

SAFETY BOAT: COXWAIN AND CREW



1. **GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME.** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TURN UP **90 MINUTES** (AND NO LATER THAN 60 MINUTES) BEFORE THE PUBLISHED START TIME.
2. FIND THE RACE OFFICER AND INFORM THEM YOU ARE AT THE CLUB.
3. GET THE SAFETY BOATS OUT OF THE GARAGE
4. **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ENGINE COVERS.** THE BOSUN HAS CHECKED OIL LEVELS.
5. CHECK FUEL LEVEL. IF UNSURE ASK THE BOSUN OR A MEMBER OF THE SAILING COMMITTEE FOR HELP.
6. IF REQUIRED, INFLATE THE RIB. **DO NOT OVER INFLATE AS DAMAGE MAY OCCUR. IF UNSURE ASK!**
7. TAKE BOATS TO THE WASH DOWN AREA TO RUN UP THE ENGINES. BEFORE STARING THE ENGINE WATER MUST BE CIRCULATING USING THE HOSE AND EAR MUFFS. THE WATER INTAKE IS ON THE LOWER PART OF THE OUTBOARD AND HAS BLACK PLASTIC GUARDS TO STOP LARGE ITEMS BEING SUCKED UP. IF IN DOUBT ASK BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE.
8. THE KEYS FOR THE SAFETY BOATS ARE IN THE RACEBOX. ASK THE RACE OFFICER FOR THEM AND A HAND HELD RADIO AS BACK UP.
9. GET CHANGED. PLEASE DRESS TO GET WET AS YOU MAY NEED TO ENTER THE WATER TO HELP SOMEONE. ENSURE YOU ARE READY TO GO ON THE WATER BEFORE THE DINGHIES LAUNCH. THE SAFETY BOATS ARE LAUCHED FIRST AS A SAFETY MEASURE SO THAT SAILING DINGHIES HAVE SAFETY COVER AT ALL TIMES
10. ENSURE YOU HAVE THE COURSE AND THAT YOU KNOW HOW MANY BOATS ARE RACING.
11. ASSIST WITH LAUNCHING THE SAFETY BOATS. YOU WILL NEED 4 TO 6 PEOPLE TO HELP PUSH THE BOATS SO DONT BE SHY - SHOUT!
12. DO A RADIO CHECK
13. ONCE THE RACING HAS FINISHED ASK THE RACE OFFICER IF ITS OK TO COME ASHORE.
14. RECOVER THE SAFETY BOATS. PLEASE PUT THE TRAILERS INTO THE WATER AS THIS MAKES RECOVERY SAFER. YOU WILL NEED 4 TO 6 PEOPLE TO HELP WITH THIS. DONT BE SHY – SHOUT!
15. WASH OUT THE OUTBOARD ENGINES BY STARTING WITH WATER CIRCULATING USING THE HOSE AND EAR MUFFS AS BEFORE (SEE POINT 7).
16. SPRAY DOWN THE RIB TO REMOVE ANY SALT OR MUD.
17. PUT SAFETY BOATS BACK IN TO THE GARAGE.
18. LOCK THE GARAGE.
19. RETURN THE KEYS AND RADIO'S TO THE RACE OFFICER.
20. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE BOATS TO THE RACE OFFICER.

SAFETY BOAT BEST PRACTICE

- ✚ Always wear a kill cord.
- ✚ Keep your hands on the throttle and wheel at all times when moving.
- ✚ **Always switch your engine off when dealing with a person in the water.**
- ✚ Wherever possible keep your boat speed to a minimum so that you do not create unnecessary wake, and make it easier for people to anticipate the safety boat intentions.
- ✚ When approaching a capsized dinghy, it is best to approach bow first, from up wind, keeping the prop away from the boat hazards and crew.
- ✚ Avoid steering directly astern of those who are racing, in case they capsize, fall out or alter course unexpectedly.
- ✚ If it is necessary to come alongside, it is best to do this when a sailing boat has stopped on a close reach and the safety boat can come in on the windward side of the dinghy and hold the shroud or dinghy side to keep them close. Once in place, if necessary, turn the engine off for ease of communication.
- ✚ If approaching a moving dinghy let the helm know your intentions, communicate clearly, approach from the windward side.
- ✚ Always have an escape plan up your sleeve, know which way you're going to turn to get out of a situation before things go wrong - sometimes just dropping into neutral will do it.
- ✚ Above all maintain a good look out around your safety boat at all times!

This safety boat training video from Swansea Sailing Club is a useful reminder of Safety Boat best practice. PLEASE watch it before your Safety Boat duty.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuMJ2ExA79k>

*Although 15 minutes long the middle 5 minutes of the video relate to assisting Catamarans and is useful but can be skipped.