

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB
2024 RACING SAFETY POLICY



1. The Sailing Committee shall use its best endeavours to propose, implement, and regularly review safety policies and procedures in line with RYA recommendations and practices to minimise the risk of injury, death or damage to property for competitors in all races organised under the Burgee of the Medway Yacht Club.
2. Risks will be assessed, and SIMPLE, CLEAR, PRECISE, and PRACTICAL procedures shall be agreed, with the intent of reducing these risks wherever it is practically possible to do so for the benefit of those involved in racing on the Thames Estuary and River Medway. These should particularly cover:
 - a. Differing classes; from well found cruisers to racing dinghies.
 - b. Weather and tidal conditions
 - c. Course areas
 - d. Numbers of competitors
 - e. Expected capabilities of any crews involved.
3. **Personal Safety**, adequate consideration shall be given with regard to the:
 - a. Regulations governing the requirement for boats to carry and/or crew to wear personal buoyancy.
 - b. Prescribed Minimum Equipment Lists (MEL's) for each class.
 - c. Provision of patrol boat cover which shall take account of the inherent risks mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
 - d. Directives of any relevant port authorities including Notice to Mariners and local byelaws.
 - e. The Fundamental Rules of Sailing in regard to Safety and the Decision to Race.
4. **Patrol boat cover** is fundamental to the safe conduct of open keelboat (Dragons and Squibs) and dinghy racing. The Hon Safety Boat Captain (or in his absence the Flag Officer responsible for sailing) shall organise the provision of suitable boats. Racing Class Captains and Sailing Committee are responsible for manning boats with appropriate volunteer members. The number of boats to be available are:
 - a. For Club points racing two boats is the normal provision. On any day of Club points racing where there are fewer than 12 boats racing one patrol boat is acceptable provision where the person responsible deems it safe. With this in mind the person responsible, shall, having regard to the weather forecast, and if he/she deems it necessary, arrange extra patrol boat cover, restrict different types of racing to smaller and more easily policed course areas, or, if necessary, abandon racing for any or all classes. He/she may consult with the Class Captains on these matters but, unless overruled by a Flag officer, his or her decision is final. For the avoidance of doubt the person responsible in Club points racing is the Racing Officer of the Day
 - b. At Open events it shall be the responsibility of the Organising Committee of such events to ensure that the provision of patrol boat cover is compatible with the expected number and type of boats entering.

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5. **Accounting procedures for participants** shall be:
 - a. For Club Points racing – as laid down by the Sailing Committee.
 - b. At Open events – as laid down by the Sailing Committee - the provision of accounting procedures is obligatory. (For dinghy events see Responsibilities, Major Incidents and Emergencies document.)
6. **Open Event planning.** The Organising Committee of such events shall pay due regard to this policy and the recommendations of the RYA in respect of the various posts necessary for the safe running of a major event.
7. **Major Incident Procedures** are laid out in the Responsibilities, Major Incidents and Emergencies document.
8. **Ambulance landing point and emergency telephone numbers** are laid out in the Responsibilities, Major Incidents and Emergencies document.

Approved by the Management Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Moore'.

Signature

Date 28/02/2024