

Pocket Guide to the Littlehampton Harbour Regulations

Harbour users must not cause nuisance, damage or danger to persons, vessels or other property on the river or its banks. All vessel owners and users must follow the Littlehampton Harbour General Directions (<https://www.littlehampton.org.uk/regulations-for-all-vessels/>) except where they have the specific written permission of the Harbour Master.

Failure to comply with these or ad hoc Special Directions issued by the Harbour Master or harbour patrol staff is an offence which can result in a fine of up to £2,500.

Registration and harbour dues:

- **Identification:** Vessels must be obviously marked with a name or other obvious means of identification such as a DataTag of Small Ships Register number.
- **Harbour Dues and Vessel Registration:** It is an offence to launch a vessel onto, enter, or keep a vessel on the harbour without first registering it with the Harbour Master, paying the appropriate Harbour Dues and supplying the owner's name and contact details, details of the vessel, and the place where the vessel is normally kept.
- **Changes in details:** Notice of any changes in ownership, vessel name or owner contact must be provided in writing.
- **Commercial vessels:** Do not offer for hire or operate any vessel for the purpose of carrying paying passengers from or within the Harbour without the Harbour Master's permission. Commercial vessels and skippers must also hold the appropriate licenses and vessel commercial coding.

General Safety:

- **Speed Limit:** Do not exceed a speed of 6.5 knots through the water at any time.
- **No Wash:** Do not travel at any speed which creates any wash and disturbance when passing pontoons, other moorings quays, or vessels/divers working.
- **Collision Regulations:** Follow the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- **Rights of Way:** When navigating against the tide, give way to vessels navigating with the tide. When crossing the Harbour, give way to vessels proceeding up or down the Harbour.
- **Keep well clear of large vessels:** Remain outside of the fairway (the centre of the river where water remains at low tide) when large vessels under pilotage are entering or leaving Harbour. This is announced shortly before, during and after on VHF Channel 71.
- **Maritime works:** Keep clear of divers or vessels engaged in laying/retrieval of buoyage, dredging, salvage or construction works.
- **Anchors:** Always have an anchor prepared for immediate emergency use. If the vessel is not designed to have an anchor fitted (e.g. sailing dinghies and jet skis), have a mooring/tow line immediately available. Do not drop anchor within the harbour unless an emergency.
- **Alcohol/drugs:** Do not use any vessel whilst under the influence of drink or drugs

- **Reporting:** Report any collision, sinking, grounding or abandoned/adrift/missing vessels as soon as possible
- **Obstructions:** The owner of any obstruction of whatever description to navigation or dredging in the Harbour, must remove it and, until it is removed, have it watched or marked
- **Seaworthiness:** Do not move any unsafe or unseaworthy vessel except as necessary for the safety of the crew, other vessels and/or as directed by the Harbour Master.

Environment:

- **Abandoned vessels:** Do not abandon a vessel on the banks of the Harbour for any length of time. If such vessel is not removed immediately on demand, it may be removed and disposed of by the Harbour Master. Any costs reasonably incurred in removing and disposing of the vessel shall be payable by the owner or may be recouped from the proceeds of selling the vessel.
- **Vessel disposal:** Do not break up any vessel within the Harbour.
- **Pollution:** Do not deliberately or accidentally allow any escape into the Harbour of polluting, dangerous or offensive matter, including shellfish, fish waste or sewage.

Mooring, berthing and cargo:

- **Safe and secure:** Ensure that moored vessels are secure and not likely to cause any damage to any other vessel or property including the mooring itself.
- **Illegal mooring:** Do not attach your vessel or any other equipment to any beacon, navigational mark, pier or other object not intended for mooring. Do not use any moorings without permission of the mooring operator.
- **Rafting:** Where rafting is deemed necessary by the Harbour Master on the visitor moorings, rafted vessels must give free access across their decks to those rafted outside of them.
- **Tampering with moorings:** Do not cast a vessel adrift or tamper with or slacken any mooring.
- **Cargo:** comply with all general directions specific to loading, unloading or carrying of cargo

Other banned water activities:

- **Swimming in the channel:** Do not bathe or swim in the fairway (where water remains at low tide) or in any other area which the Harbour Master may designate
- **Jumping in or diving:** Except where emergencies require it, do not jump or dive into the water from any vessel or harbour structure
- **Towing:** Do not tow any other vessel, individual or equipment except in case of emergency
- **Trespassing:** Do not trespass on, damage, make fast to, or interfere with any light, beacon, seamark, navigational buoy or mark, racing buoy, or tide gauge
- **Other banned activities:** No kitesurfing, windsurfing, aircraft, hydrofoils, hovercraft, diving, snorkelling or fishing with nets/pots