previous days. This may result in rough conditions with wind against tide or mean that sailing boats will not be able to make progress against the stream due to lack of wind. Wind against tide effect can be particularly significant around Garrow Point.

RAIN

With little opportunity for much movement by sailors and volunteers when afloat the risk of getting wet and cold due to rain should be considered when deciding whether a session will proceed. Forecasts are very unreliable so decisions are best left as late as possible.

However, if forecast gives a high probability of persistent heavy rain, it may be appropriate to cancel the session the previous evening to avoid members making wasted journeys.

If there is a chance of rain members should be warned to dress appropriately

Sailors should be advised not to go afloat if inappropriately dressed for rain