
Water Based Activities – COMPETITORS, RIB DRIVERS AND CREW, RACE OFFICERS and HELPERS at the Royal Solent Yacht Club

Organisation name: Royal Solent Yacht Club

Assessment carried out by: Sailing Secretary, Chief Race Officer, Head Boatman

Date assessment was carried out: 7th March 2025

The Royal Solent Yacht Club (the 'Club') has carried out this Risk Assessment of the Club's sailing activities to satisfy the requirements of regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The Club's sailing activities involve competitors, RIB drivers and crew, Race Officers, Club staff and helpers.

With effect from 9th March 2025 the Club will be running its programme of Club and other racing for sailing boats including racing yachts, Cruisers, Folk Boats, Day Boats and dinghies. Racing will be run from Grants and from Committee boats.

No one may participate in racing unless they have completed fully the Condition of Entry Form and they have read and understood this Risk Assessment. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. This activity is for competent people capable of making their own decisions and sailing without support from others. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in the activity is hers alone.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Date Assurance Provided
Communication system not clear	All participants if Race Management is affected or issues arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VHF radio protocols to be followed by Race Offices and RIBs - Courses to be communicated as per Sailing Instructions including WhatsApp and repeating at regular intervals over VHF radio. - Results to be on Club website 	Review daily	PRO & Race Officers	On day of sailing	
Competitor gets into difficulty and requires urgent assistance with their boat	Sailors and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following standard sailing protocols - Buoyancy aids/floatation devices are recommended to be worn on the water. Dinghy sailors must use buoyancy aids/floatation devices. Race Officers may require buoyancy aids/floatation devices to be worn if conditions mean that it is appropriate to do so - Wind and sea conditions to be considered to assess hazards for sailors and RIBs. - Race Officers to assess adequacy of RIB cover given numbers, experience and wind/tide conditions - Upper wind speed limit to apply. - Radios to be used on RIBs for communication with shore team and PRO with protocols followed to summon rescue. 	All racing to be closely monitored by Race Officers and Boatman and immediately cancelled/abandoned if the wind/sea conditions are becoming more than acceptable.	Race Officers RIB drivers	Immediate	

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Competitor gets into difficulty in the water and requires assistance getting out of the water	Sailors and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above - Standard RSYC Protocol - RSYC support vessels carry the following devises to enable self-recovery from water: <i>Solent RIB</i> carries a mounted step and deployable ladder on its transom. <i>Marksman</i> has a deployable solid ladder stored on board under the console. <i>Countdown</i> has a rope ladder on board. - Radio communications and protocols to summon external assistance if required. - Deployable floatation devices on <i>Countdown</i> and <i>Marksman</i> and <i>Solent RIB</i> 		Sailors, RIB drivers and crew	Immediate	
First Aid including Basic Life Support	RIBs, Sailors, Race Officers, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above - Endeavouring to minimise the actual risks of sailing - Defibrillator on <i>Marksman</i> if required - Follow UK Resuscitation Council Guidance +/-RYA recommendations 		RIBs, Sailors, Race officers, and/or Sailing Secretary if on duty	Immediate	
Fire on Board Committee Boats	RIB drivers and Race Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Extinguishers on board all boats - - - 		RIB drivers and Race Officers	Immediate	

Medical Emergency such as:	Sailors, RIB drivers, Race Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For under 18, allergies are declared on parental consent. 				
Allergies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epipens can be carried by RIB drivers as required, or kept in Sailing Office 				
Seasickness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seasickness tablets can be recommended 				
Sunburn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suncream and hats recommended 				
Dehydration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water on board all RIBS and C/Boats 				
Choking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Aiders on RIBs who are made known to the Race Officers on the daily Risk Assessment sheet completed at the start of racing each day 				