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Conwy County Borough Council - Slipways Conditions For Launching

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Registration and fees

Power driven vessels and personal watercraft (jet skis) wishing to launch from Conwy County Borough Council's slipways must register their vessel and provide proof of insurance which includes £3,000,000 third party liability cover.

As well as the registration fee, people launching vessels must either hold a valid seasonal launching permit or they must pay the daily launch fee for that slipway. Non-powered vessels do not have to register or pay a launch fee.

Conwy registrations are now accepted at slipways operated by Gwynedd Council, Anglesey Council and Caernarfon Harbour Trust. Registration stickers must be displayed on the port and starboard side of each vessel or PWC.

Conwy County Borough Council Slipways

These slipways are available for public launching:

Porth Eirias (Colwyn Bay) Available for launching non-power, power craft and personal watercraft.

Aberhod Slipway (Colwyn Bay) Available for launching non-powered craft only. Slipway allows access to the beach for beach launching.

Beacons Slipway (Conwy Morfa) Available for launching non-power, power craft and personal watercraft.

Penmaenmawr Slipway Used primarily by Penmaenmawr Sailing Club but also available for launching non-power and power craft (not personal watercraft). Due to limited space only 10 launchings per day by non club members are allowed. Registration and launching is free for Penmaenmawr residents and members of Penmaenmawr Sailing Club. Visitors must register and pay the launch fee.

Llanfairfechan Slipway Available for launching powered vessels and non-powered craft only. (No personal watercraft allowed due to the presence of dangerous underwater groynes.) Free registration and launching for members of Llanfairfechan Sailing Club only. Visitors must register and pay the launch fee or hold a seasonal permit.

Venue Cymru Slipway (North Shore Llandudno) Used primarily by Llandudno Sailing Club but also available for launching non-power and power craft (not personal watercraft). Due to limited space only 10 launchings per day by non club members are allowed. Visitors must register and pay the launch fee. Trailers may be stored on the shingle, vehicles must be parked off the promenade.

Slipways and Access Ramps located at sites other than those listed above are not authorised for general public use and are the subject of special arrangements.

Parking

Holders of a valid seasonal launching permit may park their vehicle free of charge at the Beacons car park and the Porth Eirias Slipway. This concession does not apply to any other car park operated by Conwy County Borough Council.

Storm Gates

Access to slipways may be impeded by closing storm gates when operational procedures require this. The Beacons and Penmaenmawr slipways do not have gate restrictions and may provide an alternative launch site.

Bye-Laws

Boat users should read and understand the local byelaws concerning the conduct of pleasure vessels on the Conwy Seaboard. You can request to read a copy held by the Slipway Attendant. We would particularly draw your attention to the speed limits applicable in Conwy Harbour, Llandudno North Shore and Colwyn Bay. Ski boats must have an observer in the boat, as well as the driver, at all times when a skier is in the water. If you contravene the byelaws relating to Seaside Pleasure Boats, you may be prosecuted and lose your permission to use Council owned launching facilities.

No vessels are to be left unattended at any of the launching sites. Priority of use will be given to commercial passenger-carrying vessels.

Safety

Anyone launching a vessel at the Council's slipways is strongly recommended to equip their vessel with the following:

- a) A serviceable lifejacket or buoyancy aid for each person on board
- b) An anchor and warp suitable for use by the vessel
- c) A flare pack containing at least 4 white and 4 red or orange flares
- d) A fire extinguisher
- e) A VHF radio

Anyone launching a vessel must be aware of their own responsibilities for:

- a) The safety of their vessels
- b) The safety of other vessels
- c) The safety of people onboard, including wearing lifejackets or buoyancy aids on launching and in appropriate circumstances while the vessel is afloat. Engine kill cords, if fitted, must be attached to the vessel's driver or helmsman while the vessel is underway.
- d) The safety of people in or near the water.
- e) The requirements of Conwy County Borough Council byelaws relating to the operation of Seaside Pleasure Boats.
- f) The requirements of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea.
- g) The current and forecast weather conditions.

The Slipway Attendant may prevent a vessel from launching, if for whatever reason, he considers it unsafe to launch. The Council reserve the rights to close any slipway for use if it is considered necessary to do so for any reason whatsoever.

The Council accept no liability whatsoever for the death or injury to any person or damage to property of the applicant or his/her invitees, agents, employees or any other person, except where such act involved negligence on the part of the Council, their servant or agents and save as aforesaid the applicant shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council against all claims, losses, demands or other expenses arising therefrom.

The Council reserves the right to withdraw registration and launching permission in the event that the Conditions are not adhered to.

Personal Watercraft (PWCs)

To operate a personal watercraft you must:

- be at least 18 years of age if you are unqualified
- be 15 to 17 and possess a RYA certificate of competence for personal watercraft.
- be 12 to 14, possess a RYA certificate of competence **and** operate under direct adult supervision. The definition of "supervision" is such that the adult is present on the craft.

Young people under 12 years of age are **not** allowed to operate a personal watercraft.

Closure dates

Slipway closure dates

There may be some slipway closure dates during 2024 and these will be advertised on the slipway notice boards in advance.

Matthew Forbes
Conwy Harbour Master

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.