



Rescue Plan 2015-2016

Introduction

This Rescue Plan is designed to deal with all stages of rescue from single vessel capsizes to a whole-of-fleet emergency. Participants include designated Race Committee rescue craft, mark boats, coach boats and spectator boats at different levels of the Plan.

A full briefing for the parties will take place prior to the Practice Race for each regatta conducted by Sandy Bay Sailing Club and at the start of each sailing season.

All rescue activities will be conducted under the control and direction of the Race Officer (RO) in liaison with the Shore Patrol.

Radio traffic from a rescue boat involved in a rescue will have priority over other transmissions. Normal Radio Frequency will be Channel 15. In the event of radio concerns, Channel 9 will be the back-up Channel.

All powered craft in the vicinity of the course and associated with the racing (rescue, mark-laying, coach and spectator boats) shall register their type of radio (UHF/VHF) and their call-sign with the Race Committee. As a backup, a mobile phone number should also be registered.

The RO shall have contact with a suitably qualified on-call medical practitioner at all times. The RO shall also maintain lines of communication with Hobart VTS (Hobart Port Control) and local emergency services.

Rescue Boat Equipment

Each designated rescue boat shall carry, in good condition and working order, a first aid kit, VHF radio with appropriate frequencies, a supply of green floats on lanyards, heaving lines, towlines, and safety equipment as determined by MAST for the size and type of vessel.

Each designated rescue boat will be crewed by two competent, licensed operators, at least one of whom will be an adult. One person on each boat shall at all times be prepared to enter the water to assist in a rescue.

Level 1 - Normal conditions (0 to 15 knots of breeze)

Individual boat capsizes or breakage involving a need for assistance. This will be carried out by an individual rescue boat and reported to the RO as either:

- ☞ Standing By
- ☞ Assisting in Recovery of the Boat or
- ☞ Additional Assistance Required - Specify (e.g. Medical, tow, etc.)

If a crew member of the rescue boat is required to enter the water, this must be reported to the RO.

Where possible, towing duties should be assigned to Race Committee Boats other than designated rescue boats.

Level 2 - Strong conditions (15 to 25 knots of breeze)

Multiple capsizes or breakages. All Race Committee boats will be called upon to assist with rescues, coordinated by RO. Regular situation reports from boats engaged in rescues to be radioed to RO.

At the upper end of this wind-range, coach boats may be called upon to assist, however the RO will not deploy this option unless circumstances dictate.

Level 3 - Wind strength consistently over 25 knots, gusting higher

Racing abandoned. All competing boats to return to shore as soon as possible. Competitors on-shore not to launch. All Race Committee and coach boats to be available to assist with rescue at the direction of the RO. The RO to liaise with the Shore Patrol.

Level 4 - Severe, gale strength conditions

All Race Committee and coach boats involved in rescue, at direction of RO. Overall rescue plan managed by RO in liaison with the Shore Patrol.

May involve abandoning competing boats on the course area and collecting crews in Race Committee and coach boats. Suitable spectator boats may be asked to take crews on board from other rescuing craft.

Abandoned boats must have a green float attached to the rigging signifying that crews are safe.

RO shall maintain level of contact required with other Race Committees operating fleets in the vicinity to determine best use of available resources. SBSC rescue boats may be called upon to assist other fleets. This shall be at the direction of the RO.

Important

Maintenance and monitoring of Sign-On and Sign-Off sheets is critical to the success of the Rescue Plan. The Shore Patrol shall ensure that at all times there is a competent person on duty to note sign-offs from retiring or finishing competitors.