



## Operating Protocol Beach (white) Support RIB

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## Version Control

Version	Date	Amendments
0.1	23/12/2022	Initial Draft – SJ
1.0	30/03/2023	Approved and released
1.1	22/01/2026	Reviewed by Simon Jenkins – included version numbering in footer. No further updates required.

## Decision to use Support RIB.

The Beach support RIB is to provide “support and or coaching role” for water-sport activities in offshore wind conditions (NW through to Easterly) in Seaford Bay. The aim is to be able to provide a means of recovery should breakages occur to their equipment in offshore conditions. The Beach support RIB can be afloat for proactive support or can be on station at the top of the Beach for reactive support should it be required.

In line with current Club Policy (Jan 2023) the Beach RIB helm should be an NSSC member, 18 years or older and be certified to RYA Powerboat Level 2. The Helm should be knowledgeable of the equipment being used having attended a Beach RIB introduction session. (See appendix)

Helm and if applicable crew should be dressed accordingly whilst afloat, Buoyancy aid to be worn.

Communications: Suggestion to notify WhatsApp group intention on launching support RIB.

RIB is located within storage shed 1 which is both locked and alarmed.

It is suggested a hand-held radio be taken (Use Channel 37 also known as M1) for RIB to Shore comms and mobile phone as backup.

The Beach RIB contains a Spares Tub containing spare Kill cord, tools, Knife, Space blanket, whistle.

## Preparation

Check Logbook for any previous usage issues (as shown on induction)

Check over RIB, drainage Bung is in place, engine mount bolts tight, Kill cord availability, Oars and mounts, anchor, tubes inflated.

Fuel tank is marked Beach RIB and if not already in the RIB can be found in the Fuel store where additional top up fuel can also be obtained.

Attach fuel line to engine and pump through ensuring air vent is open on tank.

Ensure trolley wheels are inflated and move RIB to top of beach (suggestion to use 2 persons to help move) via East Gate ensuring not to damage propeller or aluminium hull on concrete.

## Launching

As the RIB is only to be used in appropriate offshore Flatwater conditions launching should be very straight forward.

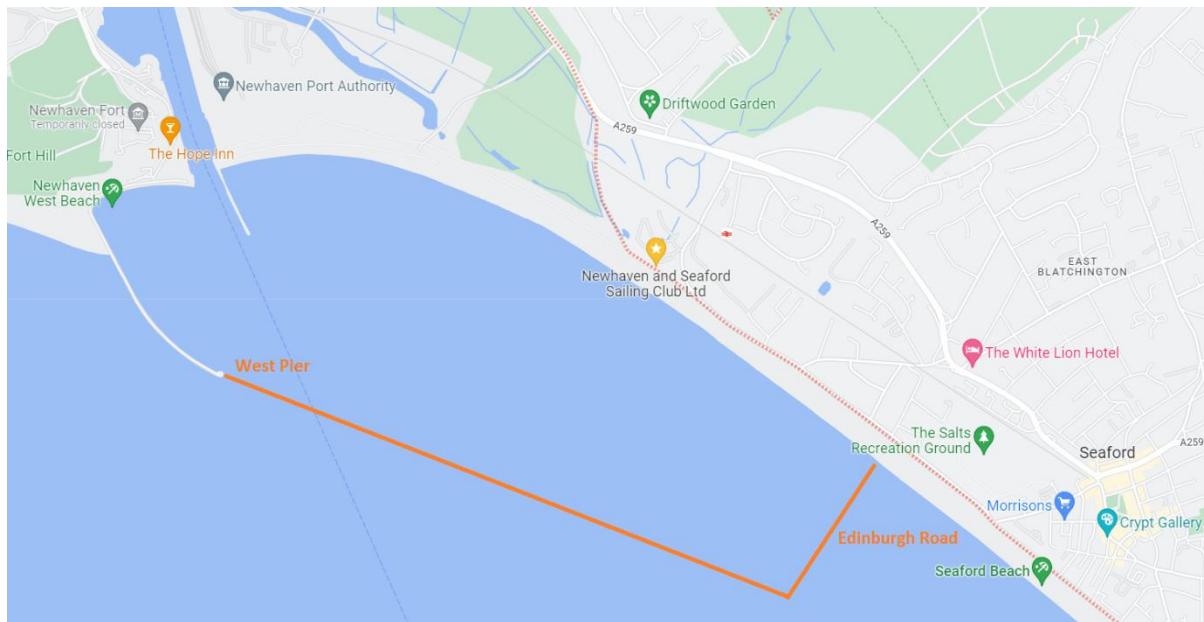
With the launch trolley facing up beach, lift RIB off trolley stern first using lifting handles and return trolley to suitable tide line position.

