

## **Safety Boat Plan- Operating Practices**

- Every rescue boat to have at least two crew and the required equipment on board.
- Launch prior to the sailors. Check launch time with RO prior to the event.
- Escort boats to the starting area. Do not offer a tow unless specifically requested to do so by the RO.
- Complete a radio check with Shore Base AND the RO on the Race Committee Signal Boat.
- Take up your designated station and watch the fleet. Check fleet numbers regularly.
- Keep a safe distance away from the racing boats. Follow their path up and down the course within your designated area.
- Keep your speed down and do not travel at the same speed as the sailors.
- Keep a good lookout for boats in trouble, capsized boats and boats that appear to have stopped racing.
- Immediately motor towards any capsized or disabled boat and observe the actions of the sailors. Ensure you can see the sailor/s. If you cannot immediately account for all the crew move quickly!
- Standby capsized boats but do not assist unless either asked to do so or it is obvious help is needed urgently.
- Report to the RO if help is required or there is more than one capsized boat.
- Inform the RO if any boats appear to be sailing back to shore or back to the starting area.
- Encourage the sailor/s to sail the boat ashore. Radio Shore Base to confirm arrival. Escort if advisable.
- Request permission from the RO before escorting or towing a boat to ashore.
- At the end of racing follow the fleet from your designated area to the finish and escort the fleet ashore.
- Ensure all boats are ashore before hauling out. Request clearance from the RO.

### **How to do a Rescue**

- Collect up loose gear which may be floating around
- Approach capsized boat from leeward
- Encourage sailor to right the boat
- Help the sailor get on the centre board
- Keep clear when the boat comes upright
- Help hold the boat almost head to wind (slightly to one side so the boom is clear of the cockpit and rescue boat) whilst the skipper bails the boat out.

### **Towing – Display Code Flag “D”:**

- If at all possible have the sailor in the boat to steer
- Drop the mainsail, Bail out the worst of the water, Remove the centreboard
- Thread a towrope through an eye on the bow, loop around the mast and give the end to the sailor to hold on to – this is for quick release.
- Tow slowly so as not to cause the boat to capsize- watch the towed boat at all times.

### **Removal of crew from a boat – injury or safety issue**

- If a boat is left with no crew **tie a yellow (Crew safe) ribbon on the bow fitting** to inform someone else that the crew have been accounted for.
- Make the patient comfortable, ascertain the injuries - Inform the RO and Shore Base.
- Liaise with Shore base about the best course of action.

### **Whole Fleet Emergency – foul weather**

- In the event of possible danger to life a race will be abandoned by the RO.
- The rescue co-ordination will be conducted by the Race Committee Signal Boat that will remain stationary or move to a more suitable position to co-ordinate with Shore Base.
- It will accept sailors on board and will tie boats up behind if necessary to speed up the process of ensuring everyone is accounted for.
- Rescue boats will provide support in their designated areas unless otherwise directed.
- All Rescue boats shall remain on the water until all boats & crews are accounted for ashore.

## **Safety Boat Plan – Emergency Procedures:**

### **Radio Blackout:**

- Follow instructions of RO, Shore Base & Emergency services.
- Deal with immediate emergencies in your area and visibility.
- Consider which is the quickest way to report your actions – another boat that may have communications, the Race Committee Signal Boat or Shore Base.
- Minimise Radio use to keep airways free for emergency!

### **Sailor Missing!!**

#### **A Boat with no Sailor is an EMERGENCY! Check for Yellow Ribbon!**

- Immediately communicate with RO (or Shore Base if an emergency has already been declared).
- If the yacht is capsized, right the yacht to ensure the sailor is not trapped under the boat or under the sail. One crew member should be prepared to enter the water.
- Immediately scan the area and pair up sailors with their boats.
- Drop a marker buoy and secure boat to the buoy.
- DO NOT attach a yellow ribbon until sailor is identified as safe & location known.
- If another boat has picked up the sailor immediately notify the RO & Shore Base.
- Advise Shore Base & RO “Sailor Missing, Sailor Missing!”
- Give accurate position with reference to course marks & report yacht number & class.

#### **Search Procedure:**

- Start a hasty search UP Wind over a 60° triangle from the buoy for a distance of 200 metres.
- Rescue boat crew stand if possible – HOLD ON! Check other boats for extra crew on board.
- Race Officer will dispatch other available rescue boats to the area.
- Then start Downwind from the buoy a hasty search over a 60° triangle for 100 metres, Rescue boat crew stand if possible – HOLD ON! Check other boats for extra crew on board.
- If this is unsuccessful the race will probably be abandoned.
- The Race Officer will nominate the boats to shadow the fleet to shore – All other boats will join the search including spectator boats and umpire boats.
- Shore Base to advise Authorities of “Missing Sailor”.
- Mark Laying boat will take GPS co-ordinates of anchored yacht and co-ordinate a Grid Search by forming a line abreast and “sweeping” the area.
- **The Maritime Police will assume control of the Search Operations. All boats will follow Instructions.**

#### **Shore Base Procedure:**

- Shore Base will continue to monitor radios & telephones – Call for assistance in necessary.
- Shore Base will check and record physically, all boats and crews returning to the shore.
- Shore Base will check Sign-Out & Sign-In sheets and physically check all sailors already ashore to verify sailor still missing.
- Shore Base will record the return of all patrol, Race Management & other boats to shore or Marina to ensure safety of all Volunteers and crews.

