



Wealden Sailability

Hoisting Policy for use with the Heron Hoist.

The hoist will always be erected in its designated slot in Pontoon 3 by a trained Hoist Operator and checked at the start of each Sailing Session Day to ensure it is safe to use, together with the slings supplied by WS.

WS will always encourage Participant Sailors to be hoisted in and out of the boats wherever there is doubt that they are able to do so themselves independently.

There are 3 sizes of sling supplied by WS available for use with the hoist, although all Participants/Carers will always be encouraged to provide their own slings.

1. The hoist may only be operated by a trained WS Volunteer, who must be over the age of 18. Training will be carried out and if the person being trained is successful his name will be entered on the list of those who have received formal training in the use of the hoist.
2. The medical condition or lifting requirements of the participant to be lifted will generally not be known by the WS Hoist Operator. Hence in the case of the Group Participants or Independent Participant with a Carer, the Carer will supervise the lift of the Participant in their care in liaison with the trained WS Hoist Operator and an assistant if required. In the case of an independent client sailor without a carer the WS Volunteer will ask the Participant whether there are any specific or special requirements before commencing the lift.
3. Where there is doubt, confirmation must be given prior to the lift that the Participant weighs less than 135kg, which is below the maximum stated SWL (Safe Working Load) of the Heron Hoist in use.
4. The WS Volunteer in charge of the hoist and his assistant will initially go through the procedures and steps of how the Participant will be hoisted into and out of the boat with the participant and/or Carer where applicable, and discuss any particular issues that may be relevant to the Participant when lifting them. In the case of a Group Participant, the Carer in charge of their Participant will supervise the lift and where possible assist with the lift, with the trained WS Volunteer operating the hoist. If the Participant is in a wheelchair, and if they do not already have their own sling in place, then they will have the sling placed under them whilst they are still on the shore. If the Participant is walking, then a chair positioned under the hoist will be used. In

both cases, the hoops of the slings are then hooked over the hooks on the lifting frame of the hoist and the hoist raised by the WS Volunteer in charge of the hoist until the slings are taught, but not lifting the Participant.

5. The lifting arm of the hoist will always be positioned in front of the person to be lifted, and NOT over their shoulder. Care should be taken to ensure that the person's face is protected from the hoist lifting hook which will be directly in front of them.
6. The WS Volunteer in charge of the hoist will then check with the Participant that the sling is comfortable and suitably adjusted so that the Participant remains in a sitting position when the lift commences.
7. The Participant will be lifted until he or she is clear of the chair/wheelchair seat and can be swung out over the boat with the help of the assistant, then lowered in to the boat in the correct position. The sling will then be unhooked from the hoist lifting frame and the lifting straps laid down so that they do not interfere with the operation of the boat. The boat should always be securely tied front and rear in the correct position before the lift commences. This will ensure that the person being lifted is in the air for a minimum amount of time.
8. Where a Participant is being lowered onto a beanbag or other suitable cushions in the Longboat, Lugger, or Stratos, the Carer will take charge and with the help of a WS Volunteer if required, will ensure that the Participant is sitting or laying properly supported once in the boat, and that he or she cannot roll off. The Carers of the Participants will be encouraged to use their own support aids. The WS helm and crew should also check that the Participant is comfortable and adequately supported. The sling will remain in place under the Participant once detached from the Hoist.
9. When the Participant is being lifted out of the boat, the sling will be checked for correct adjustment around the Participant prior to the straps being placed over the hooks on the hoist.
10. Once the Participant has been hoisted out of the boat and is sitting in their wheelchair or chair, they will be taken off the pontoon to the shore where the slings can safely be removed.
11. Wheelchairs and chairs will always be removed from the pontoon once the participant is in the boat. When the participant returns, the wheelchair/chair will always be in place before the lift begins.
12. If a participant is not comfortable at the thought of being lifted using the hoist, then the lift should not take place. If they become uncomfortable during the lift, then they should be returned to their wheelchair/chair as soon as possible, rather than to continue to lower them into the boat.

End

Revisions:

Reviewed by DM, NL, ST 31.3.2022 No Changes.

Reviewed by JB, NL, ST, MM, HF, PC 22.02.2023 No Changes.

Reviewed by JF/ST 06.03.23. Reference to sign-off forms removed.

Reviewed by JF/ST March/April 2024. Minor amendments.