

SGBA safety boat guidance - for Club Sailing Events 2017

May2017

Helm (PB2 qualified) and crew should read this beforehand and use it during the event. It is useful to read relevant parts of the SGBA Operations Manual (website, Training tab) - also RYA Safety Boat Handbook.

Before Event starts - having done the induction course you are expected to be aware of and follow all requirements on the website regarding looking after the boats and using them responsibly.

Safety checks - Make sure the kill cord actually stops the engine and then wear it (on leg) - always!

Check operation of steering, throttle/gear change, raise/lower - adequate fuel. Buoyancy aids must be worn.

Equipment :	Paddles	Other lines	Bailer	Anchor, chain and line	
(kept on boat)	Sponge	Fender	Seat cushion	Bucket	
To be put aboard :	Tow lines	Knife	Foghorn	Spare Kill cord	Airway mask
(in containers)	New J cloth	First Aid kit	Area chart	Survival blanket	

VHF procedure - radio check (which should always be done before start of event) given as an example

Mill Point - this is - Michael B - radio check - over (or Blue Hills)

Michael B - this is - Mill Point - receiving you loud and clear - over

Mill Point - this is - Michael B - receiving you loud and clear - out

Over - invites reply **Out** - ends conversation (so not "over and out"!) **Say again** - requests repeat
Received - acknowledges receipt *Listen before you speak to ensure channel is clear.*

VHF radios are kept in the club house and must be returned and put on charge after event. OOD will probably get them out before event so arrange to meet him/her on quay. Channel used is P4 - other clubs/events may be on the same channel so be aware of that (hence SGBA specific names used above - not "safety boat" or "OOD" etc).

The Event begins when everything has been checked, you are on station and the OOD allows boats on the water.

Operating area - all boat users launching from the clubhouse on a club sailing day are advised of an operating area. If they *choose* to leave the area, they are not part of the event. The event area is chosen to allow the safety boat to reach any incident in a reasonable time. Any decision to go to help a distant boat should be notified to the OOD as it means possibly less experienced members may be left vulnerable. Straying boats should, if possible, be advised by safety crew of the possible delay in being able to help them.

Other notes - Keep an eye on other river users. Try to anticipate any potentially dangerous situations.

Capsize procedure - helms to use correct procedures (as PB2) for anyone in the water. **Reminders** - Count heads. In case of entrapment, the boat should be righted quickly. Manoeuvre for best visibility. Safety Helm must ensure all others involved are aware of his intended actions. Cut the engine while the propeller is still more than the boat's length from anyone in the water. Approach from downwind and allow the wind to stop you, not the engine. Ensure boat's crew are ok to continue - be aware of the possibility of hypothermia, the individual may not realise.

End of event - informing those on the water **If conditions worsen**, or there is some other urgent need, to bring all boats back to shore use 4 blasts on the fog horn - to be repeated at one minute intervals as required. The instruction to take this action may be given by the OOD using the VHF radio. But, if the radio is not working, the OOD may use 4 blasts of the fog horn to instruct the safety crew to relay the same signal. **In good conditions**, the event ends when most boats have had enough (or OOD makes a decision to end). Then remaining boats are informed by the safety helm that the event is finishing and, if they stay out, they're on their own!

Emergency Response Follow Emergency Response Card instructions. Next few lines expand on that.

If casualty is unconscious, phone 999 immediately for ambulance and coastguard and follow instructions.

Otherwise... Where an injury requires medical attention, get them ashore quickly if possible. Call the coastguard if getting the casualty ashore is not possible. Provide first aid and advise the OOD of the situation on VHF. If contact with the OOD is not possible, then phone 999 if necessary. If there is no other safety cover, all boats must be called in to shore.

Emergency Response Card - (should be on boat - reads as below - please report if this is not the case)

In emergency - take appropriate action - inform OOD if available on VHF

Conscious casualty : take ashore Unconscious casualty : call 999 for coastguard and ambulance