



# Clean Boat Policy

## Introduction

Bolton Sailing Club (BSC) operates a clean boat policy in order to maintain compliance with the RYA Green Blue Guidance. Full details of the RYA Guidance are available [here](https://www.rya.org.uk/RYA-Guidance).

## Purpose

This policy is intended to support BSC members visiting other sailing venues and for sailors visiting BSC in preventing the spread of non-native species and uphold Bye Law no. 15 which states:

***‘Craft and other apparatus must be carefully and adequately cleaned before introduction into water.’***

## Who this policy applies to

### Members

- Before leaving BSC to attend other sailing venues.
- Before returning to BSC having attended other sailing venues

### Visitors

- When leaving their home club/before arriving at BSC.
- When leaving BSC to return to their own club/other sailing venue.

## What are non-native invasive species?

Non-native species (NNS) are characterised as any wild species introduced to an area outside of their natural habitat. While some NNS are completely harmless, others can cause damage to the environment, economy, and way we live. These are known as non-native invasive species (NNIS).

## How do NNIS spread?

While this is often describing marine species there are also freshwater NNIS and both can be transported between locations on boats, trailers and clothing.

### What's the problem?

NNIS can spread disease, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and add significantly to the management costs of our waterways. Recreational facilities can also suffer as a result.

Once established, NNIS become extremely difficult and expensive to eradicate. Fast-growing species like Zebra Mussels (found in freshwater) can cause problems by blocking engine cooling water intakes. This results in engines over-heating.

### How to prevent the spread?

The best way we can protect both our own water and the water of other clubs we visit is from the spread of NNIS is to follow the Check, Clean, Dry approach.

#### Check, Clean, Dry

- i. **Check** your boat, equipment, and clothing for living plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.
- ii. **Clean** and wash all equipment thoroughly with fresh water. Remove visible fouling and put it in the bin, not back in the water.
- iii. **Dry** your trailer and dinghy and drain areas that can hold water before leaving the site. Clothing and equipment should be thoroughly dried for as long as possible.

Members have access to facilities at the club to clean their boats. This should be done prior to leaving the club to attend other venues.

At club open events, training etc these cleaning facilities will be made available for visiting sailors to clean their boats prior to leaving.