ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
WATER SPORTS GUIDELINES
2015

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
PORT BLAIR
1. Short title and commencement: These guidelines are called “Andaman & Nicobar Islands Water Sports Guidelines 2015”.

2. Definitions - In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:-
   (a) "Fair Season" means a season specified as such by the Port Management Board/Harbour Master/Competent Authority;

   (b) "Administration" means the Andaman & Nicobar Administration;

   (c) "Operator" means a person or entity either owning or operating/owning & operating boat rides, parasailing, scuba diving, sea walk, sea scooter, Jet Ski, water skiing and fun rides using powerboats, windsurfing, dinghy, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and other sports activities in sea, inland waters and includes any individual, firm or company operating such activities;

3. Directorate of Tourism shall function as Nodal Department for safe water sport activities. All other related departments like District Administration, Police, PMB, Department of Fisheries and Directorate of Shipping Services shall cooperate and assist the Directorate of Tourism in smooth discharge of its function for regulation of Water Sports activities.

4. Permission for operation of vessel related to boat rides/parasailing and other activities connected with water sports and requirements thereto:-
   (i) Every operator desiring to operate a mechanized vessel for the purpose of parasailing, boat rides or other water sports activities in the sea shall obtain required registration under the provisions of I.V. Act 1917, & I.V. Rules from the registering authority. The operator shall maintain a register on annual maintenance/repair record of all the equipments meant for the operations, and produce before concerned authorities, if so desired.
(ii) The validity and renewal of the registration shall be as per the provisions of I.V. Act 1917 & I.V. Rules and as specified by the registering authority. All water crafts will be subject to annual safety audit.

(iii) The Directorate of Tourism shall obtain No Objection Certificate from the Port Management Board, if any boat ride or water sport activity is proposed for operation in any location in port waters of A&N Islands. Further, No Objection Certificate/license shall also be obtained from the concerned local authority, if required, by law in force.

(iv) The operator shall insure the passengers as per the carrying capacity of the boat/equipment, to the extent of at least Rs. 5.00 Lakhs per passenger.

(v) The operator shall intimate the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, about registration under I.V. Act, 1917 & I.V. Rules and the Directorate in consultation with concerned agency, shall decide the area of operation of water sports activities.

(vi) The Directorate may accord or refuse to permit an operator after considering its feasibility, safety aspects, carrying capacity, past safety history of the operator, reasonability of rates being charged etc. in order to ensure safety of tourists/users.

(vii) The registration fee for water sports shall be fixed by the concerned department from time to time.

(viii) The operator shall engage trained crew possessing valid certificate in handling the respective water craft type from the National Institute of Water sports or agencies authorized by A & N Admn. to the effect that the crew qualifies the manning requirement as per the provisions of I.V. Rules of A & N Islands.
(ix) The Directorate of Tourism shall assign a specific identification number for every operator (in case of more than one boat/equipment, the identification number may be suitably suffixed with alphabets). The operator shall prominently affix the same on the boat/equipment.

(x) The operator shall make available all lifesaving equipments, firefighting appliances and communication equipments as specified by the authority viz. IRS/National Institute of Water Sports/registering authority/competent authority, as per the passenger capacity. These equipments/appliances should be in serviceable condition/type approved.

(xi) One rescue boat to be kept in full readiness when six boats are in operation; two rescue boats when 15 boats are in operation. Rescue boats must be available in full readiness during the entire period of water sports operation. The boat must be powered by OBM of minimum 40 HP. A lookout-cum-driver must be standby near the boat. The boat as well as lookout should not be involved with any other activity while on rescue duty. The rescue boat should be equipped with rescue tube, life buoys, life jackets, first aid box, stretcher etc. The rescue boat will be under the disposal of the TSET team. It shall be the responsibility of the Boat owners/operators to arrange for rescue boats and the contact no. of rescue boat crew should be available with TSET team and also displayed prominently.

(xii) All operators shall deliver a “safety brief” before leaving the shore/jetty for

a. Correct wearing of buoyancy aids.

b. In case of a fire on board

c. In case of a capsize.

d. Or any health emergency.

e. Weather condition of the day.
(xiii) The operator shall display the carrying capacity of the boat (as in the registration certificate), emergency contact details, validity of registration and the display will be of appropriate size at a prominent place inside the boat which is easily visible to the passengers.

(xiv) The operator shall operate only in the designated/demarcated area and the same shall be strictly followed for various water sports activity. Zones earmarked for bathing/swimming/snorkeling shall not be encroached upon. Timing for water sports activities shall be 8:00 AM to sunset. The water sports activities shall be suspended during poor visibility and inclement weather condition.

(xv) The operator shall operate water sports activity in the specified/earmarked area only and within visual range so as to be clearly visible from shore. However, these distances are further subject to local weather conditions and decision of the Harbour Master/Port Management Board, in this respect. Water sports activities should be carried out only in fair season, settled weather condition and in day light only.

(xvi) The operator shall have the registration certificate or its copy on board at all times and shall produce it, on demand to the officials of the Directorate of Tourism/Police/TSET or to any law enforcement authority appointed by the Administration.

