

The Trustees of Polperro Harbour (PHT)

Code of Conduct for Harbour users

Effective Date: 1st April 2026

Last Updated: 1st April 2026

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct aims to

- Ensure the safety of all harbour users
- Protect the marine environment and local ecosystem.
- Promote respectful and responsible behaviour among all users.
- Maintain the harbour's infrastructure and facilities.

2. General Rules for all Harbour users

- **Respect Others:** Treat fellow harbour users, staff, and local residents with courtesy and respect.
- **Follow Instructions:** Obey all posted signs, signals, and instructions from harbour authorities or emergency personnel.
- **Safety First:** Prioritize safety at all times.
- **Environmental Responsibility:** Protect the harbour and surrounding waters. Do not litter and dispose of waste properly. Avoid damaging marine life or habitats.
- **Competence:** Some activities associated with the harbour depend on self-assessment of competence to perform them. It is the responsibility of harbour users to ensure that they are competent. The RNLI provides guidance on many aspects of marine activities and is very useful reference to assess competence or the need for training.

3. Boating and Vessel Guidelines

- **Weather and tide awareness:** All vessel users are required to check weather and tide conditions before deciding whether it is safe to leave the harbour. Vessel users should wear appropriate safety equipment and notify a responsible person on shore of their route and plans.
- **Speed Limits:** Adhere to speed limits within the harbour and designated zones. Be particularly aware of swimmers and paddle board users.
- **Right of Way:** Follow maritime rules for right of way to prevent collisions. Be especially cautious in congested areas / at busy times.
- **Fuelling:** Refuel engines carefully to avoid spills. Turn off engines and other ignition sources during refuelling.
- **Waste Disposal:** Never dump waste or sewage into the water.

- **Mooring:** Use designated moorings, buoys or piers.
- Further information is given in the **PHT Watercraft Policy** available from our website

5. Swimming and recreational water Activities

- **Avoid main shipping lane.** Swimmers and paddleboard users should remain outside of the main shipping lane in the outer harbour.
- **Buddy System:** Do not swim alone. Use the buddy system for diving or other water activities.
- **Equipment:** Ensure all equipment (e.g., scuba gear, kayaks, paddleboards) is in safe working condition.
- **Rescue Equipment:** Know the location of rescue equipment (e.g., life rings) and how to use it in an emergency.

6. Environmental Protection

- **No Littering:** Take all waste with you when leaving the harbour. Use recycling bins where available.

7. Emergency Procedures

- **Reporting Incidents:** Report accidents, pollution, or suspicious activity to PHT or emergency services.
- **Fire Safety:** Know the location of fire extinguishers and how to use them. In case of fire, evacuate the vessel and call emergency services.
- **Medical Emergencies:** Administer first aid if trained and call for professional medical assistance if needed. Defibrillators are sited at the end of the Fish market in the former public phone box and outside of the museum.

8. Prohibited Activities

The following activities are **strictly prohibited** and may result in removal from the harbour and legal action:

- Harassment, discrimination, or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated
- Operating a vessel or plant and equipment under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Discharging sewage, chemicals, or waste into the water.
- Damaging harbour infrastructure, buoys, or other property.

9. Enforcement

- Transgressions to the code of conduct will be notified by Harbour representatives verbally and/or in writing.
- Repeated transgressions or serious violations may result in the revocation of permission to access the harbour and /or licences or privileges.

10. Reporting Violations

To report violations or concerns please Email the Harbour Office
admin@polperroharbour.com

For immediate attention call the Harbour Master 07866431678 or Assistant Harbour master 07854271505