

Guidelines for WSC Support Boat Crewing

The safety boat team is vital in the life of the club. The team supports all the club's racing and training events, and other club sailing too. They are out in displacement boats (Kirton Owl and Fynnlass) and RIBs, laying and moving marks for the racing at the instruction of the Race Officer, and on Saturdays Fynnlass often forms a finish line. They also keep an eye on all the boats and are there to support sailors when gear fails or a capsize catches a boat out, or some other help is needed. They ensure all sailors are in before coming ashore for well-deserved tea and cake.

What makes a good safety team member? They are confidently comfortable out on an open boat for at least a couple of hours in rain or shine, and on flat or choppy water; they are fit and able, and they have plenty of common sense.

Each safety boat has a driver and a crew. All drivers hold the RYA Powerboat Level 2 qualification and many have First Aid training. In addition, RIB drivers hold the RYA Safety Boat certificate (with the exception of Hooligan which, with permission of the Duty Safety Officer, may be driven by someone suitably experienced but qualified to Powerboat Level 2 only). One of the drivers is designated Duty Safety Officer, who liaises with the Race Officer and manages the safety fleet.

The drivers' rota (www.waldringfieldsc.com/rescue/drivers.pdf) is managed by the club's Safety Co-ordinator but crew duties are arranged and published on DutyMan.

WSC encourages new people, juniors and adults, to engage with the club, so a third person may be allowed onboard boats, subject to the agreement of the driver. The aim is to provide some insight into dinghy racing and support boat duties. A qualified helm may allow a non-qualified driver to drive, with the agreement of the duty safety officer, if it is considered safe to do so. It is not normally advisable for inexperienced, non-qualified crew to take control of a support boat during racing. The qualified helm remains responsible for event safety duty as well as for the safety of the operation of the craft. Whenever anyone under the age of 17 is on board a support boat there should always be two adults present, except where the junior and adult are family members.

The club runs RYA Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat courses most years for club members at under the commercial rate.

October 2024

To be reviewed October 2025