

SAFETY BOAT: COXWAIN AND CREW



1. **Give yourself plenty of time.** It is recommended that you turn up at least 60 before the published event start time.
2. The keys for the safety boats are in the key box in the clubhouse lobby.
3. Get the safety boats out of the garage. (Note the garage is part of the clubhouse alarm system).
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 committee for help.
6. Ensure the hand-held radio (back-up) and mobile phone that are stored in the garage are charged and placed in the safety boat. A second hand held radio is kept in the race box.
7. Take boats to the washdown area to run up the engines. Before starting 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. The engine should only be run for minimum possible time with ear muffs.
8. 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 launched first as a safety measure.
9. Ensure you have the course (via Mbsc Hbsc Dinghy Racing WhatsApp group or course board)
10. Assist with launching the safety boats. **Ensure that there are adequate people to help with this so don't be shy - shout!**
11. Do a radio check (see over page for call signs).
12. Ensure you know how many boats are racing. Liaise with the race box and other safety boats as to your specific instructions, eg. looking after the front or back of the fleet.
13. During racing you may have to inform the race box of any retirements and be prepared to follow race box instructions to shorten course or abandon race (appropriate flags are stored in the boat).
14. Once the racing has finished, ask the race box if it's ok to come ashore.
15. Recover the safety boats. Please put the trailers into the water, as this makes recovery safer. **Again, ensure that there are adequate people to help.**
16. Wash out the outboard engines by starting with water circulating using the hose and ear muffs as before (see point 7).
17. Spray down the rib to remove any salt or mud.
18. Put safety boats back in to the garage and put radio and mobile on charge in the garage.
19. Lock the garage and return the keys to the clubhouse
20. Report any problems with the boats via the Safety Boat Cox WhatsApp group.

SAFETY BOAT BEST PRACTICE

Radio call signs:	HBSC Safety Boats - 'Harlow 1' and 'Harlow 2' HBSC Race Box - 'Harlow Base' Maylandsea Bay Race Box - 'Mike Bravo Base' MBSC Safety Boats – 'Mike Bravo 1' and 'Mike Bravo 2'
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- ✓ 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.