

Job Vacancy



Watersports Manager

Deptford, London, SE8 3JY

Closing date – Friday 17th April, 2026.



About The Ahoy Centre

The Ahoy Centre is here to provide opportunities for the local community to be involved in a variety of water sports on the River Thames.

We are particularly focussed on the attracting those under-resourced individuals and groups, who may otherwise not have the opportunity to undertake sailing, rowing or powerboating.

We believe that by providing these opportunities, we can broaden horizons for participants, help them acquire new skills and encourage them to develop their personal resilience. These can be life-enhancing in many ways.

Equally important we want to provide opportunities for local people to recreate on The River Thames, have fun and at the same time build new friendships.

As a provider of quality sport, we are confident that we can contribute to peoples mental and physical health. We also see our provision as unique in the sporting offer in southeast London.

We want to be an essential community asset for Deptford and the surrounding London Boroughs. We encourage local people to volunteer with us because we believe in the strength of the local community, but also in the power of volunteering to help people give something back to society, while developing themselves as individuals.

We operate as a charity and rely on donations and external funders. All income is used to operate the centre, invest in our site and equipment and deliver quality water sports, in a safe environment.

We work in partnership with many groups, schools and organisations and we strive to be a good partner by being open, honest and dependable.

We are committed to being a good employer and a good neighbour. We respect the environment and are constantly seeking ways in which we can minimise our environmental footprint.

We sit on the border between the boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham, and we are only a 15-minute walk from Deptford and Greenwich town centres.

You would be joining The Ahoy at an exciting time as we continue our renewal. You would have the opportunity to shape the future work of the charity.

For more information visit www.ahoy.org.uk

Job Title: Watersports Manager

Location: Ahoy Centre

Contract: Full-time (salary and benefits as advertised)

Reports to: CEO

Role Summary

The Watersports Manager will lead the planning, delivery, and continuous improvement of a diverse programme of water- and shore-based activities. You will ensure activities are safe, inclusive, engaging, and aligned with Ahoy Centre's strategic objectives. This senior role combines operational leadership, programme development, direct delivery of water-based activities, and oversight of staff, fleet, and aspects of site maintenance.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead the design, scheduling, and delivery of a balanced programme of accessible water- and shore-based courses and activities (sailing, powerboating, rowing and related land-based sessions).
- Ensure all activities meet or exceed best-practice safety, safeguarding, and quality standards; keep policies, risk assessments, and emergency procedures current.
- Directly deliver water-based sessions as required and act as a visible on-water leader and instructor.
- Recruit, train, supervise, and mentor a multidisciplinary team of instructors, volunteers, and support staff; conduct performance reviews and create professional development plans.
- Manage the maintenance, safety, and compliance of the centre's fleet, equipment, and facilities; coordinate scheduled servicing, repairs, and replacement planning.
- Oversee operational budgets, resource planning, and procurement to deliver programmes efficiently and sustainably.

- Collaborate with fundraising, marketing, and partnerships teams to develop new programmes, grow participation, and secure income streams.
- Monitor and evaluate programme impact; collect participant feedback and outcomes data to inform continuous improvement.
- Represent Ahoy Centre at external meetings, networks, and partner events; promote inclusion and community engagement.

Person Specification

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Recognised watersports instructor qualifications (RYA Dinghy Senior Instructor/Keelboat, RYA Powerboat Instructor, First Aid)	✓	
At least one year as a Chief Instructor	✓	
Strong experience delivering and leading inclusive, participant-focused water-based programmes.	✓	
Proven people management skills, including coaching, rostering, and performance management.	✓	
Sound knowledge of health & safety, safeguarding, and incident management in aquatic settings.	✓	
Excellent organisational skills with experience managing fleet/equipment maintenance and budgets.	✓	
Clear, confident communicator with strong stakeholder engagement skills.	✓	
Experience working in the charity or community sector.		✓
Qualifications in safeguarding, and boat maintenance.		✓
Experience with programme monitoring, evaluation, and impact reporting.		✓
Key Competencies		
Leadership and team development	✓	
Operational planning and risk management	✓	
Inclusive programme design and delivery	✓	
Strong decision-making under pressure	✓	
Budget and resource management	✓	

What We Offer

A supportive, mission-driven workplace committed to inclusion and development.

Opportunities for professional development and qualification support.

Hours - Full-time – 35 hours per week. This will be split over five days and will involve weekend working. The main hours generally be 9 am to 5 pm, but this may fluctuate according to season.

Term - Permanent

Remuneration - £38-40,000 per annum.

Benefits – 28 days annual leave (plus Bank Holidays), Pension, sick pay, Birthday leave after one year, Cycle to Work Scheme, free gym use, free tea and coffee.

Location – The Ahoy Centre, Borthwick Street, Deptford, London. SE8 3JY

Further information – If you would like an informal conversation, call 020 8691 7502 to arrange a call back.

How to apply - Please send a CV and covering letter (no more than two sides of A4) to david.reader@ahoy.org.uk . In your covering letter, please address the person specification criteria listed.

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