OPERATING PROCEDURE No.24

Issue 2   May 2023

Safety Boat Skipper – Responsibilities, Competencies, and Guidance

PURPOSE

This Procedure defines the responsibilities of a Safety Boat Skipper and provides some

 guidance on operating a Safety Boat during a Session. It must be read by all Volunteers nominated as Safety Boat Skippers

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Safety Boat Skipper is responsible for managing on-water activity during a sailing session as well as any additional social sessions such as river trips. This includes initial response to an Incident pending transfer of responsibility to the OOD. (See Incident Management Procedure 19)

The skippers first responsibility is the safety of themselves, their crew and passengers, and their vessel.

They are responsible for checking their boat is properly prepared before leaving the pontoon (see Op Proc 12). This role may have been undertaken by the pontoon party but skippers should also do a final check before setting off.

They should abide by the ColRegs, especially the need to keep a good look out (particularly for other river traffic including the leisure trip ferries) and maintain a safe speed for the conditions (note: the river speed limit is 6 knots).

They are responsible for ensuring radio traffic is kept to a minimum and conforms to good radio etiquette.

Competencies

All powerboat skippers must be approved by the CPBI with advice from the Senior Management Team.

The minimum standard for a skipper is as contained in the RYA Start Powerboating course ('PB2'). Skippers for the ARC and Safety boat will have experience over and above this basic level.

In addition, skippers should be competent in performing the man overboard procedure used by Dart Sailability to recover disabled sailors from the water as well as being able to safely tow a Hansa dinghy alongside.

GUIDANCE

The Safety boat will normally have a skipper and crew . They may be joined by the OOD. The skipper retains responsibility for his/her boat.

Safety Boat Skipper is responsible for all on-water activity (Op Proc 2):

> The determination of any variation to the sailing area caused by a change in conditions or experience of sailors

> The distribution of support boats to adequately supervise the dinghy sailors. This may include allocating a support boat to a specific dinghy.

> To allocate support boats to tow dinghies back to the creek as required.

> To coordinate the initial response to any incident on the water pending OOD taking responsibility. (See Incident Management Operating Procedure 19)

> To allow a support boat to leave station to practice on-water skills where the safety of the sailing area can be maintained. If conditions change to call the support boat back from practice immediately.

The Safety skipper will record the number of persons on board each boat leaving the creek. He/She will also record the destination and likely return time of the ARC, NAB and any keelboats leaving the local sailing area A (Op Proc 32). Boats leaving Area A must also provide a mobile phone number as an alternative means of communication. The Safety Skipper must carry a mobile phone to maintain contact with vessels which may be out of VHF range.

The Safety Boat Skipper is responsible for the conduct of a Man Overboard Recovery (Op Proc 17) In such incidents, ifthe OOD is on board they may assist but is responsible for the continued oversight and management of other boats or any other incidents. The Safety boat may also need to respond to incidents involving other river traffic in difficulty. In such cases

the Sailability Skipper must transfer responsibility for management of Sailability boats to one of the support boats.

The Safety Skipper is responsible for securing the boat as defined in Operating Procedure 12.

At the end of the session the Safety boat skipper is responsible for a final check on the centre pontoon to ensure boats are fully shutdown and safely tied up.

The Safety Skipper shall Report any defects with the boat so that they can be rectified ready for future sessions (See Op Proc 20 Defect Reporting)