

POWERBOAT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. Familiarise with boat, using guidance in Operations Manual.
2. Check boat using check list.
3. Attach driver to boat with kill cord before starting engine.
4. Complete radio check whilst within hailing distance.
5. Listen for radio messages. In emergency, call OSC bridge or if necessary Mayday on Channel 16.
6. Establish the number of boats racing/training and the area of operation.
7. Keep a lookout all around, using crew to assist.
8. In the event of capsize, count heads and go first to where you cannot see the right number.
9. Prioritise the safety of people. Boats and bits can be salvaged later!
10. Match speed to conditions: avoid wake disturbance if possible; slow down in rough water; only use maximum speed when essential.
11. **Casualties should be lifted horizontally whenever possible.** This is because when cold the body restricts blood flow to the skin to reduce heat loss and directs it to the vital organs. Before rescue the hydrostatic squeeze of the water supports the casualty's circulation. When recovered this support is lost and, if lifted vertically, the blood drains to the feet and away from the vital organs. The resulting loss of blood pressure can cause a heart attack.
12. Ensure you and all passengers have a firm handhold at all times.
13. Warn passengers when making manoeuvres at speed, approaching rough water or meeting wash from other vessels.
14. If going alongside, warn all persons to keep hands and fingers clear.
15. When towing astern, use the bridle and always have a spotter watching the tow. Lift centreboard. Remember that some small dinghies may tow best alongside.
16. If towing alongside stow sails first and lift/remove centreboard: sailboard rig should lay across the safety boat.
17. **Switch off engine** before coming alongside someone in the water.
18. Avoid fouling the propeller with ropes or sails.
19. Raise the engine when moving close to shore and switch off in good time.