

DOVER LIFE GUARD CLUB

FOUNDED 1935



DOVER SWIMMING CLUB

FOUNDED 1886

Registered Charity Number 270111

AFFILIATED TO R.L.S.S. L.G.C. S.C.A.S.A. E.I.A.S.A. K.P.F.A. Kent Youth Service Dover District Sports Council

PROCEDURE FOR LAUNCHING SAFETY BOATS

INTRODUCTION

If club swimmers are going to swim beyond the 400 metre parameters (Prince of Wales pier and the second white pole), then it will be imperative that at least one safety boat is launched. There are no hard or fast rules or laws that states a specific number of safety boats should be launched for a given number of swimmers swimming in any given distance. If a swimmer is swimming further than 10 Kilometres then they will be accompanied by a canoe or safety craft displaying *flag alpha*. Common sense must prevail and efforts to launch as many safety boats and or canoes for any given event or training swim should always be made. *Personnel assigned to water safety should be to the ratio of 1 to 20 swimmers.*

MANNING OF A RESCUE / SAFETY BOAT

- Each boat must have at least two persons aboard. One of these persons must be an adult; two adults are preferred due to the difficulty of pulling a swimmer out of the water. I of these persons must be lifesaver qualified.
- Each boat must be handled by a *power boat level 2* qualified person at all times who will be responsible for the boat and its communications.
- 2 x boats must have a fully charged and working *VHF radio* on board.
- A vhf radio check must be carried out between the two boats and the headquarters. The headquarters radio must be with the open water & long distance secretary, the head coach or a responsible person experienced in open water swimming. For club swims run under ASA laws the person holding the headquarters radio is otherwise known as the Organiser / Promoter: please refer to *DLGC Operational Rules for Open Water Sea Swim Races* for duties and responsibilities.
- Each boat must have at least one *CRB checked* person on board.
- All persons on board must wear a life jacket.

BOAT CREW DUTIES

- Before the inflatable boat is launched, it should be checked for pressure and air added if necessary by using the foot pump.
- Before the rowing boat is launched it should be checked for any obvious damage that may render it sinkable.

- Boats should be safely carried to the waters edge by a minimum of four persons, one person to each quarter. Please refer to the *Health and Safety Risk Assessment*.
- When boats are in the water, they should be paddled away from the shore with the engine raised. When in deep enough water the engine can be lowered and started.
- Boats must keep a 10 metre distance from swimmers at all time unless assistance is needed.
- If a swimmer wishes to leave the water the boat handler should immediately turn alongside the swimmer, shut of the engine and with the help of the second crew member pull the swimmer out of the water and into the boat. He / she must be wrapped in the blanket provided and the headquarters should be immediately advised by vhf radio. The swimmer should then be returned to the headquarters and the boat should then return to the course.
- When the boats wish to come ashore, they should advise the headquarters by vhf radio that they require help beaching. They should observe the sea conditions, accelerate and when close to the shore raise the engine and glide into the beach. The second crew member should jump out and help any persons waiting on the beach to pull the boat out of the water.
- The engines should be removed and carried up to the headquarters.
- The boats should be emptied of sea water and safely carried up to the headquarters by a minimum of four persons.
- The boats should be stowed safely being careful not to puncture the inflatable boat.

BOAT EQUIPMENT

- Any boat that is launched must have a blanket which should be kept dry and clean inside of a waterproof bag.
- Any boat launched should have a first aid kit in the bag with the blanket.
- Throwing rope and aid.
- Lifesavers should take any other necessary equipment on the boat with them.
- 1 x bailer.
- Oars or paddle if engine fails.
- Safety line to secure engine to the boat.

ENGINES

- Before securing an engine to a boat, it must be started in the water butt to ensure that it will start and a check to ensure that there is water flow to cool the engine must be done.
- The 15hp engine should be secured and made safe with the safety line to the inflatable craft and used as the lead rescue boat. This boat can patrol the swim course and get to a swimmer wishing to retire and then return them to the headquarters very quickly.
- The 5hp engine should be secured and made safe with the safety line to the rowing boat. This boat should be used as the safety boat that can sweep behind the rescue boat or stay with a swimmer or group of swimmers.

- When the boats are back ashore, the engines must be re-started in the water butt to flush with fresh water.
- Engines should be stowed on the engine rack or laid on the floor in front of the engine rack to reduce the risk of oil leakage and tripping hazard.

VHF RADIO

- The three operating vhf radios should all be working on the same channel. This should be a non commercial channel which can be 68, 69 or 72. The channel number must be agreed before the boats are launched.
- In an emergency the headquarters radio handler will change channel to number 16 and make an emergency announcement calling **Dover Harbour Port Control** followed by his own identity **Dover Life Guard Headquarters**. This procedure must be continued until you are received by Port Control, and then the message can be sent.