

Ouse on Board – Life Jacket Policy

Ouse on Board's Obligations

Ouse on Board will provide, at no additional charge, sufficient adult and/or child (as appropriate) lifejackets for the duration of your trip/course, plus spares. All lifejackets provided by Ouse on Board under the policy are subject to annual checking, servicing, repair and/or replacement, and are either the foam filled variety providing immediate buoyancy upon contact with water (buoyancy aid) with no need for automatic or manual inflation or the automatic inflation type (life jacket) mainly used during training.

Ouse on Board makes no instruction to any hirer or passenger over the age of 18 on whether they should wear lifejackets whilst on the river and would expect the hirer to make their own informed risk assessment on whether or not to use lifejackets during the hire period. However, Ouse on Board would note that some hiring organisations may have their own policies on lifejacket use for water-based activity and would direct hirers to seek advice from their controlling or governing body, if appropriate.

The only times Ouse on Board will insist upon the use of lifejackets is for under 18's when at the helm or on the aft deck during cruising or if assisting around a lock and during training activities.

Life jackets will also be worn by all on board during training sessions.

There are no exceptions to this.

Hirer's Obligations

Lifejackets are important pieces of safety equipment and should be looked after responsibly. Ouse on Board recommends that they are stored safely when not in use.

The hirer should ensure that lifejackets are sized appropriately and adjusted to fit using the straps and buckles provided. If the hirer is unsure how to fit a life jacket guidance will be given.

Further, the hirer should ensure that any time a lifejacket is worn, that it is the top-most article of clothing. Under no circumstances should a lifejacket be worn under any other item of clothing (including waterproofs).

Damage

Ouse on Board recognises that lifejackets do sometimes get damaged. In this event, please inform Ouse on Board so that repairs/replacements can be carried out as soon as possible. If the damage was through deliberate neglect, Ouse on Board will charge the cost of repair/replacement of the life jacket to the hirer at cost. Lifejacket damage as a result of a person falling in the water or accidental, are not charged.

A lifejacket which has been inflated should not be used further on the trip and should not be repackaged.

Other usage

Life jackets are not to be used to enable people to swim in the river or to be taken away from the boat for other water activities (canoeing etc).