



## Safety Plan 2018-19

### Introduction

This Safety Plan deals with all stages of rescue from single vessel capsizes to a whole-of-fleet emergency. Participants include Race Committee safety boats, mark boats, coach boats and spectator boats at different levels of the Plan.

The Alpha Course RO shall have contact with a qualified on-call medical practitioner at all times. The Alpha Course RO will communicate with Hobart VTS (Hobart Port Control) and local emergency services.

### Main Points

- All rescue activities are under control and direction of the Alpha Course Race Officer (RO) in liaison with the Shore Patrol
- Radio channel for Alpha Course is Channel 10
- Radio channel for Bravo Course is Channel 15
- Back up radio channel for both courses is Channel 9
- Radio traffic from a safety boat in a rescue has priority over other transmissions
- All powered craft (safety, mark-laying, coach and spectator boats) should conduct a radio check with the Start Boat before racing.
- When you attend a boat capsizes or breakage needing assistance, report to the Course RO that you are:
  - Standing By
  - Assisting in Recovery of the Boat or
  - Additional Assistance Required - Specify (e.g. Medical, tow, etc.)
- If a crew member of the rescue boat is required to enter the water, this must be reported to the Course RO.
- If you remove competitors from their boat, this must be reported to the Course RO.
- Where possible, towing duties should be assigned to Race Committee Boats other than designated safety boats – usually mark boats.
- Tag-on and Tag-off is critical to safety

### Rescue Boat Equipment

Each designated safety boat shall carry, in good condition and working order: a first aid kit; VHF radio with appropriate frequencies; a readily available and effective sharp knife to cut sheets, trampoline, harnesses etc. to free a sailor; a supply of green floats on lanyards; heaving lines, towlines, and safety equipment as determined by MAST for the size and type of vessel.

Each designated safety boat will be crewed by two competent, licensed operators, at least one of whom is an adult. One person on each boat shall at all times be prepared to enter the water to assist in a rescue.

### **Level 1 - Normal conditions (0 to 15 knots of breeze)**

Individual boat capsizes or breakage involving a need for assistance. This will be carried out by an individual rescue boat and reported to the Course RO as either:

- ↳ Standing By
- ↳ Assisting in Recovery of the Boat or
- ↳ Additional Assistance Required - Specify (e.g. Medical, tow, etc.)

If a crew member of the safety boat is required to enter the water, this must be reported to the Course RO.

If you remove competitors from their boat, this must be reported to the Course RO.

Where possible, towing duties should be assigned to Race Committee Boats other than designated rescue boats – for example Mark Boats, coach or spectator boats.

### **Level 2 - Strong conditions (15 to 25 knots of breeze)**

Multiple capsizes or breakages. All Race Committee boats will be called upon to assist with rescues, coordinated by Course RO. Regular situation reports from boats engaged in rescues to be radioed to Course RO.

At the upper end of this wind-range, coach boats may be called upon to assist, however the Alpha Course RO will not use this option unless required.

### **Level 3 - Wind strength consistently over 25 knots, gusting higher**

Racing abandoned. All competing boats to return to shore as soon as possible. Competitors on-shore not to launch. All Race Committee and coach boats to be available to assist with rescue at the direction of the Alpha Course RO. The Alpha Course RO to liaise with the Shore Patrol.

### **Level 4 - Severe, gale strength conditions**

All Race Committee and coach boats involved in rescue, at direction of Alpha Course RO. Overall rescue plan managed by Alpha Course RO in liaison with the Shore Patrol.

May involve abandoning competing boats on the course area and collecting crews in Race Committee and coach boats. Suitable spectator boats may be asked to take crews on board from other rescuing craft.

Abandoned boats must have a green float attached to the rigging signifying that crews are safe.

Alpha Course RO shall maintain level of contact required with other Race Committees operating fleets in the vicinity to determine best use of available resources. SBSC safety boats may be called upon to assist other fleets. This shall be at the direction of the Alpha Course RO.

### **Electrical storms**

In the event of an electrical storm forecast, the Race Committee should consult the weather radar to observe the track of the storm, if any, and take appropriate action, which may include postponing launching, returning to shore, continue racing or shortening courses. The Race Committee should continue to observe the weather radar until the storm has passed or racing is concluded.

### **Important**

Maintenance and monitoring of Tag-On and Tag-Off is critical to the success of this Rescue Plan. The Shore Patrol shall ensure that at all times there is a competent person on duty to note sign-offs from retiring or finishing competitors.