



## Beach Wheelchair – Safety Procedures

### BEFORE USE

- Ensure walkway / routes are to be taken are clear of hazards
- Visually inspect the wheelchair before hiring, including seating, tyres and moving parts for possible damage
- Ensure the footrest is lowered
- Ensure somebody is always holding the handles, as the wheelchair doesn't have brakes
- Be careful when lifting or transferring the person in and out of the wheelchair
- The wheelchair has been designed to go into shallow water ONLY
- The wheelchair may not be available to hire due to the weather conditions on the day or if the Beach Lifeguards are otherwise engaged with their duties

### DURING USE

- The wheelchair has been designed to be used on dry sand and wet sand at the waters edge
- The wheelchair is stable in low water levels up to the centre of the tyres, in still water conditions
- The wheelchair is NOT to be used in deep water
- The wheelchair's maximum recommended load is 120kg
- Do not leave a person unattended when in the wheelchair
- When parking ensure you find a level surface to stop on
- Gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing the chair
- In dry soft sand it is often easier to pull the chair backwards rather than to push it forwards
- Heavy items must not be placed on back of the wheelchair or handles
- Always keep the person in the wheelchair informed about what you are intending to do (turning, entering shoreline etc)
- The wheelchair must not be propelled by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite or other means, other than being pushed by a carer
- The wheelchair is not designed for self-propelling and must be supervised and pushed by a responsible assistant
- The use of the safety belt is recommended
- You must always remain in between the red and yellow flags, which is the lifeguarded section of the beach

### AFTER USE

- Return back to the Beach Lifeguard Unit

**The Beach Lifeguards will help hirers where they can but are not responsible for moving or caring for hirers on wheelchairs as this will distract them from their main duties as Beach Lifeguards. It is therefore important that hirer brings sufficient support for the safe use of the wheelchair during the hire period**

The wheelchair has been made available to the community through a collaboration between **Sandown Town Council and Ryde Beach Lifeguards Sandown Branch.**

We welcome photos of your experience on our social media **@rydebeachlifeguards**