**Yealm Yacht Club**

**Risk Assessment**

**For**

**RNLI Passage Race**

**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to assess the risks associated with Sailing racing and confirms that the risks are mitigated to an acceptable level..

**2.0 Scope**

The scope of this document covers all craft racing carried out by the Yealm Yacht Club from Plymouth Sound to Wembury Bay, and in the Yealm River.

**3.0 Responsibility**

The direct responsibility for the safety of participants in sailing racing lies with the participants themselves. However, the Yealm Yacht Club has a duty of care to ensure that the racing is carried out in a safe and organised manner.

Within the Club the responsibility for the production of the Risk Assessment and the provision of sufficiently qualified and experienced people and equipment to effectively manage the racing lies with the Club Officers, Sailing Committee and the individual Race Officers.

For each Race the Race Officer and his Race Management Team are responsible for the safety and good management of the race and to carry out any actions required to address any incidents.

**4.0 Risk Assessment**

The risks associated with Sailing racing are considered in the table below. This includes an assessment of the risks encountered and relates to the probability, possible consequences and mitigation in place. The risk should be at least ACCEPTABLE for racing to take place.

**5.0 General**

To ensure that all potential risks are kept to a minimum race entrants are required to read the Sailing Instructions and to sign that they have read and accept the rules and responsibilities. Parents or guardians of entrants and participants under 18 years of age are required to confirm knowledge and acceptance of their responsibilities.

YYC will ensure provision of adequately manned patrol craft. Patrol craft will be in radio contact with Race Officer ashore/afloat whenever possible. Adults are able to use mobile phones to contact emergency services if needed. This Risk Assessment will be made available to all on the YYC website. Patrol Craft are provided primarily for safety of the crews. They will only tow abandoned craft after all the crew are accounted for and it does not put the safety of safety crew and other entrants at risk.

** Yealm Yacht Club**

**Risk Assessment Form: Inshore Sailing Race (All Sailing Craft)**

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| **Hazard**  *List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people*. | **Who might be harmed?**  *List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards identified*. | **Is the risk adequately controlled?** *List existing controls or note where the information may be found. (e.g. Information, instruction training, systems or procedures)* | **What further action is needed to control the risk?**  *List the risks which are not adequately controlled and proposed action where it is reasonably practicable to do more*. |
| Capsize placing participant at risk of drowning or hypothermia | Race entrants | Buoyancy aids must be worn for dinghy and dayboat entrants. Patrol/ safety boats will attend any incident quickly and carry spare clothes and thermal blanket |  |
| Injury as a result of collision or other accident | Race entrants | Tactical positioning of patrol boats carrying first aid kits at high risk parts of the course. Patrol boats carry a radio to communicate with other boats and shore staff |  |
| Deterioration in weather conditions | Race entrants | Race Officer determines the risk of each individual boat class to prevailing and forecast conditions and whether to abandon race. Patrol boats vigilant to craft in difficulty. | In case of severe difficulties where patrol boats are unable to assist, coastguard is advised |
| Loss of radio communication by Patrol boats | Patrol/safety/organisers | Mobile phones used as back-up. Patrol boats briefed on risk and control measures prior to race |  |
| Junior entrant does not have a parent present at the race | Entrants under 18 | Parents or guardian of entrants under 18 years of age to notify race officer in writing of who is responsible for their child; otherwise junior entrants not permitted to sail at event. |  |
| Incident causes boat to be abandoned | Race entrants | Boat is towed to nearest safe haven by a patrol boat for recovery where this can be safely carried out |  |
| Sudden danger in the location of event such as sudden squall, fog, large waves | Race entrants particularly small craft | Race entrants in the class/classes at risk make way to nearest safe haven. Patrol boats ensure all boats are accounted for. |  |
| Boat driven on to rocks/ underwater structure | Race entrants | Providing it is safe to do so patrol boat will rescue | Coastguard called if rescue is not possible. Patrol boat will remain in the area until safety teams drive |
| Risks and dangers prior to start of race | Race entrants | A pre race meeting for entrants will take place on the day prior to the race for entrants to discuss issues of safety and procedure. Only boats that have entered and notified the start officer of their intent to race will be entitled to race |  |
| Patrol boat activity | Patrol/safety/organisers | Sailing instructions and race notices will be sent to all patrol/safety/organisers craft and a briefing will be given to patrol boats just prior to the race start |  |
| Becalmed | Race entrants | Patrol/safety/committee boats to tow becalmed boats to nearest port |  |
| Divers and dive boats on or near course line | Divers in water | Entrants advised to pay attention to divers and dive boats. Where necessary a safety boat to be stationed a safe distance away and display a red flag. Boats are instructed to pass to port | Local diving clubs and schools advised of race course and time beforehand so that they can prepare for passing boats |

**Original Assessor: Tommy Taylor,** Rear Commodore (Sail) YYC, **Fred McArthur,** Vice Commodore YYC**, Martyn Cawse,** YYC Member

**20th May 2014**

**Reviewed and updated**

**April 2018 Duncan Macpherson Rear Commodore Sail**

**April 2019 Updated by Chris Tullett and endorsed by YYC Sailing Committee**

**June 2019 Ian Kennedy Rear Commodore Sail**

**January 2020 Ian Kennedy Rear Commodore Sail**

**January 2021 Ian Kennedy Rear Commodore Sail**