

Safety In the Small Boat Program: Training, Preparing, And Daily Management of Staff, Kids, And Assets

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Key areas of concern

- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Policies
- ✓ Daily safety practices
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Professionalism

Questions to discuss and define in your program

- 1) What is the student/instructor ratio for each class?
- 2) What is the student/motorboat ratio for each class?
- 3) What telephone number do you call if there is an emergency?
- 4) Where is the nearest phone from each point that an instructor may be teaching?
- 5) Have you set up and practiced emergency procedures?
- 6) Who is your first respondent to an emergency? Have you asked them to come talk to your instructors prior to the start of classes?
- 7) Who is second in command if an emergency happens?
- 8) Where are your first aid boxes? Are they waterproof? Have they been replenished

lately?

- 9) Where are the medical forms for the students?
- 10) At what point are parents called when first aid is administered?
- 11) Will the local hospital emergency rooms accept your medical release form?
- 12) Do Medical forms go to away regattas with the instructor?
- 13) Do the instructors know of specific medical considerations of the students they actually work with so if there is a problem they can deal with it in a timely manner?
- 14) Does the parent of the day know his/her specific duties and where to be? Does he/she know where the medical forms are?
- 15) Do you ever transport an injured junior to the hospital in a private vehicle?
- 16) Do you know the surrounding program's instructors and emergency procedures? Do you know what radio channel they are on?
- 17) Are all your instructors US SAILING Certified?
- 18) Do all your instructors have current First Aid/ CPR?
- 19) Do your instructors wear lifejackets on docks and on the water and are they zipped ?
- 20) Do your students wear lifejackets on docks and the water and are they zipped up?
- 21) If you asked an instructor at any time of the day, would they be able to tell you how many kids they are responsible for at that particular moment?
- 22) If an instructor had to leave the water for a discipline problem, what happens?
- 23) Are all your club owned motorboats safe and maintained properly?
- 24) Is the program gasoline stored in a safe spot, locked up and properly labeled?

- 25) Have the instructors practiced using the motorboats?
- 26) What safety equipment does your motorboat have? What first-aid equipment?
- 27) Do you keep accurate first-aid log and accident reports?
- 28) Do the instructors start motorboats prior to class time?
- 29) If you have a motorboat that does not run properly, do you run the class?
- 30) Are sailing assistants allowed to drive motorboats? What about volunteers?
- 31) Do you have a weather radio available? Radar? Computer?
- 32) Who makes the decision to sail/ not sail in bad weather?
- 33) Do your students know what to do if a storm arrives? Do they practice for this?
- 34) Do you have radio or phone contact between instructors on the water?
- 35) Do you have radio or phone contact from shore to water?
- 36) When the kids leave the dock, where is the instructor?
- 37) Do the students know where they are supposed to sail and what they will be doing?
- 38) Have the committee and the instructors walked through entire area looking for hazards? Have the hazards been noted and fixed?
- 39) Do students operate the hoist? Is it safe?
- 40) How big are the splinters in your dock?
- 41) Do your students wear shoes? Do your instructors?
- 42) Where are power tools and who has access to them?
- 43) Where are chemicals and can the students get to them?
- 44) Do you have overhead electrical wires on the property?

- 45) Is there a working drinking fountain available near the sailing area?
- 46) Club boat owners. Do you have a maintenance log?
- 47) Swim tests... do you give them every year to everyone?
- 48) Do you take attendance each day? What do you do if a youth sailor is absent?
- 49) Do RC Boat and Rescue personnel drink alcohol while running a events?
- 50) Are instructors allowed to transport students off-site?
- 51) Are the instructors organized and safety conscious? Lesson plans?
- 52) Have you ever taught CPR and First aid to the students?
- 53) Where is your nearest fire extinguisher?
- 54) Have you reviewed your program's insurance policy?
- 55) Are privately owned sailboats safe? How do you know?

Bottom Line?

- ✓ If your beloved child (spouse, brother, sister, etc) was enrolled in this program, do you have any concern at all they would come home happy and safe each and every day?
- ✓ If you are in charge of the program, can you sleep well at night knowing on a daily basis the program is operating extremely safe?
- ✓ Could you stand up in front of Judge Wapner in a court of law and defend, document, and prove you run a safe program?