Dundee Sailing Club

Club Sailing Events Safety Procedures

Version 1 March 2016

1 Purpose

These procedures cover the safe use of Club boats during Club sailing sessions.

2 Sailing Competency

Members of the Club may take out and helm a Club boat during a Club event once they have achieved competency in the following skills (equivalent to RYA level 2):

a. Rig, including reefing the mainsail if necessary, and launch a boat

b. Sail a triangular course, making all the required manoeuvres safely

c. Have a basic knowledge of the Collision Regulations Right of Way rules

d. Carry out a capsize recovery procedure

e. Come into land in a controlled fashion to reduce risk of damage to the boat or crew

f. Recover (with assistance) a boat to shore and de-rig a boat

3 Rigging and Pre-Sailing Checks

Before a Club Boat is used the following checks must be made:

a. Any faults listed on the Boathouse whiteboard are noted as having been fixed

b. Ensure that paddle, anchor, bailing bucket, spare rope and spare smaller foresail are present and secured within the boat

c. The tiller, rudder and its up-haul and down-haul are in good condition

d. All shroud pins are taped, and shackles are tight

e. All sheets and halyards are in good condition and running freely

f. Sails are undamaged and attached properly

4 Safety Briefing

a. Before a Club sailing session, the Safety Boat helm and / or the Officer of the Day will gather together all those taking part and inform people of:
    i) Destination
    ii) Weather
    iii) Tide
    iv) Any particular risks
    v) Safety procedures

b. The decisions made by the Safety Boat helm and / or the Officer of the Day about any sailing session, are to be adhered with.

5 Launching

a. Follow the Club Safety Policy guidance for reducing accidents on the slipway

b. Be aware of, and give way to, pedestrians and cyclists using the public pathway between the club and the slipway

c. Keep a sharp lookout to avoid colliding with boats moored close to slipway

d. When instructed by the Safety Helm to sail as a group, early launchers are to manoeuvre off the slipway while others are launching before setting off together

6 Interactions with Safety Boat(s)

a. Follow instructions given from the safety boat

b. The Club safety boat can be contacted on VHF channel 37A

c. Alternatively use double overhead arm waving to signal to the safety boat that you need assistance

d. In the event of a tow, follow instructions from the safety boat. Don't tie the towrope to the boat, but secure loosely, usually around the mast and hold on to loose end.

7 Cruising

a. To allow the safety boat to provide effective cover a cruising group should stay together.

b. Care is to be taken when landing boats for picnic stops to avoid unnecessary damage to hulls, centreboards and rudders. Be aware of wind direction and direction of tide to allow for a safer and easier exit

c. In the event of capsize, stay with the boat and proceed with capsize self-recovery. Other boats should signal the safety boat and stay in the vicinity in case assistance is required

8 Local Conditions

a. The Tay features strong tides up and down the river which heavily influence passage plans

b. Moored boats close to the slipway are a hazard to be carefully avoided when launching and landing

c. Be aware of and give way to participants in Royal Tay Yacht Club dinghy racing, when launching, landing and out cruising.

d. Be aware of the potential for fluctuating wind when passing under the road or rail bridge

e. Keep a lookout for and keep clear of any shipping passing along the Tay

9 Landing

a. The shore is rocky and boats can be damaged during landing, particularly at low tide. Approach slowly and under control.

b. Keep clear of other boats also landing

c. Crew is to disembark and hold boat clear of the beach, while awaiting trolley

d. Ensure boat is positioned correctly on the trolley and is secured at the bow before pulling up the slipway

e. Refer to Quad Bike Safety Procedure document for safe practices when using the quad to pull a boat up the slipway

f. Members should be prepared to stop de-rigging to assist with the recovery of the safety boat

10 De-Rigging and Post-Sailing Checks

Club Boats should be left ready for the next use:

a. Hose down the boat and trolley and drain water out before returning the boat to the compound.

b. Leave larger genoa foresail attached and neatly stowed in a loose roll. If a smaller jib has been used this should be removed, put into its sail bag (if dry) or left to dry over the boom.

c. Flake the mainsail (un-reefed) over the boom.

d. Halyards are to be looped around the shrouds before being secured at the mast, to stop them banging against the mast and causing a nuisance to our neighbours and damage to the mast.

e. Remove any spare clothing, sandwiches, water bottles or litter from the boat.

f. Secure the cover over the boat, leave the bungs out and the bow lifted for any remaining water or rain to drain.

g. Tie the boat down securely.

11 Faults and Damage after Using Club Boats

a. Repair any minor faults immediately, e.g. new shackle needed, pins re-taped, lost bung. Record any use of parts from the workshop on the whiteboard, so the stock can be replaced.

b. For more serious faults or gear failures note them clearly on the club boat whiteboard in the workshop. Inform the Officer of the Day