



## **SYC Dinghy Cruise OOD Guidelines – Do**

*Before the dinghy cruise, the “officer of the day” should do the following tasks*

1. Complete a “*Risk Assessment*” Form for the day’s planned activity.  
In practise, this means holding a meeting with other experienced day sailors and the safety boat driver(s) and to make an assessment of the level of risk involved in the cruise planned for the day to decide whether it can safely go ahead as planned, in amended form, or at all. Factors which should be considered (there could be more) are printed on the Risk Assessment Form
2. Confirm the number of safety boats and crew available for the cruise.
  - a. If there is only one scheduled safety boat and the “risk assessment” raises concerns (e.g. unknown participants, number of boats taking part, unsettled forecast etc), then look to take another safety boat if a suitably experienced driver is available
  - b. Amongst the regular dinghy cruisers, “*suitably experienced drivers*” include Bob Fox, Aidan Whiteley, Nigel Howe, Pete Brown, Chris O’Dwyer and Roger Moseley. There are probably others!
  - c. “Out to sea” cruises cannot take place without at least 2 safety boats
3. Distribute at least 2 hand held VHF radios (stored in a bag on the workbench in the boat store) to 2 dinghies of different speeds.  
Ask the dinghy crews to check radio communication (on channel P1) with the safety boat(s) before setting off.
4. If there is only one safety boat driver, confirm that they will usually be staying at the back of the fleet unless other boats require assistance. If a 2<sup>nd</sup>



driver is available, discuss and agree their position in the fleet.

5. Gather participants and hold briefing 45 mins before the stated start time. Ring the bell (or sound the race box horn) five minutes before the briefing to let those in the dinghy park that the briefing is due to start.  
*Items to be covered in the briefing are detailed on a separate sheet.*
6. One of the most important items in the Briefing is a question about whether all participants have sufficient experience to join the cruise.  
*Please see the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the briefing for guidance on how to handle answers of “no” or “not sure” from participants to this question.*
7. It is recommended that the Dinghy Cruise OOD gets to SYC 75 mins before the cruise start time to allow plenty of time to complete the above tasks.
8. As Dinghy Cruise “Officer of the Day” you have overall control and responsibility for safety, and you will need to continuously reassess risk and react on the whole cruise as it takes place. The best place to do this, with all-round visibility and control, is in the safety boat.
9. **Remember** - The safety boat and dinghy cruisers must not be invited to do something more adventurous, more demanding or more time consuming than originally scheduled in the SYC Sailing Programme
10. On arrival, advise all participants of the expected restart time. Please hold a short briefing just before setting off back. Remind all to stay close to safety craft. You may wish to prompt slower boats to leave first.