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RESPONSIBILITY OF SAILORS POLICY

It is the responsibility of the sailor, or parent or guardian of the sailor, to decide that they are able and competent to participate safely in the race and not to launch if that is in doubt.

The sailor must have a knowledge level that is compatible with their reasonable participation in the race, including knowledge of the Sailing Instructions and the Racing Rules of Sailing, in particular the rules to avoid collisions. Notwithstanding the rules of racing, the sailor will take all reasonable actions to avoid a collision even when in a right of way situation.

The sailor must hold appropriate third-party insurance.

Before leaving the beach, the sailor, parent or guardian of the sailor shall assess and judge that the sailor's ability is compatible with the sailing conditions and their equipment is adequate for the race. The following should be considered:

- The responsibility for a sailor's decision to participate in a race, or to continue racing is theirs alone. **The sailor is entirely responsible for their own safety.**
- The sailor should understand that the patrol boat is there to provide assistance and cannot be relied on as a professional rescue service.
- The location of the race, inside or outside of the harbour and the wind, tidal and sea conditions of the course and the route to the race area.
- The weather forecast.
- The length of the race and the expected time on the water.
- Personal protective clothing and buoyancy which is adequate for the conditions. Special care is required in cold or windy conditions, especially for juniors.
- Long hair should be tied up.
- The boat should comply with the class rules.
- The boat should be in a safe and seaworthy condition and compatible with the class rules in particular the rules for buoyancy, with all buoyancy bags, fixed buoyancy and hatches fully functional.
- The sailor should know how to de-rig their boat/drop sails on the water.
- The sailor should consider carrying a safety knife and a 2m length of 4mm line for emergencies.
- Be aware that a large dredger occasionally enters the harbour and uses the main channel. This dredger has limited manoeuvrability and it is the sailor's obligation to keep clear.
- Also see section 20 of the Locks SC Sailing Instructions.

Sailors must use the signing on sheet before going afloat to participate in a race. By doing so he/she have acknowledged they have read and understood this Sailors Policy.

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