**Authorities will conduct a debrief in conjunction with Race Management.**

# Patrol Boat Responsibilities:

## Main Function:

To make sure all Sailors are safe.  
Provide effective Race Management.

## Pre- Launch Check:

Check with Race Officer:  
Time to be in position  
Course configuration  
Buoys, weights and tackle required  
Flags required  
Radio frequency to be used

Check roster and contact your crew  
Check Safety Equipment list  
Check your motor/fuel/bungs  
Check radio before you leave

**Do not be late**

## Pre- Race:

Report to the Race Officer on your course  
Check radio  
Establish course area responsibilities with RO  
Establish foul weather/abandonment/ radio loss strategy

## During Race:

Monitor and check your radio – Check regularly to ensure still working.  
Watch weather  
Position your boat where it may be needed if there is a course change.  
Ensure safety coverage - act as directed by the RO

## Post Race:

Get clearance from RO to collect marks and to leave the course area  
Shepherd fleet in  
Patrol boats are responsible until all the fleet reaches the shore

## Beaching:

In the surf keep bow of boat in the back of wave, drive boat up the beach  
Keep motor clear of sand and winch boat on to trailer.

## Boat Recovery:

Crew is responsible for flushing motor and washing boat and equipment  
Report any mechanical faults or damage to PRO

## Refer:

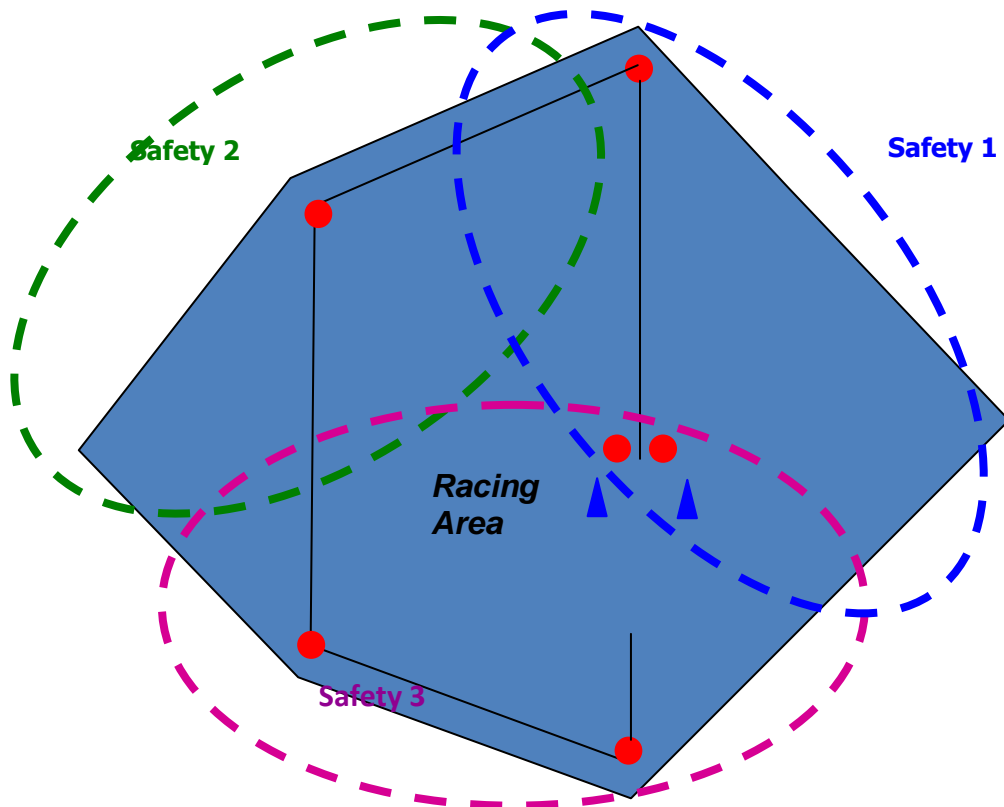
**Safety Boat Plan – Operating Practices.**  
**Safety Boat Plan – Emergency Procedures.**

## Equipment Checklist:

- Life jackets for each crew member
- VHF Radio
- Fuel
- Bungs & spares
- Anchor, chain and warp
- Spare buoy & Ground Tackle
- Tow rope, Code Flag “D”- display when towing in “busy” areas.
- Yellow ribbons
- Bailer – Bucket with Lanyard
- Tools - Shackle key on float, sharp knife, pliers, wire cutters, Tape
- First Aid Kit
- Sunscreen, Hat
- Food, drink , fresh Water
- Fire Extinguishers
- Flares (in Waterproof container.)
- Paper work – courses, entries, etc.

Liaise with your course race officer each day for specific instructions.

Trapezoid



Windward Leeward

