



Safety

Remember that safety is paramount. Sailors should be encouraged to ensure that their abilities, needs and limitations are understood, and that they understand what is expected of them.

Clubs, and their members, should do whatever is reasonable to prevent accidents from happening. If an accident still happens and a club can prove that it did everything reasonably possible then it should not be held responsible.

Yachting New Zealand strongly recommends that each club puts in place a list of safety policies and procedures to be followed to assist volunteers and provide protection for your volunteers and the participants in events. It may be appropriate to formulate some club rules and a safe management policy.

Ask your host club for this information, and if it hasn't been documented, maybe offer to help!

On the Water

The Yachting New Zealand recommended ratio of Sailboats to Safety Boats is 6:1 and able bodied adult support to sailors is 1: 4. At all times on the water, clubs should comply with the Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part 1 whether racing or not. Here is a summary of Part 1: for Unballasted Centreboards & Open Yachts, Sailboards and Ballasted Yachts not complying with parts II- VI of the Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations. This can be found in full within the Racing Rules of Sailing.

The key points from this regulation are:

- Sailors shall wear Yachting New Zealand approved buoyancy vests or lifejackets in good repair and properly fitted at all times while afloat*.
- Sailors shall be capable of swimming at least 50 meters in open water and should be capable of supporting themselves in the water without a personal flotation device for at least 15 minutes**.
- Each boat shall be constructed or fitted with reserve buoyancy so that when it is swamped it will still support its own weight.
- Yachts will have permanently fitted on their centreline a ring or fairlead to which a tow line may be connected (not less than 25mm internal diameter), and carry a tow line that is minimum twice the length of the boat.
- Centreboards and rudders shall be secured to the hull
- Yachts must carry an adequate bailer or pump.

****The altered buoyancy, body shape and/or restricted movement of some disabilities make the choice of an effective PFD important. Crotch straps are recommended, as is the physical testing of PFDs by each individual in a controlled environment to establish suitability.***



*****If sailors are physically unable to swim 50 meters due to the nature of their disability- they must be able to turn themselves face up while wearing a lifejacket in the water- or wear a lifejacket that will do this for them.***

A Safety/Coach boat should be manned at all times by a trained able-bodied adult and complying with the ratios listed above. Again, lifejackets are to be worn at all times, and boats are to be maintained regularly.