



Wealden Sailability

Wealden Sailability Hoisting Policy for use with the Heron Hoists.

All Participants who require the use of a hoist must be signed in on the Daily Session Sheet before sailing. In addition, for Group Participants their Carer must sign the Hoisting Record Sheet to say that there is a Lifting Plan in place for the Participant in their care who is to be hoisted. For Independent sailors they will agree a simple Lifting Plan Risk Assessment Sheet before they use the hoist, and on subsequent visits they will confirm that they have previously agreed it with WS.

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

1. WS Independent and Group Participants will be encouraged to use the hoist if there is considered to be doubt as to their ability to get into or out of a boat on their own.
2. The hoist may only be operated by a trained WS Volunteer. He or she will be assisted by another WS Volunteer. In the case of the Group Participants the Carer will supervise the lift of the Participant in their care. In the case of an independent client sailor without a carer the WS Volunteer will ask whether there are any specific or special needs before commencing the lift.
3. Confirmation must be given prior to the lift that the Participant weighs less than 135kg, which is below the stated SWL 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, 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 and where possible assist with the lift. If the Participant is in a wheelchair, and if they do not already have their own sling already in place, then they will have a sling placed under them whilst they are in the wheelchair whilst they are still on the shore. If the Participant is walking, then a chair positioned under the hoist will be used. 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 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.
6. The Participant will be lifted until he 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.
7. Where a Participant is being lowered onto a beanbag in the Stratos, the WS Volunteer and assistant will ensure that the Participant is sitting properly supported on the beanbag and that he or she cannot roll off. The Carers of the Group Participants will be encouraged to use their own support aids. The Stratos helm and crew should also check that the Participant is comfortable and adequately supported. The sling will remain in place under the Participant.
8. 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. Once the Participant has been hoisted out of the boat and is sitting in their wheelchair, they will be taken off the pontoon to the shore where the slings can safely be removed.

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 NL 19.03.2026 Cosmetic for continuity.