

Yealm Yacht Club

Risk Assessment

for

RNLI Passage Race 1 June 2024

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assess the risks associated with sailing racing and confirm 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)

Hazard <i>List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people.</i>	Who might be harmed? <i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards identified.</i>	Is the risk adequately controlled? <i>List existing controls or note where the information may be found. (e.g. Information, instruction training, systems or procedures)</i>	What further action is needed to control the risk? <i>List the risks which are not adequately controlled and proposed action where it is reasonably practicable to do more.</i>
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 arrive
Risks and dangers prior to start of race	Race entrants	A meeting for entrants will take place before 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 if necessary

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

April 2023 Robert Jeffery, Race Officer

March 2024 Robert Jeffery, Race Officer