

## RVSC HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

This Health and Safety Policy has been prepared with reference to the Sports Council Guidance Notes No 371. It assumes that the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act do not apply.

RVSC is primarily a sailing club whose principal objective is to promote and encourage the sport of sailing and racing. Taking part in water sports can be a hazardous activity and does carry risk. Responsibility for that risk must rest with each member and members are reminded of the following notice that appears on the membership form and each race sheet.

"I / We are fully aware of the risks of injury whilst participating in sailing and other water sports. I / We accept full responsibility for the safety and insurance of myself/ourselves and my/our crew and craft.

### RECREATIONAL SAILING

It is not possible for the club to assume responsibility for the safety of members who take part in recreational sailing, as the club is a voluntary organisation and has no control over when and where a member may choose to sail.

Members are strongly recommended to consider carefully the weather and water conditions and their own experience and competence before going out to sail.

Members are also recommended to give details to someone of when and how long they intend to sail.

A club patrol boat will only be on the water when club racing is taking place, but then its primary role will be to monitor craft taking part in a race. If a patrol boat observes any vessel or person(s) in difficulties whether racing or otherwise, it will use all reasonable endeavours to either render assistance or call upon a third party to provide such assistance.

Any club member observing any craft or person(s) in difficulty should either call the Emergency Services for assistance or seek the help of other craft.

Any club adult full member is authorised, if they deem it appropriate and believe themselves to have suitable competence and experience, to launch a club patrol boat to seek to render assistance to a craft or persons in peril. It should always be remembered that the priority is to be the saving of lives before saving a craft.

### RACING

When participating in club racing it is the responsibility of each participant to comply with the club rules and byelaws which include obligations relating to the carrying of safety equipment.

Racing may take place without a patrol boat. Where this is the case it remains the responsibility of each person racing to consider carefully the weather and water conditions and their own experience and competence before entering the race.

It shall be the sole responsibility of each sailor to decide whether to start or to continue to race.

Where it is decided by consensus that a patrol boat should be launched such boat shall be launched and manned by a full adult member of the club who believes themselves to have suitable competence and

experience to do so. Although a patrol boat will endeavour to render assistance to any craft taking part in club racing whilst a race is in progress, no guarantee can be given that a patrol boat will be certain to give such assistance.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### COMMODORE

To ensure a safety policy is agreed by General Committee

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

To ensure a safety Policy is implemented within the funding and resources of the Club

### RACE OFFICER

To advise and co-ordinate Race Competitors on aspects of the club Safety Policy.

### RACE COMPETITORS

To comply with Club rules and byelaws with respect to Health and Safety, and the requirements of the Health and Safety Policy.

To assess their ability to sail regarding the prevailing and forecast weather conditions, and their own experience and competence.

### BOSUN

To ensure club Safety Equipment is maintained.