



HAMPTON PIER YACHT CLUB SAFETY BOAT CREW GUIDANCE

Qualifications

No patrol boat can operate as a safety boat without a crew on board. You may be one of the club's most experienced sailors or a "know-nothing" enthusiast, but the only qualifications for a HPYC safety boat crew are that you are a HPYC member and willing, if necessary, to enter the water. **HPYC recommends willing crew attend their 'in house' safety boat shore-based training day and first aid training day.** Parental consent is required for a Safety Boat crew under the age of 18.

Before the Race

Please arrive 1 hour 30 minutes before a club start to meet with the Race Officer and safety boat helm. You need to meet with the Race Officer, your safety boat driver for a briefing. The safety boat needs to be checked and fuelled before launch, marks and ground tackle identified and loaded, courses agreed, and there needs to be time for the physical process of laying the course before the race officer can begin the start sequence.

Equipment for a safety boat crew

- Buoyancy aid, allowing mobility in the water; not a gas inflated life jacket
- Appropriate clothing to stay warm and as dry as possible, including a wet suit or dry suit, sailing gloves (for handling ropes and chain), hat or cap and closed toe, secure foot wear (Flip flops are not acceptable)
- Bring plenty to drink (but please not in a plastic single-use container), sun cream and sun glasses on sunny days

The possible requirements of the duty include:

- Assisting with launch and recovery of the safety boat, e.g. trailer guidance / line tailing for use of the ramp winch
- Laying and Recovery of buoys as course marks
- Recovering a capsized, inverted or disabled boat
- Recovering a casualty from the water
- Looking after a casualty while being taken ashore
- Towing a disabled boat
- Aiding a recovered boat back to the shore
- It is an essential requirement that the safety boat crew must be prepared to enter the water if necessary.

The crew does not need to have any particular knowledge or experience for coping with these situations however HPYC does provide 'in house' training to support you. The driver will give whatever direction is needed, including the use of VHF Radio.

Not everyone may have the ability to perform all requirements. Please inform the Race Officer and your Safety Boat driver of any limitation.

Thank you for taking on this essential role to ensure safe sailing.