Paddle out into deeper water before attempting to start the engine so as not to risk injuring anyone holding RIB or damaging prop on shingle.

Having stowed oars, clip Kill-cord around leg, check engine is not in gear, pull start-cord with an initial slow pull to ensure a free flow of starting cord, a red light and audible beep will be heard. Now do second harsher pull and the engine should start, it has an auto choke. Check to ensure the engine pumps water through inlet (to stop engine press red button on tiller arm.) Should engine not pump water, then return to shore and seek remediation through Bosun.

## Operating zone of Beach RIB.

Be familiar with bathing zone in force during the Spring and Summer periods with bathing marks and speed restrictions. Support coverage area whilst not restricted, is suggested to be as shown below. The Watersports group should be aware of an agreed coverage area on the day.



## Wind and Tide influence

- The sea is flatter with an offshore wind (NW through to NE) and this is the expected time Windsurf and Foiling community will utilise the Beach RIB.
- The tidal stream on the flood (rising) tide is East going towards Eastbourne, max rate is about 3 knots in spring tides.
- The tidal stream on the ebb (falling) tide is West going towards Brighton, max rate is about 3 knots in spring tides.
- The tidal stream turns direction approximately one hour before high/low water.
- On a flood (rising) tide the West harbour arm causes an eddy in the bay.

### Recovering equipment whilst in use

On approaching persons in the water within one boat length, stop engine (red button on tiller arm.)

If picking up water sport user, it is easier that the recoveree sits on their board and then recovers into RIB using the internal recovery lines whereby they then secure their equipment into or alongside.

Such examples:

- 1) A Windsurfer, lay their rig over the RIB with mast luff to bow, sit in front or under the RIG in the bow of the RIB holding sail down and board alongside.
- 2) A Wing Foiler, place their board into the RIB with foil mast over tube and foil outside above water, hold wing from Bow position or deflate wing.
- 3) A Kite Boarder, whilst in the RIB, Kitesurfer will retrieve kite lines in controlled manner, deflate kite and retrieve board.
- 4) Paddleboarder lay board at 90 degrees over foredeck RIB Tubes and secure down.

### Recovery to beach and storage

As the RIB has been launched in flat water conditions retrieval to beach should be straight forward.

Note: In the event of sea state conditions having changed preventing safe retrieval at launching position then recover RIB to Tide Mills in lee of East pier, inform others of help needed to retrieve to club via causeway. If there was a requirement to enter the harbour then you need to VHF call on Channel 12 'Newhaven Radio Newhaven Radio this is Beach RIB. Permission to enter the harbour'. Wait for permission. Obey the harbour light signals.

Standard Beach Recovery:

Try not to damage prop on shingle (Possible Prop guard being fitted but still capable of trapping shingle into guard), place boat onto trolley wheels and enlist help to retrieve up beach. If using the winch, ensure the winch line is attached to the Y frame rope that can be found on the beach trolley. Note: winch should be operated by inducted operator only (completed as part of 4B.)

Return to dinghy compound via East gate (It is suggested not to attempt to use wooden ramp);

Wash down rib with hose, attach hose to engine flush point (see video) for a minute, then empty water and any shingle; return radio to charger; return RIB to shed and prop up for drainage as found; enter to logbook approximate hours run for engine and any issues that occurred.

Lock up shed (possibly notify WhatsApp group RIB is packed away.)

## Appendix

### Beach RIB Induction briefing session (4B)

The format of which is a run through of the above document and acknowledgment of any questions. The added benefit of this approach is that skippers will then feel confident in boat handling and to have the control skills to carry out efficient and damage free support for the Windsurf and Foiling community.

As well as a run through of the above items also to be included are:

Care and tidiness of equipment whilst in use and storage, hazard perception awareness discussion (e.g., swimmers and bathing mark controls, other beach users), security of equipment.

Finally formal induction to usage of beach winch.

Completion of the Induction 4B session results in names recorded with NSSC Sea Safety Team and yearly ability to launch Beach RIB. Further updates will be communicated to the 4B community as lessons are learned.

Video Guidelines

[YouTube link to Beach RIB overview](#)