



# Hillingdon Narrowboats Association

## Lifejacket Policy

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## Policy Statement

HNA will provide, upon request and at no additional charge, sufficient adult and/or child (as appropriate) lifejackets for the duration of your trip, plus spares. All lifejackets provided by HNA under the policy are subject to annual checking, servicing, repair and/or replacement, and are of the self-inflating variety: upon contact with water, the jacket will immediately inflate without the need of any user action.

HNA makes no instruction to any hirer or passenger on whether they should wear lifejackets whilst on the canal, and would expect the hirer to make their own informed risk assessment on whether or not to request and use lifejackets during the hire period. However, HNA 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 time HNA would insist upon the use of lifejackets is during use of the tidal Thames; such trips are only permitted with an HNA approved and experienced steerer on board and in control of the boat.

## Hirer's Obligations

Lifejackets are important pieces of safety equipment, and should be looked after responsibly. HNA would recommend that they are stored safely under a bunk when not in use.

The hirer should ensure that lifejackets are sized appropriately, and adjusted to fit using the straps and buckles provided.

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.

## Inflations

HNA recognises that young people do sometimes inflate lifejackets in error. In this event, HNA will charge the cost of servicing and re-gassing the lifejacket to the hirer at cost. As an estimate, this is generally in the region of £25 - £30.

Lifejacket inflations, as a result of a person falling in the water, are not charged.

A lifejacket which has been inflated should not be used further on the trip and should not be re-packaged. An entry should be made in the boat log book so that it can be replaced upon return to HNA.