

- Procedure Number: 700
  - Procedure Name: Water Taxi Transportation
  - Date of Revision: 2014 14 05
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**Water Taxi Service**

1. Water taxi service will be provided on school days for students attending Gulf Islands Secondary School who reside on Mayne, Pender, Galiano and Saturna Islands.
2. Should space allow, courtesy water taxi service may be available to individuals residing on Mayne, Pender, Galiano and Saturna Islands. Priority for this service will be given in the following order:
  1. Middle Years students who are participating in French Immersion & MYSEEC
  2. Other Gulf Island District students
  3. Staff
  4. Trustees
  5. Others
3. At the start of each school year staff will ensure ridership occurs according to board policy. Potential courtesy riders will be contacted by district staff prior to the start of the school year.
4. Student courtesy riders are not guaranteed transportation for the full school year. Student courtesy riders will not be displaced by other courtesy riders if they remain in the program in which they were originally registered.
5. Students will conduct themselves according to the standards established by the Board as covered in Schedule "C" of the water taxi contract. Disciplinary concerns will be taken to the appropriate principal who will follow Board Policy and Procedure relating to "Withdrawal of Transportation Privileges", Policy 525.
6. In cases where water taxi service is cancelled due to inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, principals will contact parents and arrange for alternate transportation or billets.
7. Parents or guardians of student courtesy riders are required to sign this procedure to acknowledge that they have read and understand it.
8. Any decision regarding these procedures may be appealed to the Superintendent.

## SCHEDULE "C"

### BOAT SAFETY - DRILLS, BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

#### 1. Passenger Safety Drills and Procedures

- 1.1 A demonstration of boat equipment and safety features will take place at the embarkation harbour at Salt Spring Island in September of each year.
- 1.2 A review of the drills and procedures will take place immediately following:
  - Christmas break
  - Spring break
  - Operation of replacement vessel
- 1.3 The procedure will be performed for all students.  
Safety drills will consist of:
  - Full explanation of emergency procedures
  - Donning and securing of life jackets
  - Simulated radio call procedure and signal flare release
  - Strict adherence to behaviour codes – on board and in the water
  - School principals or their delegates with the Secretary Treasurer to attend all drills

A record of drills is to be entered in the vessels' logbook and a list of all students participating in the drills to be forwarded to the Board Office for record purposes.

- 1.4 When transporting students and/or district personnel the operator must contact Victoria Traffic when departing each island.

#### 2. Behaviour

- 2.1 General – students while being conveyed on school boats are subject to the disciplinary authority of the Principal and shall be subject to the following code of behaviour. Students will at all times behave in a manner so as to allow the boat operators to give their attention to safe operations.
  - 2.2 Code of Behaviour – to be posted on board each vessel
    - 2.2.1 Passengers will:
      - Sit where directed by the operator
      - Remain seated until the vessel is docked (tied up)
    - 2.2.2 Rowdy behaviour, including loud noise that in any way hampers the operator's ability to operate the boat will not be tolerated.
    - 2.2.3 Vandalism, including any intentional act which causes damage to the vessel or its' equipment, particularly safety and lifesaving equipment will not be tolerated. Any costs incurred, as the result of vandalism will be charged to the student(s) involved or their parents/guardians.
    - 2.2.4 No smoking is permitted anywhere on the boat by any person while the boat is carrying school students.
    - 2.2.5 Consumption of food or beverages will be at the discretion of the operator.
    - 2.2.6 The operator may require passengers to perform tasks from time to time concerning the operation of the vessel. These requests will not be unreasonable or dangerous, and the necessity for them will have been carefully considered beforehand.
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### 3. Disciplinary Procedures

- 3.1 Boat operators shall report misbehaviour to the Principal who shall take such action as he/she sees fit, subject to the following:
    - 3.1.1 A Principal may withdraw boat privileges from a student for up to five (5) consecutive school days provided notice is given to the parent or guardian prior to the withdrawal of services.
    - 3.1.2 The Principal shall report the withdrawal to the Superintendent of Schools.
    - 3.1.3 The Principal may recommend a longer period of withdrawal to the Superintendent of Schools.
    - 3.1.4 For withdrawals of service in excess of five (5) days, the Superintendent of Schools shall convene a meeting with the student, parents/guardians, principal, boat operator, one trustee for the purpose of reviewing the withdrawal.
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