

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Revision History

Revision	Date	Description of Changes	Committee Approval
1	2023-03-06	Implement revision control. 4 ii Changed 'should' to 'must'. Removed section on capsizing technique. Formatting changes.	2023-09-08

YNZ Regulations

Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations apply to all boats taking part in club activities. These safety regulations are printed on the yellow pages towards the back of current Yachting New Zealand Racing Rules of Sailing & Safety Regulations. Parts I and V are applicable to the types of boat sailing at our club.

Part I refers to unballasted centreboard & open yachts.

Part V covers trailer yachts.

Club Safety Procedures

The following is specific to our sailing area and is in addition to the Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations.

- 1 Crews should exercise caution in going onto the water in boisterous conditions or conditions heavier than they have experienced. They should only do so if they are assured that assistance will be at hand in an emergency.
- 2 In the event of a capsizing in conditions beyond the capability of the crew to handle the boat, or breakage of gear, crews should stay with the boat at all times until assistance arrives.
- 3 Competitors in difficulty are requested to respect the instructions of the patrol boat crews. They are there to help and their first priority is your safety and wellbeing. They may decide to take you to safety and leave your boat until later.
- 4 When conditions deteriorate during the course of a race, the Race Officer may signal either of two options.
 - i. Shorten the race, in which case you must decide whether to try to complete the race, or go ashore immediately; or
 - ii. Abandon the race, in which case you must go ashore immediately.
- 5 In conditions where there is current running seaward and there is no wind, head to the nearest bank by using your paddle or centreboard. Don't wait for a patrol boat, particularly if you are past the entrance to the lagoon. You can be picked up off the bank later. A patrol boat can only attend to one boat at a time.
- 6 When juniors have completed their race, they must not sail down below the seaward side of the lagoon. This is to avoid the situation where the current may take them further seaward while patrol boats are attending other boats still racing.
- 7 Under International Regulations for Preventing Collisions, small vessels or sailing vessels must not

impede vessels which can navigate only within a narrow channel. Actions taken (by small vessels) to avoid collisions should be positive, obvious and made in good time.

- 8 Our sailing venue can be adversely affected by a rapid rise in river level and flow caused either by a flash flood or tsunami.
 - a. The river level is now well monitored making the prediction of a flash flood event more likely allowing for sailing to be shortened or abandoned in plenty of time.
 - b. If there is a strong earthquake (for example where those on-shore are unable to stand up) there is likely to be a high risk of a tsunami. The race will be abandoned and all boats should come ashore as quickly as possible. The assembly point is the clubroom lounge.

Signalling for Assistance

1. Crews should signal for assistance as soon as possible before becoming exhausted.
2. The correct signals to indicate that assistance is needed are:
 - (a) **Crew in Boat**
 - (i) Either both hands raised above the head and lowered to the sides cyclically at 5 second intervals; **or**
 - (ii) A flag or other object on a spar moved from side to side through an arc of 30 degrees either side of the vertical, cyclically at 5 second intervals.
 - (b) **Crew in Water**
One hand raised above the head for 3 seconds at 5 second intervals.

Instructions for Crews Involved in a Capsize

1. Capsizing is a perfectly normal part of sailing, and if treated as such, with proper procedure and a few precautions, will remain that way.
 - (a) Check that all crew are safe - not caught under sails, under the hull or injured.
 - (b) **Do not leave the boat:** The shortest swim is always too far and the boat is more visible than your head in rough water.
 - (c) **Do not swim after gear that comes adrift:** Many boats are so buoyant when capsized that they can be blown out of reach.
2. An intact boat will not sink, so do not panic. But if the water is cold, do not delay in righting the boat and re-boarding her.