

Hire of Medway Yacht Club (MYC) Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs)

Conditions of hire

This hire policy shall apply to specified Stand Up Paddle boards (SUPs) with paddles hired by members when the hiring is not linked to organised training.

1. Specified Stand Up Paddle boards equipment available for hire:

- SUP with lease and fin, paddle.
- Whilst there may be different brands they are all 'all-around' inflatable SUPs.

2. Qualifications and Experience:

All users need to be competent at paddling and have used a SUP before. If experience is required, or deemed by the club in the best interest, training will be offered before hire use.

3. Periods of availability and restrictions on use:

- MYC SUPs are available to hire only by Medway Yacht Club members.
- Members are the hirer, and at least one member must be part of the activity, though member guests may be part of SUP group.
- During MYC sailing season.
- SUPs shall be made available during the daytime and when MYC staff are on site.
- SUPs are available for hire up to a maximum of 3 hours.
- Regardless of member experience, no SUP hire will happen if the weather conditions are force 3 or above, either now or soon. The club office will liaise with the member hirer about reschedule or refund whichever is appropriate.
- SUP hire is for a minimum of 2 people on 2 SUPs together. Hire is not for solo SUP.
- The SUP hirer must be 18+ years old, and at least one 18+ year old must be in activity.
- The following can end the hiring session if it is deemed to be best in the interest of safety; Chief Instructor or Bosun or Flag Officers.

4. Safety, SUP area:

These are the boundaries from MYC Yacht Club that the SUP hirer should use. The hirer does not need to use the whole area, but these are the outer limits from Medway Yacht Club.

- Up river: Cockham Reach - buoys 31 and 30A. Hoo Creek – MYC club side of Hoo Ness Yacht Club and Hoo west cardinal off Hoo Island.
- Down river: Upnor Reach – MYC club side of Royal Engineer's Jetty and Ferry Wharf.

The expectation is the majority of the stand up paddle boarding is done at the edge of the river, with minimal crossing the channel if any.

SUPs should be visible from MYC Yacht Club at all times.

5. Personal floatation.

A correctly fitted personal floatation device must be worn by all persons at all times.

6. Location / Collection:

On booking agree a time and place for collection.

7. Return of equipment, losses and breakages

The member hirer should notify a member of staff that the equipment has been rinsed with clean water and returned to outside the container on the hill. Detail any loss or

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breakages in person to a member of staff or by email. All losses and breakages shall be recorded. Failure to report a loss or breakage will lead to the suspension of club member for hiring club equipment.

The hirer shall indemnify Medway Yacht Club for the cost of repair of any loss or damage to any part of the hired equipment. The following are indicative charges that will be charged to the member for loss or breakage. Board: £450. Leash: £30. Fin £20. Paddle: £150

8. Booking and payment

SUPs available for hire can be booked and paid for through the club office. This must happen in advance of the hire session. The club suggest a minimum of a 3 days advance to avoid disappointment. Bookings shall be recorded by the club office.

9. Safety and Responsibility

Stand Up Paddleboarding is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By hiring a MYC SUP, each hirer agrees and acknowledges that:

- They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves whilst stand up paddling.
- They are responsible for the safety of themselves, the hired club equipment, their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- Hirer should be in good physical health to participate in Stand up Paddle Boarding.
- They have checked the equipment prior to going afloat and are satisfied it in good order and equipped to SUP in the prevailing conditions.
- There is not a safety boat service whilst renting a SUP. The hirer should approach the SUP hire being self-sufficient.
- The SUP leash should be worn at all times when on the water.
- The majority of the SUP activity should happen by the edge of the river. If crossing the river, a safe crossing point which includes the minimum time in the main channel should be sought.
- Members are advised to carry a means of communication with someone ashore and notify their delegated shore contact of their activity and time of return.