(xvii) Every registered Operator and crew shall be provided with a Photo ID card (at the cost of the operator) by the Directorate of Tourism which shall be prominently displayed by the operator while carrying out water sports activities.
(xviii) The operator shall observe all safety norms specified by the licensing/registering authority and also as specified in the booklet titled "Safety Norms for Water Sports/Parasailing" issued by National Institute of Water sports, Goa, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.

(xix) The operator shall observe the period and hours of operation as specified in the permission/license granted by the concerned authorities and Harbour Master/Port Authorities.

(xx) Jet skis and other water crafts provided with outboard motors shall have automatic engine cut out arrangement in case of craft capsizing. In this case, it is mandatory for all operators to put on the keel cord at all times when on board their craft. If the engine is running without proper attachment of the keel cord or if the mechanism is bypassed it will be viewed as a violation of safety norms.

(xxi) Inflammable items in loose condition (like in jerry canes, stoves, gas cylinders, etc.) should not be carried or kept in the vessel.

(xxii) Operators/crew shall ensure that pollution due to plastic wastes, oil spills etc. is not caused to marine environment. He shall also ensure that no damage is caused to underwater marine life.

(xxiii) The operators, operating small vessels of less than 15 tones net carrying upto 12 passengers, operating at beaches/locations falling outside inland water limits, shall comply with the requirements specified in the Circular No. SS/MISC (37)/2003 dated 28-9-2004 issued by the Directorate of General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India which is given in Annexure - I.
5. Risk Assessment – The Directorate of Tourism shall carry out the risk assessment of the area as well as safety audit of the operations in consultation with agencies like National Institute of Water Sports, Goa/Yachting Association of India/other authorized agencies to prescribe safety standards and operating norms. The Directorate of Tourism in association with other agencies shall implement the safety standards and operating norms prescribed in the risk assessment/safety audit report.

6. Tourist Safety Enforcement Team(TSET) consisting of officials from Police/Forest, Tourism Department and Port Management Board constituted for all important beaches/ jetties by the District Magistrate concerned, headed by Head Constable of Andaman & Nicobar Police shall ensure the following.
   i. Adherence to standard safety norms.
   ii. Check passenger capacity in each and every trip.
   iii. Check the route in which the vessel is plying.
   iv. To receive and redress the tourist grievances, if not forward to Tourist Dept.
   v. To maintain a movement register of all inland vessels plying in the jetty.
   vi. To monitor overall law and order scenario in the jetty/beach.
   vii. To properly guide the tourist during embarkation and disembarkation in the tourist vessel.
   viii. To conduct joint action in times of emergency.
   ix. To conduct mock drill on weekly basis.

7. The beaches and various facilities for water sports activities are being managed by various Govt. Departments. The department concerned shall designate an officer/ official as Beach In-charge in respect of the beaches/ places of tourist interest and the officer so designated shall also be responsible for enforcement of these guidelines in association with TSET (wherever available).
8. Authorized water sports activities - The operator may be allowed to operate following water sports activities, namely:-

(a) **Boat rides/water scooters** - From jetty or ramp or beaches where embarkation and disembarkation of passengers can be carried out safely, as certified by the concerned authority.

(b) **Parasailing** – The parasailing activities shall be allowed subject to fulfillment of the conditions given in **Annexure – II** at areas designated for the purpose after compliance of the guidelines.

(c) **Water skiing and fun rides using powerboat & Jet Ski** - This activity may be allowed in areas as earmarked by the Directorate of Tourism and shall be beyond normal bathing/swimming and snorkeling zones and should be carried out after moving at least 100 meters straight into the sea.

(d) **Windsurfing and Dinghy, and Canoeing, and sailing**: These activities may be allowed in areas beyond bathing/swimming zones and within the visual range of the rescue boats.

(e) **Scuba Diving** – Scuba Diving shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure – III**.

(f) **Sea Walk** – Sea Walk shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure – IV**.

(g) **Kayaking** – Kayaking shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure - V**.

(h) Any other activity not specifically covered above may be permitted after due evaluation of its impact/safety aspect and after obtaining required license/registration from the authorities competent to grant such license/registration.
09. The operator shall notify the rates once in a year for water sports activities along with specific details of services offered under intimation to the Directorate of Tourism. The approved rates for water sports activities may vary depending upon the location of the beach and other factors which shall be prominently displayed along with relevant details. The Directorate of Tourism through an appropriate mechanism shall have the final authority to decide on the rates to be charged for various activities.

10. In order to have proper coordination and ensure transparency the water sports operators are at liberty to form their own associations and the representative of associations will be consulted for implementing safety standards etc. for various water sports activities. The association shall also perform their duties and responsibilities for safe conduct of water sports activities.

11. Locations where more than one operator is operating, queue system should be strictly followed.

12. For effective management of various water sports activity, a location specific water sports/beach management committee may be constituted with members drawn from Govt. Departments, Boat Operators Associations, PRIs, and Police Authorities etc. with specific duties and responsibilities.

13. **Penalty**

   i. Any operator who causes harm/injury/death to a tourist's/general public/third party on account of their actions/irresponsible behavior/negligence or the craft being operated in unfit condition etc. shall be punishable as per the relevant Penal Law for time being in force.

   ii. During the pendency of trial, the license of the operator shall be suspended barring from operating any water sport activities.

14. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration shall constitute a Water Sports Authority to regulate/promote water sports activities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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