

Conditions for running Charity Regattas

Clubs should be aware there are special conditions for running charity regattas. Strictly speaking these boats are deemed to be "for hire or reward" and should be operated under the Maritime Operator Safety System' (MOSS) scheme.

Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) recognises the special circumstances and has made a number of recommendations.

If there is an official Notice of Race which specifies that the race will be run under the "Racing Rules of Sailing" then they are the rules that apply. If there is no such document the yachts should sail under the 'Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.' A brief resume of these can be found in the publication ' Safe Boating - an essential guide' which is available free of charge from most marine outlets or the Coastguard. This takes a much more cautious approach and is quite suitable for a charity regatta.

MNZ also requires some minimum safety standards. They will normally issue an exemption from the requirements of the MOSS if:

- a) The Organising Authority's appointed Safety Officer (being a person holding an appointment as an Honorary Yacht Inspector or otherwise approved by the director of maritime safety) considers the craft to be seaworthy for its intended use.
- b) Provided the craft are not overloaded or the stability of the craft adversely affected due to the number of persons and equipment on board

There is:

- c) One lifejacket per person on board
- d) Two distress flares or smoke floats
- e) Radio or cellular phone to enable contact to be made with local coastguard

And:

- f) So long as rescue boats and medical assistance are made available by the Organisation throughout the event.
- g) Provided always that the craft is not used for reward, as defined in section 2 of the Act
- h) Provided the event is held in favourable weather conditions and during the daylight hours

And that:

- i) The craft shall be under the command or charge of a person or persons approved by the safety Officer

And:

- i) That always the skipper of the craft consumes no alcohol for a period of 8 hours before or during the event.

There are a number of other minor conditions set out by MNZ.

Organisers should send details of the event together with a list of the boats taking part that comply with the above to MNZ to obtain their dispensation, which will itemise these.