



Porthpean Sailing Club **Be safe in the safety boat**

The following applies to users of the safety boats at Porthpean Sailing Club – May 2023

Preparation:

- Check the boat for fuel and run the engine to check all is running correctly.
- You will need 2 radios and 2 kill cord belts. The kill cord belts are to be worn at all times when afloat.
- Use only one radio at a time to avoid feedback.
- Make sure that you have the flags and that the marks are loaded and tied to the boat.

Launching:

- Proceed to the beach with the boat. Make sure the slipway and beach are safe and clear for the tow truck driver.
- Once on the beach make sure it is safe for the boat to be reversed to the water's edge.
- Unload the marks and attach to the boat, usually two on the tow rope and one each side of the boat.
- Unload into the water making sure that the tow rope stays clear of the propeller.
- Wade the boat into sufficient water so that the prop is clear of the bottom. *The engine can be set at half tilt in order to facilitate shallower launching but be aware that larger waves can cause it to become fully lowered and dig into the sand.*
- **When you are ready to start the motor check with your crew that people and the tow rope are clear of the propeller.**
- Check your crew is aware of any manoeuvres that are about to take place.
- Proceed to leave the beach at a slow, steady pace.
- Once in deeper water lock the engine in the fully down position.

At all times be very aware of swimmers and other water users!

On the water:

- Once the course is laid, lay the start line but at all times be aware of any boats that may be in difficulty.
- If a boat is capsized and the crew are not visible, or in contact with their boat, abandon the start and attend to the casualty.
- Once the race has started, proceed to the middle of the course, and keep a watch on the competitors.
- If the sea is large, keep to the windward end of the course as it is quicker to travel downwind than into a big sea.



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- Once racing is finished collect the marks and fasten them to the boat in the same manner as for launching.

Returning to the beach and club:

- **Proceed to the beach area keeping a close watch for swimmers and other water users.**
- In the case of onshore winds and bigger waves it can sometimes be best to cast the marks free so that they float ashore separately. If that is the case, be sure that no swimmers are put in danger.
- When you can see that people on the beach are ready to receive the safety boat and there is a clear path to the beach, unlock the engine and proceed towards the shore and the boat trailer.
- Disengage the gears and switch off the engine and lift it before it comes in contact with the beach.
- Once the boat is safely on the trailer return to the dinghy park, always being aware of other beach users.
- Rinse the marks, boat and radios and run the engine with fresh water. Return everything to its storage area.

Duty done!