

## **SUTTON DINGHY CLUB - SAFETY BOAT POLICY**

- Rescue cover will be provided for all club racing and organised sailing events. Cover will not normally be provided by the club at other times. However in emergency situations, the club safety boats may be launched at any time by suitably qualified members.
- There must be no less than one fully manned safety boats afloat before club racing or an organised sailing event can take place. In principle a ratio of one safety boat to ten competing boats shall apply.
- The responsibility of meeting the minimum rescue cover requirements shall lie with the Principal Race Officer or most senior General Committee member present.
- Any member of the General Committee or Sailing Committee shall have the authority to halt or postpone (but not to cancel) at his/her discretion any event until the minimum rescue cover requirements are met.
- If the occasion arises that the required number of safety boats cannot be fully manned, suitably qualified participants will be expected to offer their services in order to allow the event to commence. The crewing of safety boats is the responsibility of all senior members.
- The only people normally authorised to drive club safety boats are those who hold Level 2 or higher in the ISA Powerboat scheme. The driver of any safety boat must be accompanied by at least one other person when on rescue duty.
- Junior members under 16 years of age may not helm on a club powerboat whilst it is actively engaged in or rostered to carry out rescue duties at any time (except as part of a rescue training exercise or training event). This exception is subject to the approval of the Club Principal, Senior Instructor or member of the General Committee present at that event. See separate Junior Power Boat Policy for specific details.
- If the event the General Emergency Alarm is signalled (7 Short blast 1 Long blast) all safety boat crews must contact the Race Officer (General Committee member) for further instructions (unless actively involved in rescuing individuals) and, if communications cannot be established, must return to the club jetty for further instructions.
- The safety boat must carry the following items: a means of summoning help (radio, flares or other suitable devices), a compass, towing lines, a space blanket, knife, a basic tool kit, an anchor, a compass, a whistle, paddles or oars and a bailer.
- All safety boat drivers should practice their skills when afloat, and experienced drivers should give guidance and advice to the inexperienced.
- Suitable lifejackets, buoyancy aids or personal flotation devices shall be worn at all times by driver and crew when on the water.

- If a safety boat sustains any damage or there are problems with any of its equipment, then this should be recorded in the Safety Boat log located in the club house and reported to the Sailing Committee at the earliest opportunity, in order to facilitate prompt repairs.
- The Club when required will operate a programme of safety boat training during the season.
- Club safety boats may be made available for other organised coaching and training activities. Requests should be made to the Sailing Committee.
- Club safety boats may be made available for racing and sailing events at other sailing clubs. Requests must be reviewed and approved by the Sailing Committee.
- Safety Boat Drivers should note the importance of proceeding at low speed when manoeuvring in the vicinity of any other water users. This will reduce the risk and consequences of collisions as well as preventing the environmental impact and annoyance caused by wash and noise.

## **SUTTON DINGHY CLUB - JUNIOR POWERBOAT POLICY**

The ISA recommends that no one under the age of sixteen years should be left in charge of any powerboat without appropriate adult supervision. Under Irish law it is illegal for anyone under the age of sixteen to operate a powerboat that is capable of 17 knots or more.

The policy of Sutton Dinghy Club is to improve both the participation of junior members and keep their interest levels high whilst aiming to maintain a strict level of ability for being a responsible powerboat driver. In order to ensure that the participation of junior members in powerboat based activities is carried out in a sensible, safe and controlled fashion it has been necessary to impose certain restrictions on junior members under 16yrs.

- These restrictions are as follows:
- Persons using club powerboats unsupervised should be a minimum of 16 years old and hold at least an ISA National Powerboat Certificate.
- Junior members under 16 years of age may not helm on a club powerboat whilst it is actively engaged in or rostered to carry out rescue duties at any time (except as part of a rescue training exercise or training event). This exception is subject to the approval of the Club Principal, Senior Instructor or member of the General Committee present at that event.
- Junior members between 14-16 years of age may crew on a club powerboat whilst it is actively engaged in or rostered to carry out rescue duties. Before engaging in crewing duties these junior members must have submitted request for review to Club Safety Officer. The above activities will be conducted only under the strict supervision of and when accompanied by a qualified club powerboat driver or instructor.
- Junior members aged 12-14 years old will be permitted to use club powerboats at specific events designated for the purpose of powerboat training. The above activities will be conducted only under the strict supervision of and when accompanied by a qualified club powerboat driver or instructor. The designated responsible driver must be a minimum of 18 years old and hold at least an ISA National Powerboat Certificate.
- All designated responsible drivers are approved at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. The Sailing Committee has the authority to allow or deny the use of any particular club powerboat by a junior member or inexperienced adult member.
- Before a junior member less than 16 years of age may participate in club powerboat activities as a helm or crew a consent form signed by a parent or guardian must be provided to the Sailing Committee.