

## STOKE GABRIEL BOATING ASSOCIATION GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISERS OF WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL

This guidance is a very abbreviated short guide to sensible safety precautions for club-organised events on the water. Event organisers (Officer of the Day or OOD) are recommended to also read the club's training procedures manual for more detailed guidance. The training procedures manual is written for a higher level of supervision of large numbers of children where the organisers/instructors take a greater level of responsibility but nevertheless is worth reading.

- **No one is to go out without a buoyancy aid.**
- Assess at the start whether the conditions are too windy. Discuss it with the more experienced members around. Members are, however, responsible for deciding for themselves whether they can cope with the prevailing conditions. If you cancel the event just tell anyone who wants to sail anyway that there is no safety boat so it is at their own risk. You can also decide to say it is suitable for experienced sailors only and maintain the safety boat.
- No-one should take out a club boat at an organised event until there is a safety boat ready and crewed (2 people ideally, no small children but those with sailing skills all kitted up are ok if they are there to help keep a look out). Occasionally there won't be a safety boat driver arranged in advance so you need to pick the best available. Ask if anyone has done it before or is qualified powerboat 2 or safety boat. On a busy day it would be sensible to have two safety boats out on the water, especially when it is windy.
- Keep a lookout. The safety boat will usually be better placed to see if there are any real problems but if they don't notice something contact them by radio.
- Keep a record (whiteboard) of who is on the water and make the adults write on the board themselves, the children won't often remember. You can delegate this job but the person doing it needs to don another yellow waistcoat so that they can quite pro-actively keep the record current.
- In the event of multiple capsizes which are not being righted quickly it will take the safety boat some time to deal with them all. If this is due to strong winds recall people to the beach. Having a spare safety boat ready on the beach is very sensible. If possible send someone else with a radio. When they have delivered the message they can help recovering crews and dinghies (in that order).
- We don't have to supervise children, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We should stop them swimming in the area where boats land as it is dangerous.
- Child protection is an issue to be aware of. There is a good and relevant policy in the training procedures manual.
- First aid: You may have had some first aid training, hopefully the safety boat crew will have. The club now offers first aid training to the RYA qualification in-house at a very reasonable cost.

- Communications in an emergency: It is important to have a working mobile telephone in case of emergency. Not all networks are good at Mill Point. The nearest landline is at the River Shack restaurant. 999 will reach the coastguard who can mobilise local ambulance, air ambulance and harbour authority craft as well as the RNLI.
- Help people getting boats out and ready. Don't use your own muscle; you have enough to do. Order people around a bit and it all starts to happen. You do need to help people with setting up rigs, rudders etc. but there will be others around who you can ask to help.
- Try to make sure that everything gets put away in the right place. Again direct others rather than trying to do it all yourself. Record any breakages or things not working on the board in boat store. Lock up.
- Ice cream and relax at the River Shack. Well done.

### Useful info

Boat store and topper codes 1688 (the 'Glorious Revolution' William of Orange lands at Brixham.)

Annexe key safe code 1066A (William the Conqueror landed somewhere else) safety boat keys/killcords.

The radios for communication between safety boat and OOD are kept in the club-room; please re-charge the ones you have been using.

First aid kit in boat store and safety boat.