



Safety on the Water - COVID-19 Update

Safety on the water starts with us all as sailors. We each make the decision to sail based on our experience, health, familiarity with the boat we are sailing and the weather conditions and accept that we do so entirely at our own risk.

Sailors on the water are also responsible for each other's safety. In choosing to sail, each sailor accepts that they will, if necessary, undertake the rescue of another sailor or that they themselves may require rescue even though the act of being rescued carries a risk of virus transmission.

The principal of Buddy Sailing is that sailors must be capable of helping their buddy or, in emergencies, sailing to shore and driving a power boat out to help. Sailors should only use Buddy Sailing in low risk conditions. The risk will depend on the sailors concerned, their experience, health, familiarity with the boat being sailed and the weather conditions. Buddy sailing is not appropriate in heavy or gusty winds because the risk of capsize or injury is too high. The Compliance Officer will have the final decision on whether conditions are appropriate for Buddy Sailing to take place.

Safety Boats may only be operated by Appropriately Qualified people. Appropriately Qualified means having completed Powerboat 2 or have been assessed by a power boat instructor as having adequate power boat handling skills, as shown on the latest Chelmarsh Safety Boat list.

The Safety Boat should only be used for:

1. Providing assistance to a sailor in an emergency situation;
2. Assisting in the recovery of a sailing boat, so long as the social distancing requirement of 2m/6ft is met at all times;
1. Providing support to a sailor, so long as the social distancing requirement of 2m/6ft is met at all times.

Buddy Sailing requires:

- More than one boat on the water – no boat may ever sail alone.
- Safety Boat to be moored to pontoon, fuelled and ready to use. The engine should have been started and warmed up before any sailing boat launches. Sailors who have not used a safety boat for some time should familiarise themselves with its operation.
- The safety equipment listed on the Safety Boat should be in place before any sailing boat launches and should be stored back in the Clubhouse when the last sailing boat has left the water.
- At least 2 boats on the water at any time must have a sailor who is Appropriately Qualified. This is so that a boat can be sailed back to shore to pick up the Safety Boat, if needed.
- Sailors should monitor each other closely.
- Each sailing boat should carry sufficient safety equipment to enable it to give help in case of an emergency. As a minimum, this includes:
 - a mobile phone (carried at the sailor's risk) – reduces any delay in calling the emergency services; and
 - a 3-5m long painter – enables towing by the Safety Boat whilst minimising contact with shared equipment;
 - We also recommend that sailors carry a whistle to attract attention.
- The Compliance Officer shall ensure that all touched surfaces on the Safety Boat are wiped down with sanitiser spray (as supplied) at the beginning of a session, after any use, and at the end of the session.