

Safety Boat Driver Quick Guide to Covid 19 Compliance

Pre Race

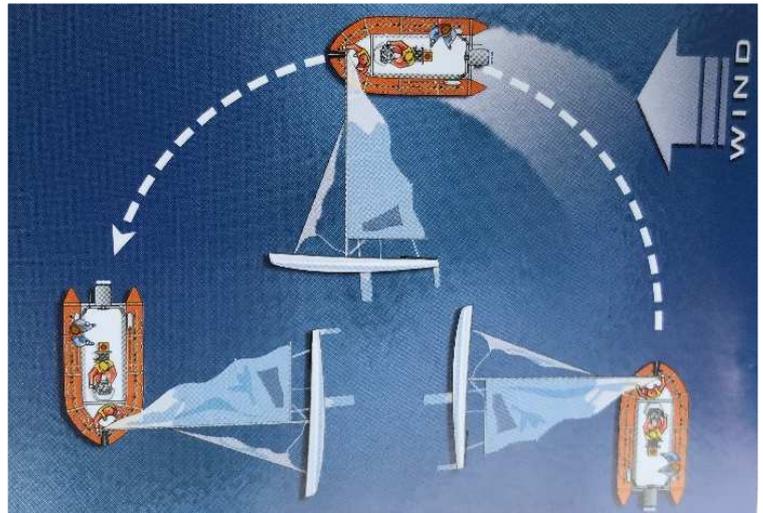
1. Are you well?
 - No - stay home/ go home
 - Advise Race Team
2. Rescue boats to be operated singlehanded to maintain social distancing. This necessarily requires greater skills and competency from the driver to operate safely and to provide any assistance to the race team. Are you confident and capable of operating the rib on your own, and in the conditions prevailing at the time?
 - No – advise race team in advance if possible but on day if conditions are such.
3. Double check that you have a working VHF on board. If you have your own VHF please bring as backup or if numbers allow take an additional club radio. Alternatively, a mobile phone with good battery and useful numbers (e.g. OD, Nick Spicer) saved would be a good backup.
4. Use larger RIB (Loafer) in preference to smaller (Camelot) to allow easier social distancing.
5. Prepare the safety boat towing lines for throwing and ideally with easy access from the driving position.

On the Water

1. Maintain social distancing unless life/death or serious injury emergency.
 2. Rope ladders will be provided in the safety boats to allow unassisted boarding of the rib by a sailor to be recovered. Once recovered, the sailor should be advised to remain in the bow or stern to keep distance from the driver.
 3. Coming alongside manned dinghies should be avoided as this is likely to compromise social distancing. Other socially distanced techniques of assistance can be used as per extracts from the RYA Safety Boat Handbook shown below.
 4. Dinghies requiring tow ashore will need to be thrown a tow line from a suitable stand-off distance.
 5. In the event of a 'life or death', entrapment or serious injury it is anticipated that the rescue driver may make the decision to abandon social distancing measures in order to offer the necessary assistance. In light of the singlehanded operation of the safety boat, it is even more imperative that the first action on discovery of such a situation is to radio the other safety boat/OD for immediate assistance.
 6. The priority to save life and limb over property will be emphasised.
 7. Remember that the number of people watching over the sailors is much reduced - be extra vigilant and attentive.
- DO NOT PUSH THE LIMITS

Methods of assisting a 90 degree capsize.

- In breezy conditions, dinghies which float high during a capsize will likely orientate with the hull downwind of the rig, which will probably lead to a repeated capsize. Hence it will save time if the dinghy is orientated correctly to assist righting. This can be achieved quite simply by driving the mast around with the RIB (see fig).



- **Mast Lift Method.** Approach the mast or forestay and lift it by hand. If the bow of the dinghy is facing to windward, motor slowly so that this is the case. With the dinghy crew on the centreboard and the boat to windward, allow the wind to get under the sail and the boat should come up and right itself.

Methods of assisting an inverted capsize.

- **RIB pull method.** A line is secured across the inverted hull, behind the centreboard and onto the lower part of the shroud. It is important to position the RIB on the upwind side of the hull and tow upwind to avoid a repeated capsize. The RIB then pulls the line with the crew on the gunnels and holding the centreboard. The force needed to start the recovery will be considerable, so ensure that the line is correctly secured and that all involved stay clear of potential recoil.



- **RIB tow method.** A line is secured to the bow of the dinghy and the boat is towed at 90 degrees to the dinghy head, towards the wind. This should have the effect of spinning the dinghy towards the wind and will lift the mast because of the drag of the sails in the water. It may even right itself, but at the very least will put the boat in a stable 90 degree capsize position. It works well with light, high volume single handed training dinghies, however the risk of damage is high with heavier boats therefore should not be attempted.