

Safety Boat Driver Checklist

- As soon as possible after being notified of your duty, use Dutyman to confirm that you will be on duty, or arrange a swap.
- Find a crew - who must be at least 16 years of age - you cannot man a safety boat alone.
- Familiarise yourself with the club's Guidance to Safety Boat Drivers.
- Contact the Race Officer during the week prior to the event to confirm that you will be on duty.
- Arrive at least one hour before the start time to meet the Race Officer. Also attend the briefing so that you know the course and the arrangements for the day. You should be on the water by the time dinghies are launching.
- Find out which boat you are to use and collect its yellow box and a handheld VHF radio from the race hut.
- Collect special marks and ground tackle if the Race Officer wants you to lay them.
- Visually check the boat for damage and that paddles, red flag, etc. are on board. If on a RIB put up the ensign and pennant - the ensign goes to starboard, the pennant to port.
- Check there is more than sufficient fuel for the event. This means over $\frac{3}{4}$ tank on the dories and more than $\frac{1}{2}$ tank, plus a full spare tank on the RIBs.
- Before leaving your berth, start engine and check that the kill cord works by pulling it out while the engine is running. Also check that there is an engine cooling tell tail from the outboard.
- Make your way to the race area at no more than 3 knots in or around the marina. The speed limit on the river is 6 knots. Unless you are needed in a hurry, stay within the limit.
- Call the Race Officer on Ch. P4/M2 to let him/her know that you are on station - this also acts as a radio check.
- Keep a good lookout at all times for dinghies in difficulty or capsized.
- Lay special marks as directed by the Race Officer.
- Keep clear of racing boats so that you do not impede a tack or gybe.
- If you need to give assistance remember the safety of people is your prime objective, the boats come second.
- Keep a look out for large vessels and let the Race Officer know if you see a ship approaching, even if it is more than a mile away.
- Once racing is finished and all dinghies are ashore, head back to your berth and let the Race Officer know that you are off duty. You do not have to stay out to provide safety cover for people who decide to continue sailing after the event is finished.
- Secure the boat and return the yellow box and the VHF radio to the race hut.
- Return any marks and ground tackle used to where they came from.
- Report any faults with the boat or other equipment to the Bosun.