

WYC Safety Boat Crew

Qualifications

Many thanks for attending to this essential duty. No patrol boat can operate as a safety boat without a crew on board, and the only qualifications for a WYC safety boat crew is - that you are a WYC member and willing, if necessary, to enter the water. Drivers will have a minimum of powerboat level 2, and ideally first aid certificate and have done a safety boat course. Parental consent is required for a Safety Boat crew under the age of 16.

Before the Race

Please arrive 2 hours before if it's a committee boat race start; or 1 hour 30 minutes before a club line start to meet with the Race team. You need to meet with the Race Officer, your RIB driver and the rest of the team for a briefing. RIBs need to be set up and checked before launch, marks and ground tackle identified and loaded, courses agreed, and there needs to be time for the physical process of launching and laying the course before the race officer can begin the start sequence. The aim is to be on the water about 30-45 minutes before the start time. If it's a committee boat start you will also need to drop the race team to the committee boat.

Equipment for a safety boat crew

- Buoyancy aid, allowing mobility in the water; not a gas inflated life jacket. You should be willing to enter the water if someone needs assistance.
- Appropriate clothing to stay warm and as dry as possible, including a wet suit or dry suit, sailing gloves (for handling ropes and chain), hat or cap and appropriate foot wear.
- Bring plenty to drink, snacks, sun cream and sun glasses on sunny days.
- A safety boat crew should carry a knife. A sharp, serrated knife should always be available in the safety boat grab bag. Also in the grab bags are: first aid kit, tool kit, fire extinguisher, and flares (amongst other things). On each boat there will be at least 3 tow lines, an anchor, paddles and bailer.

The possible requirements of the duty include:

- Assisting with launch and recovery of the safety boat, e.g., banksman for the launch vehicle, or trailer guidance / line tailing for use of the ramp winch
- Laying and Recovery of buoys as course marks
- Recovering a capsized, inverted or disabled boat
- Recovering a casualty from the water
- Looking after a casualty while being taken ashore
- Towing a disabled boat
- Sailing a recovered boat back to the shore
- It is an essential requirement that the safety boat crew must be prepared to enter the water if necessary.

The crew does not need to have any particular knowledge or experience for coping with these situations. The driver will be able to talk you through and explain what they would like you to do.

We advise that you read the WYC for further general information on set up and pack away. Also take note of: the emergency incident flow chart, and the launch and recovery SOP.

Not everyone may have the ability to perform all requirements. Please inform the Race Officer and your Safety Boat driver of any limitation. Most problems can be solved as a race safety team. should consist of at least two safety boats.