



HAYLING ISLAND SAILING CLUB

2023 Foiling Safety Guidelines

Date of document: 01/03/2023

Issue

Windsurf & Wing Foiling (“foiling”) has become very popular amongst HISC members and HISC has identified that the risk profile of the Mengham channel directly off the NW Back Beach has changed.

The water between the NW Back Beach and the south side of West Mud is a multi-use area, which includes:

- Club member RIB moorings
- Vessels in transit west/east using the Mengham channel
- Dinghy launching (pre-dominantly youth)
- Swimming (all ages)

Foiling boards generally foil in lower wind ranges than the wind required to get a conventional (fin) windsurfer planing. This has changed the risk profile in vicinity of the NW Back Beach.

HISC is keen to embrace and support foiling but has a duty to do so with due consideration to other users of the water in the area described above.

Risks to swimmers and general beach users have been identified in the vicinity of the Back Beach which have been assessed to be mainly present when the below criteria are met:

- Wind: <15 knots
- Conditions: Sunshine
- Tide: Mid-Low
- Season: July -August
- Other: Swimmers in the water

A potential incident could cause injury to a swimmer and could trigger the Harbour Conservancy to review the suitability of foiling within the harbour.

Recommendations

1. Establish a formal ‘class captain’ for Wing Foiling (to complement existing Windsurfing ‘class captain’).
2. Implement a voluntary Code of Conduct to be syndicated with the HISC foiling community, as follows:

Voluntary Foiling Code of Conduct

Be sensible and aware of other water users generally.

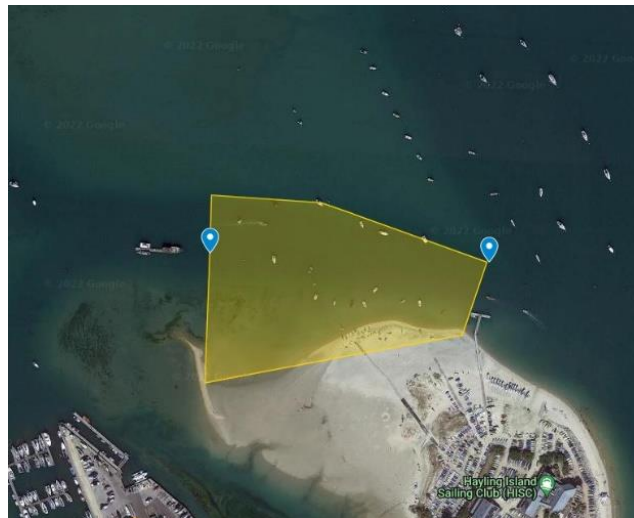
Be aware of the vulnerability of swimmers.

Be mindful of those learning new skills on the water.

Respect a “no-foiling zone” (i.e. in displacement mode) in the area West of the HISC pontoon and East of the first Port Hand Channel Marker heading into Sparkes, specifically at low water during peak summer times, as per the yellow area in image below:

Be aware of foils when leaving equipment on the beach and try to mitigate potential impact to other beach users, which includes:

- Trying to clearly mark or cover foil wings. Hang object on foil wing (i.e. harness). Where applicable, tie (inflatable) wing close to foil. Put foil covers on if available.
- Consider laying foil board on side so foil mast is horizontal.



Communication

Communication of the risk and self-regulated “no-foiling zone” to be via:

- Class Captains
- Social Media (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp groups etc).
- Code of Conduct displayed by Windsurf Lockers.
- Newsletter.
- Socialising the message generally.
- New-Member briefings.
- HISC training courses.
- Etc.