



# 1. Queen Mary Sailing Club Safety Policy (latest update + review 10.3.21)

**THIS STATEMENT IS IMPORTANT AND EXPLAINS HOW THE CLUB SETS OUT TO ASSIST YOU IN RELATION TO ON-WATER ACTIVITIES. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT.**

CLUB MEMBERS AND OTHER USERS OF OUR WATER MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY BOTH AFLOAT AND ASHORE. THE CLUB WILL USE ITS BEST ENDEAVOURS TO PROVIDE ON-WATER SAFETY COVER BUT THAT DOES NOT ALTER THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUB MEMBERS AND OTHER USERS OF OUR WATER. ACCEPTANCE OF THIS POLICY IS A CONDITION OF GOING AFLOAT.

## **SAFETY COVER**

The Club sets out to provide cover at three levels as follows:

1. When Club or Open Meeting racing is taking place there will be one or more safety boats on the water depending on the conditions at the time and the number of people racing.
2. At other weekend times from 0900 until 1700 there will be a watch kept ashore and safety response as necessary. Response times will be slower during these times.
3. During weekdays and evenings the water will be checked at intervals by the **Duty Officer** (the person responsible, as per the **Daily Information Board**). Response times will be slower during these times.

## **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a Club Member or other water user, you have a duty to both yourself and other Club Members and water users as regards to safety. That duty includes acting responsibly whilst on Club premises, for example, in the use of the boat lifts and winches. You can improve your own safety situation by:

- Sailing where you can be easily observed
- Following directions on the sailing areas given on the **Daily Information Board** \*
- Not sailing in conditions or in boats or on boards beyond your competence
- Remembering that launch and recovery can be particularly challenging and not sailing when conditions afloat or ashore make it difficult for you launch and return safely
- Taking and following advice from the Club's professionals if in doubt about anything
- Following the Club's '**Masthead Floatation Policy & Entrapment Advice**', '**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**' and '**QMSC Code of Conduct**' (all displayed in the Clubhouse, on our website as below and available on request).

Your duty to Club Members and other water users includes:

- Providing help or seeking help for anyone you see requiring it on the water
- Alerting the **Duty Officer** to any situation that you observe that may need attention

\*Sailing is normally permitted on the **West side of the reservoir only**. Check the **Daily Information Board** for details. Training often takes place on the East Side but this does not mean you can sail there as Instructors may go ashore and leave you without cover.

If you wish to launch into the East Side and sail round to the West Side you must clear it with the **Duty Officer** first.