



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

- Rescue cover will be provided for all club racing and organised sailing events. Rescue 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 crew/helm on a club powerboat whilst it is actively engaged in or rostered to carry out rescue duties at any time (except at certain training events subject to the approval of the Club Principal or Senior Instructor present at that event.
- If the event the General Emergency Alarm is signalled (7 Short blast 1 Long blast) all safety boat crews must contact the Race Officer (or senior 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 operates a programme of rescue boat training throughout the year.
- Club rescue boats may be made available for other organised coaching and training activities. Requests should be made to the Sailing Committee.
- Club rescue boats may be made available for racing and sailing events at other sailing clubs. Requests must be reviewed and approved by the Sailing Committee.
- Rescue 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.

Signed on behalf of the General Committee:

**Commodore:**

**Date:**

***Charles Sargent***

***8<sup>th</sup> August, 2011***