

IMPORTANT CHANGES: SAILORS AND MEMBERS PLEASE READ

The Committee has approved a major revision to the **Club Safety Policy** and some significant **changes to the Sailing Instructions**.

These result from very careful and detailed reviews of current legislation, insurance requirements, and best practice.

Sailing Instruction changes become effective on Saturday 25th May which is the Spring Regatta.

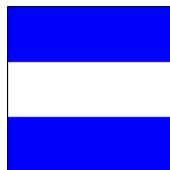
The full documents will shortly be published on the website, posted on the Noticeboard and hard copies will be available from the Secretary.

Members should read them, but the main changes are as follows:

- The responsibility of skippers to decide whether to go sailing or enter a race is re-emphasised. For Under 18's this is the responsibility of their parents/guardians.
- The responsibilities of Race Officers and Officers of the Day is more clearly laid out and there will be guidance notes provided to them.
- The Safety Policy reminds Members and their Guests that they are primarily responsible for their own safety at the Club, also when ashore.
- Elbow Buoy must be left to the SW when heading to buoys Up River as at present, but from 25th May Elbow is no longer a mark of the course when heading Down River. This change will be trialled until late July at which point it will be decided whether to make this a permanent change, extend the trial or revert to leaving it to the SW in both directions. The objective is to adopt the safest practise.
- Quay ('Q') buoy is only a mark of the course when it is shown on the course board, but the guidance to ROs/OODs will be to use it, left to Port, when heading Up River under a number of circumstances, and it is expected this will occur frequently. During Regattas Q buoy will only be rounded if it is shown on the course board.
- Flag 'Q' is a familiar sight signifying that the Club's South start line is to be used and this continues. However if Flag 'J' is flown instead of Flag 'Q' it will mean that the Finish as well as the Start will be at the South Line.
- The OOD is to consult with the Chief Boatman (or his substitute) about adequate provision and manning of support boats to achieve safe racing. The Chief Boatman has final responsibility in the event of a dispute.

Finally, it has also been agreed that it is preferable to double man our support boats wherever possible, and more formal volunteer arrangements are under review for introduction in 2020. Meanwhile the Vice Commodore will be seeking to fill 'crew' spots on support boats with volunteers in the immediate future. The Sailing Instructions continue to allow those volunteering for this, as well as OODs, to claim average points in a Club Series (subject to details in SIs).

David Keates
AYC Secretary



EXAMPLE OF FLAG J

Blue (1/3), White (1/3), Blue (1/3)

Horizontal Bars