

Use of Fylde District Kayaks & Canoe and Bell Boat on Fairhaven Lake.

Fairhaven Lake at Ansdell is classified as Class C waters as is the canal.

This means that you can do a variety of activities on these waters without the requirement for the leader of the activity to hold an activity permit.

It is required that those in charge of the activity have the appropriate skills and knowledge of the activity taking place and a knowledge of and ability to conduct appropriate risk assessments.

Planning activities on Class C Waters

When delivering activities on or in Class C waters the leader must ensure that:

- The activity is suitable to the age and ability of the participants.
- A clear plan is in place for the activity.
- A risk assessment has been undertaken and appropriate measures in place to reduce risk, and that this is documented and clearly communicated to those involved.
- A safety plan is in place in case of an incident or emergency.
- The appropriate adult to young person ratios are adhered to.
- There is appropriate supervision by a person who has sufficient skill/knowledge of the activity being undertaken (this may be more than one person depending on the activity and the size and needs of the group).
- Someone is present with the appropriate level of first aid training for the environment, and has access to suitable first aid materials.
- Suitable equipment is used.
- A safety briefing is given to all participants and people in charge.
- Participants are briefed, with clear boundaries which everyone understands.
- Participants do not move into any adjacent waters not classified as Class C (which are thus, at a minimum, Class B1).
- Participants are given instruction on how to use any equipment safely.
- Other users of the water do not constitute a hazard.

- The activity meets any local operating procedures (if using, for example, a swimming pool).

It is important to ensure that when planning all activities care is taken to consider the following which apply to water based activities:

Swimming Ability

[POR Rule 9.13.1](#) outlines the swimming requirements for those wishing to take part in water activities. It's important that the swimming ability of the participants is considered when the activity is planned. This will result in appropriate ratios and supervision being applied as well as influencing the location and area of the activity, type of craft used and the personal flotation devices required.

For swimming in Class C waters :

1. There must be one responsible person in overall control.
2. This person must carry out a risk assessment for the location and activity.
3. If there are written operating procedures, this person must meet their requirements.

Weather conditions and visibility

As with any activity the weather can have a significant impact on water activities. Rain fall can affect the water levels and flow, and may result in the activity location not being suitable or the class of water changing. It can also reduce visibility which is even more important when operating around larger and motorised vessels. The sun and heat can also have a big impact on water activities, as the water reflects the sun which can speed up an individual's susceptibility to sun stroke or sun burn. The strength and direction of the wind can be a significant factor at Fairhaven and the option to cancel the activity should never be ruled out.

Clothing and equipment

It's important to ensure that all members of the group have suitable equipment and clothing (including footwear) for the activity which they are doing and the weather they may face. Where equipment is used, participants should be trained in the correct use and care for it.

Buoyancy aids

Buoyancy aids and life jackets must be worn as outlined in [POR 9.13.2](#). [Read the guidance on buoyancy aids and life jackets.](#) **The buoyancy aids are kept at Fylde Activity Centre, arrangements need to be made to collect the required number and**

sizes and return them in a dry condition. At Fairhaven Lake buoyancy aids must be worn by everyone before going through the gates on to the side of the lake.

Group make up and supervision

In addition to ensuring that the ratios are adhered to, it is important to consider the size of the activity group you are planning for. If in any doubt keep the groups small, use the permit ratios as a guide for activity groups and remember the normal section ratios still apply as a maximum for the overall activity. Think about how you split your section into manageable groups to enable safe activities to take place. Don't go beyond the capabilities of the young people.

You should also consider the overall group size and ensure that if larger groups are operating with multiple leaders that it is clear which young people are within each group and that a clear area of operation is defined.

Notification

All water activities on Class C waters must be approved by the relevant Commissioner and delivered to the standards contained in Class C waters (FS120623) (POR 9.13.4.1).

To book the use of Fairhaven Lake and the changing facilities if required please email Fylde Borough Council on fairhavenbookings@fylde.gov.uk

For the access code to the boat compound at Fairhaven Lake or if you require any assistance with Kayaking or Bell Boating on Fairhaven Lake with the District equipment please contact Duncan Cairns duncan.cairns@fyldescouts.org.uk Mobile 07814673057 Land line 01772 672316.