

# VYC Sail Racing Series and Regatta Safety Protocol

Reviewed 2023-04-25

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- Remember Rule 1.1 (Racing Rules of Sailing (2021-2024)) a boat or competitor and support person shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.
- Boats are advised to have at least a portable VHF radio turned on to Channel 72, so that important safety information, or logistical information can be received..
- Committee Boat and all competing boats must comply with the Small Vessel Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act which require specific safety items on board depending on the length of your vessel. Ideally all competing boats should be equipped with some basic safety items such as:
  - Heaving line
  - Gaff (plastic end, not sharp pointed)
  - Floating tow line at least 25m
  - Knife
  - Rigging cutters
  - Whistle or horn
  - Anchor
  - First aid kit

## Recommended Safety Procedure

- Know your safe wind speed for your boat. Should you feel unsafe you can withdraw from a race.
- The Committee Boat can decide if a race should be abandoned due to unsafe conditions.
- Know who to communicate with onshore for ambulance or other emergency personnel required (ie S&R, ambulance)
- If medical assistance is required, consider the best/most appropriate transfer point for the ambulance/emergency personnel. Locations to consider are: Paddlewheel boat launch and VYC pump out station. If it is decided in conjunction with the emergency response team to meet at the VYC pump out station consider how emergency personnel will gain access through the marina gate and be directed to pump out station.
- In case of a serious accident, Committee Boat can decide to abandon racing and send sailors ashore
- If there are any special safety procedures they should be in SIs and competitors should be briefed prior to commencing racing
- First priority is always the safety of the individual(s), boat(s) should be abandoned unless it is feasible to recover.
- Rescue boats should take position to windward of party at risk to provide wind and wave protection. Engines must be in neutral when in close proximity to a person in the water
- Committee Boat should not leave the racing area in an emergency situation until all are accounted for.
- Remember RRS 37. When Race Committee displays flag V with one sound, all boats and official and support vessels shall, if possible, monitor the race committee communication channel (68) for search and rescue instructions.
- Do not attempt to administer first aid unless qualified to do so
- Do not interfere with racing operations unless a safety risk exists

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY: In accordance with rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing (2021-2024), competitors participate entirely at their own risk. VYC will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after racing.