



South of Perth Yacht Club

SUPPORT BOAT DRIVER

BACKGROUND

South of Perth Yacht Club undertakes, at all times, to manage all Club boating activities and social activities to the highest standards of safety awareness.

It is Club standard practice to provide safety support to all yachts competing in Club events and one of the methods by which this support is provided is by the provision of a club owned **Support Boat** crewed by a paid driver and volunteer crew who patrol the river and provide observation and assistance capabilities for a yachts in distress.

THE ROLE AND EQUIPMENT

The primary role of the Support Boat is to provide mobile observation of yacht racing and to provide assistance to yachts where requested or deemed necessary and practical.

All the equipment required will be provided and consist of:

- A fixed and handheld VHF radio.
- a tow rope(s).
- a chart of the River
- Comprehensive First Aid Kit

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- National Power Boat Handling Certificate or higher
- VHF Radio Operator License
- First Responder First Aid Qualification or equivalent

WORK HOURS INVOLVED

- Wednesdays all year, 2.00pm to approx. 5.00pm to support the Midweek Race Series
- Wednesdays November to March, 6.00pm to approx. 8.00pm to support the Twilight Race Series.

HOURLY RATE

\$35.00 per hour

WHAT THE ROLE ENTAILS

Once underway test radio communications on VHF Channel 69 by calling SoPYC Race Control. Maintain a listening watch for the duration of the event(s).

Proceed to the race course and assist with laying the day buoy if required. The Support Boat is required to patrol all areas of racing as directed by SoPYC Race Control.

It is important to remain mobile (i.e. don't anchor) and maintain a sharp lookout for yachts in distress. Remaining mobile allows for the quickest response time and also for avoidance of all river traffic.

Although the Support Boat is to provide assistance to disabled SoPYC yachts, you may be called on to provide similar assistance to a yacht from another Club. Similarly, other Clubs' support boats may be required to assist an SoPYC yacht. Never ignore another Club's yacht in distress, offer assistance if thought necessary.

When standing by or assisting any yacht, advise SoPYC Race Control of the incident and if any further assistance is required. Maintain patrol for duration of the event(s). Once the event(s) is completed, contact SoPYC Race Control to ascertain the status of all competing SoPYC yachts and, if requested, escort the last yacht back to the Club.

On arrival at SoPYC sign off with SoPYC Race Control on VHF Ch69.

On occasions of light weather, you may be asked to provide a tow back to SoPYC for yachts that are becalmed.

ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED

APPROACHING A DAMAGED VESSEL

Remain upwind and only provide assistance if requested to do so. Have your crew establish voice contact with the vessel's crew and take instructions from the crew as to the assistance they may require.

YACHT BROACH

Large yachts can be seen to broach, tangle spinnakers or just appear to be out of control for a period. These yachts are generally crewed by experienced sailors and they quickly regain control and continue in their event. Always keep well clear of yachts in this predicament but just keep a sharp lookout for a possible man-overboard.

MAN-OVERBOARD

In the event of a man-overboard ensure your deckhand maintains a constant view of the person in the water. Remember you have to maneuver your vessel and keep a sharp lookout for other yachts; therefore, it is difficult to watch both. In the first instance stay well clear and keep the person in the water in sight, but in such a position that it offers protection to the person in the water from oncoming vessels that may not have seen them. It is the duty of the competing yacht to recover man-overboard and for the most part, yacht skippers are skilled in such recovery. Should you determine that the circumstances require you to lend assistance and this may come from the yacht visually attracting your attention to do so, or you may determine the person in the water is indicating help, then proceed to recover as safely and quickly as possible.

COLLISION

In the event of a collision between two or more yachts stand off and observe. In most instances yacht crew are able to make temporary repairs, reduce sail and return to the Club. Some larger yachts can proceed under auxiliary power and therefore may not require tow assistance. In all instances though, it is possible a yacht skipper may request assistance particularly if his vessel is taking on water.

Establish contact with the yacht, assist as required and notify SoPYC Race Control of the circumstances. Should more than one yacht require assistance, advise SoPYC Race Control who will then call for additional assistance.

TOWING

If a yacht must be towed, that job is best performed by the Support Boat and their involvement should be requested on VHF Ch69 by SoPYC Race Control.

The Support Boat should approach from upwind and secure a good length tow-line. This may be your line or it may be passed to you from the disabled yacht.

Maneuver to take up the slack as slowly as possible, particularly if towing a damaged vessel, and then determine a slow but appropriate speed to begin the tow. The skipper of the disabled yacht will indicate his approval of speed under tow. Ensure the tow boat retains constant visual contact with the tow in case difficulties occur on the towed yacht.

Please note: It is strongly recommended to have two people on the tow vessel during any tow procedure. If required, the Support Boat should collect one person from the yacht being rescued; this person should be responsible for spotting while the tow is underway.

INJURY

In the event of having to assist an injured crewman from the water, undertake the rescue quickly and effectively without panicking. Take your time to maneuver your vessel safely and particularly with regard to propeller risk. Recover the injured person, establish nature of injury as circumstances permit and ensure the person is kept warm. Advise SoPYC Race Control of the incident and undertake to keep them informed.

Minor Injuries – If you are able to render first-aid, do so and if possible, return the injured person to their home Club. Advise SoPYC Race Control of your intentions and your ETA back at the patrol area. Advise the Club to which you are taking the injured person and assistance you may require.

Serious Injuries - If you require urgent medical aid, call SoPYC Race Control on VHF Ch69 advising of situation and request the urgent assistance required and ETA.

Advise SoPYC Race Control of your intentions and your ETA back at the patrol area.

Very Serious Injuries - Should the injuries be *so serious* that you cannot leave the area and urgent medical aid is required, broadcast a “PAN PAN” message on **Ch 16** advising your vessel name and position and request for urgent medical assistance. Another vessel or Sea Search and Rescue or Water Police may answer such a call. Once contact is established, remain calm, advise your position and follow instructions accordingly. As soon as is practicable, advise SoPYC Race Control of the situation.

A **Pan Pan** message is a universally recognized Urgency Call and has priority over all other communications except those involved with the emergency. It may only be sent with the authority of the [Support Boat skipper](#) or SoPYC Race Control.

Procedure: **PAN PAN, PAN PAN, PAN PAN**, Hello All Stations, Hello All Stations, Hello All Stations
This is Vessel (name), Vessel (name), Vessel (name) seeking urgent (medical) assistance on the Swan River at position (try to identify your position relative to some conspicuous river feature or landmark). GPS co-ordinates should be used if available.

LOGBOOK

Ensure all incidents are logged with respect to date, time, location incident, action taken, radio communications and any other matters of interest. This information may be required at a later date depending on the nature of the incident.