

## **Safety Boat Driver Guidance Issued February 2017**

Before the day you should check on RACE MANAGER and confirm that you will attend. It can be a good idea to liaise with the RACE OFFICER, and then make contact with your assistant, who will help you in the safety boat. This is especially important in cold weather so that they can be suitably dressed. Both of you will need buoyancy aids. One of you at least should be dressed to enter the water.

### **Setting Up**

Check the equipment in the boat, which should include a kill cord, knife, first aid kit, anchor and warp, towing bridle and three tow lines, two short and one long, paddle and a bucket or bailer. A more comprehensive list is pinned downstairs on the door to the training room entrance.

Check that the boat is drained then secure the bungs. The fuel tanks in the fuel store are named to match the boats. With the OOD, switch on and test a pair of VHF radios in order to maintain communication between the race officer and the safety boat/s. When you first start the engine, and from time to time during operation, check that cooling water comes out of the telltale hole. You should aim to have the safety boat launched and engine tested at least 40 minutes before the start time so that the OOD can go on the water to check the wind direction for setting the course.

### **Buoys**

You may be required to position up to 4 racing marks and a dan buoy(white sphere) for the ODM. For exact positioning of the ODM liaise with the RO as the RO may want to lay that buoy themselves.

### **General Procedure**

Wear the kill cord at all times when the engine is running. You and your crew should keep a constant watch for anyone who capsizes as someone's life could depend on your alertness. You should immediately visit all capsizes to check that the helm and crew are safe. Better to not

be needed than to be too late. It only takes a minute for an unconscious person to drown. If the helm and crew are safe and another boat capsizes then you should leave the first boat and visit that second boat to check on the second helm and crew. People first. If in doubt take them out of the water and if necessary take them to shore. You may need to be assertive and take charge of a rescue

if people seem to be in difficulty or cold. Get them into the safety boat. Boats can always be collected later. If you do leave a boat unattended leave a strip of hazard tape tied to the rubber pintle or visible point. If other rescue boats come across this they will know that the person/s are safe. The final approach to any rescue should be at low speed from a direction that will give you the best view of the situation. Keep the engine clear of anyone in the water, sails, ropes, equipment and shallow water. If in doubt, immediately switch off the engine. If you cannot see one of the crew and believe that they are trapped under the boat, and then right the boat by putting your assistant on the upturned hull. Applying weight to one side and pulling on the centreboard is usually effective. Small boats such as Optimists can be lifted on one side to free a trapped person. Only when you are happy that all people are safe should you worry about righting the boat. Agree with the helm the best way to assist righting their boat. If the mast is stuck in the sand agree with the helm where you

can tie a rope at the front of the boat. Gently pull the boat sideways and forward. This should bring the mast out of the sand.

### **Conduct on the water**

In general make sure that you are not in the way of the racers and keep a look out all around you. Keep clear of the start line and position yourself where you have a clear view of the fleet. In calm weather, drive at very low speed to avoid making waves, except in emergency of course.

### **Getting People Out of the Water**

At all times ensure that you do not injure yourself.

- a. Have one person each side of the person in the water and grip clothing around legs/waist and pull.
- b. Lay the person alongside the rescue boat. Lift one leg over the side and roll the person aboard.
- c. With one crew member holding one arm of the person in the water, get both their legs over the side. Then with one on each arm pull the person on board.

### **At the End of the Day**

Bring all the powerboats ashore, drain the hulls and then leave the engines vertical. Flush out engines. Return fuel tanks to the fuel store and lock it. Lock the gates , switch off lights and lock the all the doors.