

YMCA Watercraft Hire Agreement

Welcome to Fairthorne Manor. When hiring one of our watercraft, it is important that you understand and accept the following agreement and your responsibilities to ensure your safety:

- ▶ Please listen carefully to the YMCA staff member instructions regarding safety instructions including how to access your craft, basic usage and what to do in the event of a capsize.
- ▶ All users must wear a personal flotation device whilst on the water; YMCA staff / the video will show the responsible adult/s present how to fit these devices safely. The responsible adult must then ensure devices are fitted safely to the children and young people in their care.
- ▶ Life jackets are also available for those less confident in the water.
- ▶ Safety on the water is the responsibility of each participant aged over 16 years
- ▶ For those aged under 16 years, water safety is the responsibility of the accompanying responsible adult.
- ▶ YMCA accepts no responsibility for water safety and does not provide water safety cover on watercraft hire sessions. Swimming ability is not a pre-requisite of hire.
- ▶ The maximum permitted weight on the board is **120 kg (265 lbs)**. Participants must ensure they do not exceed this limit to maintain the safety, stability, and integrity of the equipment.

Age rules:

- ▶ Children aged under 10 years must be accompanied on the water by a responsible adult (18+) on a 1:1 basis.
- ▶ Starting age of use is determined by a child's ability to fit safely into a flotation device.
- ▶ Children aged 10-16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult (18+) present on the lakeside as a minimum or on the river.
- ▶ Unaccompanied children will not be permitted on the water and no refunds will be offered
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- ▶ Water activities can be strenuous and water temperatures will vary depending on the time of year. It is the responsibility of participants to ensure they are physically fit to undertake the activities. If in doubt, please consult your GP prior to booking.
- ▶ YMCA accepts no responsibility for the loss of personal items.
- ▶ All participants are **required to carry a functional communication device** while paddling on the river. This measure is mandatory to ensure that individuals are able to request assistance in the event of an emergency.
- ▶ The YMCA **strongly recommends** that all communication devices be stored in a **waterproof protective bag** to prevent damage and to ensure their usability throughout the activity.

- ▶ YMCA is responsible for all equipment including watercraft, paddles and flotation devices.
- ▶ In the event of inclement weather higher than 12mph wind or lightning, YMCA staff will make an informed decision as to whether it is safe to continue with a hire session. Please respect all decisions and instructions from our staff.
- ▶ Participants under the influence of alcohol or other substances, those displaying inappropriate behaviour or posing a risk to others will not be permitted on the water and no refunds will be offered.
- ▶ Participants are advised to wear appropriate clothing that can get wet and to bring additional clothes to change into.
- ▶ Hot showers, changing facilities and toilets are available at sports hall for the river.
- ▶ Footwear must be fixed at the rear; flipflops and crocs are not permitted. At certain times of the year the water is cold, so a wetsuit is advisable if you have one. YMCA does not provide wetsuits.
- ▶ Participants must return to the river pontoon at the end of the designated session or when instructed by the YMCA staff. A £20 late charge will be levied on any late return of craft on the river.
- ▶ Copies of the risk assessment are available on request

In an emergency, contact:

On Fairthorne Manor site – Duty Manager 07880 710903

On water – Harbour Master **01489 576387** and 07718 146378 or Coastguard **999**

Reviewed By KS 26/03/2026

Approved By Karina Barnett 26/03/2026