

# Code of Conduct for Cruising



## Planning

**Plan your cruise:** Make sure you are aware of your craft (and your own!) limitations and plan accordingly – carefully check weather forecasts and be aware of pull-out locations and sheltered spots. Make sure someone knows where you are going.

**Fuel:** Pay close attention to fuel management – re-fuel in a safe way and in a safe place. Make sure you carry enough fuel for your journey (include a **20%** reserve for unforeseen situations)

**Know your craft limits:** Plan your route according to your craft capabilities. No overloading – an overloaded craft will be operating near or at its limit – any minor weather change could push it over that limit!

**Keep within the law:** Before operating ensure that your intended route will not infringe local byelaws, navigation restrictions or wildlife sanctuaries. Obey all rules or directions issued by any authority responsible for the area you are operating in.

## Safety

**Be Prepared:** Full safety equipment is to be carried **and checked** - do a craft preflight check every time you stop! Make sure you carry suitable clothing for all possible conditions (getting wet can be very dangerous – carry spare clothing). Carry a basic first-aid kit, clean water and an emergency repair kit with you at all times.

**Communication:** Make sure you have a means by which to summon help in an emergency (e.g. mobile phone – check it works where you are going, VHF radio – check reception, flares, etc).

**Don't drink and drive:** You know it makes sense.

## Courtesy

**Operate with consideration:** Operate with due consideration for others at all times – watch your fan/prop blast and make sure bystanders are kept well clear when maneuvering on land.

**Noise:** Use minimum speed and throttle when close to populated areas, people or wildlife.

**Avoid beach buzzing:** Try not to go past the same area more than once an hour. Stay away from populated beaches, shorelines or public areas unless no other route is available.

**Watch your speed:** Adjust your speed to suit the conditions or waterway regulations. Don't pass other water users at excessive speed.

If you need further information on any of the above subjects then please contact the HCGB on [info@hovercraft.org.uk](mailto:info@hovercraft.org.uk)