

RFYC Safety Procedures for Dinghy Racing

VHF Channels

- Channel 37 for race management
- Channel 16 for emergencies

SAFETY BOATS

- There should always be at least one safety boat afloat.
- The safety boat must be manned by 2 people - a driver and assistant.
- The safety boat driver must hold RYA Powerboat level 2 certificate or higher and be aged 16 or over.
- At least one person on the safety boat must be prepared to enter the water. If this is the driver then assistant must also be qualified to drive the safety boat.

RACE OFFICERS should

1. Ensure adequate safety cover is provided
2. Postpone or abandon racing if safety cover is compromised e.g. by breakdown of safety boat or significant deterioration of weather conditions.
3. Brief safety crew on the racing format and ensure everyone knows what is expected of them on the water e.g. escorting boats to and from the racing area
4. Check VHF radio contact with safety boats as soon as possible on Channel 37
5. Count and monitor the number of boats afloat
6. Act as primary controller of on the water activity
7. Communicate any "Mayday" emergency to the Coastguard on Channel 16
8. Communicate with RFYC onshore people to coordinate any emergency situation
AFTER contacting the emergency services

SAFETY BOAT CREWS should

1. Wear lifejackets and suitable clothing, carry safety equipment (kept in the Mickery) and a VHF radio
2. Maintain radio contact with the Race Officer
3. Communicate any situation to the Race Officer as soon as possible
4. Prioritise safety activity over other on the water activities such as mark laying

COMPETITORS should

1. Follow the instructions of the Race Officer and Safety Crew
2. Decide whether or not to race - use their own judgement as to whether they are able to manage the conditions based on their experience

Useful phone numbers

Coastguard - Emergency contact..... 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard

RFYC boatman.....07794 989 7760

Forth coastguard..... 01333 450725

Sending a voice Mayday or Pan-Pan message

If someone's life is at risk, send a Mayday voice message.

If it's urgent, but not life-threatening, send a Pan-Pan message.

Mayday message

Say slowly and clearly:

- “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”
- “This is (name of vessel)” [spoken three times]
- “Mayday”
- Your vessels type (e.g. RIB) and name [spoken once]
- Your position
- The nature of distress
- Immediate assistance required
- How many people are on board
- Any other information
- “Over”

Pan-Pan message

Say slowly and clearly:

- “Pan Pan, Pan Pan, Pan Pan”
- Your vessel's name [spoken three times]
- Your position
- The nature of the situation
- What you intend to do
- “Over”