

NCSC Safety Crew guidelines

Safety Crews man the Club Safety boats on Race Days in partnership with a Rib Driver who has attended the club Boat Handling Course. The most important role is assisting water users who get into difficulties and ensuring their safety. Club Safety boats must be manned by 2 people.

On the day of your duty

- Please arrive one and a half hours before the first race starts
- Dress for the weather on the water allowing for wind chill or prolonged sunshine
- Wear Waterproofs & a Buoyancy aid.
- Consider wearing a Drysuit or Wetsuit if conditions are windy, cold or wet.
- Wear closed toe footwear with straps, laces or zip to keep them on and designed to keep your feet dry, or at least warm when wet
- Have a pair of tough gloves for handling mooring chains & ropes
- Bring a towel & spare clothes.

Safety Crew tasks

- Help Drivers bring safety boats from moorings to floating Jetty.
- Clean down and bail boats if required.
- Re fuel petrol tanks at the beginning and end of racing if they are not full
- Check towing line is on board, fastened and untangled
- Untie painter and push boat off from floating Jetty
- Pick up and re-position buoys as requested by Race Officer via radio. (Can be muddy!)
- Act as look out for Rib Driver.
- Help capsized or injured sailors into the rescue boat if they ask for help or are clearly at risk by staying in the water. (In emergencies this may involve being in the water yourself). **If you have concerns about your ability to do this please contact the Duty secretary and Race Officer in advance so they can make arrangements for others to take your place.**
- Assist sailors to right their boats and continue sailing
- Recover capsized or damaged craft and bring them to shore.
- Fend and then secure boat's painter to floating jetty when coming ashore.
- Help Drivers return boats to moorings after racing.

Priorities

The priorities for the Safety team are never in doubt and are in the following order:

1. Safety of yourself and your crew
2. Safety of crews being rescued
3. Safety of other crews
4. Prevention of further damage to disabled boats and windsurfers
5. Recovery of disabled or capsized craft
6. Assisting the Race officer to set the course.

Tips

- Check the weather forecast beforehand to ensure you have appropriate clothing, allowing for wind chill. If in doubt bring additional warm wear
- Club Waterproofs and buoyancy aids are available for your use in the Safety Equipment store between the Clubhouse and the Topper park
- Pack any phones and car keys you must have with you in a waterproof bag
- Take a backpack on board to store clothes, drinks and personal items.
- Secure spectacles and sunglasses with a clip-on strap
- Expect to get dirty and damp! Mooring chains and weights are muddy and the boats create spray at speed
- Take a thermos to have hot drinks on board
- Most duties are pleasant and uneventful days out on the water watching the boats. However even on quiet days accidents can happen so you must be prepared to be fully involved in rescue operations.
- The Drivers must wear a Killcord whenever the engine is running. This means they have a limited range of movement to assist with physical tasks on board whilst controlling the boat. They can stop the engine and then come to assist, eg pulling up mooring weights, provided there is sufficient sea room for the boat to drift safely while the engine is off.