

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club

Beach Winch Use Policy agreed by the Executive meeting of 23.08.2011

1. For Public Liability and personal safety reasons, winches must be operated only by members over the age of 18 who have been trained in their use by an Executive or Sailing Committee member, and continue to remain competent.
2. In all cases TWO people are required for the operation of the winches – one to tail the winch rope the other, not necessarily winch qualified or over 18, to stand at the brow of the beach in a position to ensure constant visual contact with the boat being hauled and the person operating the winch.
3. The person tailing the winch rope should not wear gloves and must stand at least 1.5m to the rear of the winch drum in operation, positioned to be able to see the second person at all times. Painted lines are in place behind the winches indicating the distance which must be observed.
4. If it becomes necessary to stop winching in an emergency, or if a riding turn develops on the winch drum, the tail of the winch rope must be released completely before the operator moves to press the red Stop Button of the winch.
5. Care of keys: Once winches are set up for use, the winch houses should be locked and the keys returned to the safety of the Bridge cupboard.
6. An ongoing programme of short, organised training sessions shall be scheduled to ensure that ALL members likely to operate winches have achieved the recommended level of competence refresher courses shall be made available annually.
7. The winches must be inspected annually by a competent person.
