

Patrol Boats are an important component of Club racing without them there will not be any racing!

The role of the club safety boat driver is both crucial for the safe running of all racing and essential to maintain the heartbeat of the club. In 2009 some changes are being made to ensure all drivers skills are kept sharp and courses are being laid on free of charge early in the year to provide drivers with the opportunity to practice the essential skills needed.

If you have selected to be a safety boat driver or crew then you need to report to the reception just like every other member of the race team. From here you will be advised of the following;

- Where the days race team are meeting and time of briefing.
- Your name will be checked off against roster
- Please advise us if you have RYA Powerboat level 2
- Please advise us if you have first aid
- Please advise us if you have a VHF certificate
- Please advise if you have taken part in the Club Safety Boat Drivers Course
- Please advise us if you have seen the RYA Safety Boat Video in full

CLUB SAFETY BOAT DRIVERS COURSE

This year the club has provided a non RYA training course which is a chance to practice and discuss some of the skills needed whilst out on the water. This includes recovering various capsizes, coming alongside craft, both moving and capsized, towing, particular points to watch out for, local hazards amongst many other useful hints and tips. Call the reception to see if any spaces are left on this course

RYA SAFETY BOAT DVD

This is an excellent presentation of numerous skills that you will need to be a good safety boat driver. You may be familiar with many of them, or you may be unaware of it's existence. Regardless this presentation is brief and concise. It will be playing in the reception when you sign in.

WHAT TO WEAR

Ideally each safety boat will have a driver and a crew member both of whom should be dressed suitably to be able to enter the water (very rare) should the need arise. Regardless of the season you will get cold and maybe even wet driving the safety boats. It always tends to be colder in the safety boats compared to sailing, as you aren't as active. WETSUITS / DRYSUITS must be worn between 1st October and 1st May.

You must be wearing life jackets/buoyancy aids

LAUNCHING OF RIBS

The Marine team will be on hand to assist with the launching of your RIB for the day. You will be required to sign out the RIB at the Marine Office, collect Safety Box, Keys, Radios and tow lines. If you are unfamiliar with any of the controls of the RIB/radio please ask. Anchors and paddles are kept in the RIBS.

FLAGS

Certain events will require SOME ribs to carry flags on stick so that you can signal the race officers intentions to the fleet. These can be collected from the marine office when you are signing out the RIB.

POWERBOAT 2

Only person with RYA powerboat 2 certificate are permitted to drive club RIBS. A list of such people is held at the club, If you have passed this course and not at the club please advise us and present a copy of the certificate to reception.

If you wish to become a driver look out for training courses, or put your name on the training list with reception.

ON THE WATER

- Prioritise people before property
- Be aware of the whole fleet, not just the leaders. If it is a large race course, be aware of your area and your zoning
- Remain vigilant and look for upturned boats
- On attending boat identify crew and how many people should be present
- Stand off and offer assistance if required
- Closest boat should attend incident
- If towing boats/boats ashore inform race officer so that they know you aren't on station
- Wait until the race officer stands you down before leaving your RIB.

SPEED

The harbour has a speed limit of 8 knots throughout. Unnecessary speeding and penalties incurred are the responsibility of the driver and not the Club. However if and only if you are on the mission of emergency, you are permitted to exceed this limit. You must give due care and consideration to other harbour users.

ENGINES

The Club is committed to supplying quality RIBS powered by good reliable engines. Help the Club to maintain these engines and the environment by "switching off when it is safe to do so"

RADIOS

The VHF is an integral part of your safety equipment and it should be used correctly.

- Keep messages short and simple
- Do a radio check with race officer who will designate your area of duty

CALL SIGNS;

Sandy – the race box

Hayling Club – The office

Marine Department – Any boat / technical issues

Your call sign – boats name

Being a club safety boat driver is both rewarding and essential. Enjoy your time afloat and maximise your experience.