



Pevensey Bay Sailing Club – Powerboat Rules

Conditions for the safe and insured use of club powerboats to support PBSC sailing and water sport activities. All Helms, OODs and Activity organisers to be aware.

For a powerboat to provide safety cover for a club activity, the following must apply for helms and crews and there must be 2 people in the powerboat at all times (no more than 2):

1. Helms

- Helms are legally responsible for the conduct of the powerboat, the powerboat crew and carrying out the duties of the powerboat for the activity, eg safety cover.
- Helms must be a minimum of RYA PB level 2 or RYA ICC, trained or assessed at PBSC to be familiar with the club boats, procedures and beach launch and recovery conditions.
- Minimum age for a PB2 helm at PBSC is 17yrs (for PBSC courses, aged 17 at the date of the course).

2. Crews

- Crews are responsible for supporting the safe and effective duties of the powerboat for the activity under the Helms control.
- Crews should be sufficiently able bodied to assist directly or indirectly with recovery of sailors, boats and/or marks. Be prepared to enter the water to assist a casualty and ideally be of RYA Level 2 or equivalent sailing ability to be able to sail a craft to safety.
- Crews must be a minimum of 16 years of age.
- Any crew on a powerboat over 16 but under 18 – must be risk assessed on a case-by-case basis by the OOD together with the powerboat Helm considering the following:
 - Weather and sea conditions
 - The crew's sailing ability
 - The crew's physical ability
 - Relationship between the helm and the under 18 yr old (safeguarding)
- The suitability of any powerboat crew may be considered by the OOD and powerboat helm on the day, with regard to the above considerations.

3. When a powerboat is not providing safety cover:

If a powerboat is not providing safety cover, the OOD together with the powerboat Helm(s) must prioritise and ensure adequate safety cover for the activity, ie. There must be sufficient suitably crewed powerboats to provide safety cover for the activity before powerboats are free to be used for coaching or transport. The powerboat ratio



per sailing dinghy should be approx 1:12, but this may increase depending on activity eg 1:6 for youth sailing, weather conditions, sea state and sailing and safety boat crew ability.

- **Transport** – eg. Ferrying sailors to the shore or picking up a crew, or being on the water before any sailing boats have launched – These can be helmed single handed; rules for Helms as above. **Under no circumstances is the powerboat to be helmed single handed by a non-RYA PB2 certificate holder or equivalent level pre-assessed by PBSC powerboat instructors.**
- **Coach boats** – as for transport – These can be helmed single handed; rules for helms apply as above.

4. Under 16s in club powerboats.

- PBSC runs a PB level 1 course for youth sailors to familiarise them with how powerboats are prepared and operated and to experience helming a powerboat. The course is run by club power boat instructors who will be in the powerboat at all times. The minimum age to do the PB1 course at PBSC is 14 yrs at the date of the first course session.
- **Any child under 16 in a powerboat must not helm the powerboat unless under the direct supervision of a club power boat instructor.**
- Any powerboat with a child under 16 cannot be considered safety cover for an activity and can only be considered as transport. Rules for helms apply as above; adequate safety cover for the activity must be prioritised by the OOD together with the powerboat helm(s).

5. Exceptional circumstances

The nature of the weather, sea state, tide or longer distance events such as cruises, and sailing as a sport generally mean that exceptional circumstances may occur that **require dynamic risk assessment and management by the OOD and powerboat helm(s)**; for example, sudden unexpected weather events, mass capsizes, powerboat mechanical failures. In such events the following principles should be considered.

- Priority must be given to sailors' safety ahead of boats if necessary.
- Maintain a crew of 2 people in the powerboat(s) providing safety cover in so far as it is safe and practicable to do so - this may require sailors to go ashore and come back out on a powerboat, and/or taking a sailor from a double handed sailing boat to crew the powerboat if it is safe to do so.
- There is a prime responsibility for all under 18s with regard to both their safety and safeguarding by the powerboat Helm.

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