



## **WEALDEN SAILABILITY**

# **POWERBOAT SAFETY HELM ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

### **Overview**

It is the policy of Wealden Sailability (WS) that any person directly helming a powerboat during an active Sailability Session must be able to demonstrate a minimum level of competency deemed necessary by the trustees. This will be achieved either through the full participation on the course detailed below, or for experienced helms by a session of Direct Assessment carried out by one of our RYA Qualified Powerboat Instructors who has experience of delivering this course.

The course is designed specifically to address the practical needs of WS operating at Chipstead Sailing Club. It is based on the RYA Powerboat Level 2 (PB2) and Safety Boat (SB) syllabi but omits material that is not relevant to WS. It is further adapted to cater for the specific operating characteristics of the WS Keelboat fleet. It is taught by RYA Powerboat Instructors and the relevant sections are taught and assessed to the PB2 and SB standards.

Upon successful completion, Volunteers will be invited to join the WS Safety Boat Coxswain Squad and / or the WS Commando Squad depending on the nature of the assessment. Squad membership details will be maintained by the Squads Leader and kept by the WS Secretary.

To helm the Pioneer Volunteers will require sufficient time on the water to familiarize themselves with handling particularly with respect to windage and mooring, as well as Safe Working Loads (SWL) and load distribution. Also understanding how to load wheelchair bound Participants onto and off the boat and the safety procedures for the double locking of the bow door. Such training can be carried out on the water with Wheelchair bound Participants on board by trained helm/Instructors.

### **Syllabus**

#### **1. Boats and Equipment**

Responsibilities as RIB Safety Coxswain.	(T)
Responsibilities as Commando Support Boat Helm.	(T)
Boat types and engines at CSC.	(T)
Boat storage, kit and key locations.	(TP)
Radios: Location, storage and use including CODE RED.	(TP)
Fuel storage, key location.	(TP)
Boat preparation and checks.	(TP)

Engines and fuel; handling, securing, filling.	(TP)
Boat kit: First Aid Kit, radio, binoculars, boat hook, paddle, painter, personnel towing strop, towing lines, anchor and warp.	(TP)
<u>2. Personal kit</u>	
Helm: Suitable clothing for prevailing and possible weather conditions (Waterproofs, hat, gloves, buoyancy aid, sunglass, sunscreen).	(T)
Hot drinks and food.	(T)
<u>3. Boat Launching and Recovery</u>	
Use of painters, electric winch etc.	(P)
Engine starting and running checks (inc. Kill Cord).	(P)
Radio checks and usage.	(P)
Pioneer Loading and Unloading	(TP)
<u>4. Boat Handling Skills</u>	
Proper positioning of helmsman and crew.	(P)
Use of steering and gears.	(TP)
Leaving and coming alongside:	(T)
Pontoon,	(P)
Buoy,	(P)
Boats.	(P)
Picking up mooring.	(P)
Turn in restricted space.	(P)
Holding off.	(P)
High speed operation including S & U turn (RIBs only).	(TP)
Turning using warps.	(TP)
<u>5. Recovery Techniques</u>	
Approach (speed, wash and stern wave).	(TP)
Transferring clients between PB and Sailing boats.	(TP)
Moving sailing boats between pontoons.	(P)
Man overboard/recovering casualty from water.	(TP)
Man overboard/recovery using the personnel towing strop.	(TP)
Towing: alongside, astern.	(TP)
Releasing a grounded boat.	(P)
Lee shore recovery.	(P)
Capsize recovery double handed dinghy inverted and not inverted.	(P)
Capsize and swamp characteristics of the WS sailing fleet.	(T)
Entrapment	(T)
Knots.	(P)
<u>6. End of session</u>	
Responsibilities:	(T)
Stow away and tidy up,	(P)
Report log.	(T)

“T” indicates theory instruction.

“P” indicates mostly practical instruction and practice.

“TP” indicates some additional preparatory theory instruction prior to practice.

**End**

**Update History:**

- Revised 24.04.2018 DM/ST/JK to take account of Pioner
- Reviewed 05.04.19 DM/ST. No changes.
- Reviewed and revised DM/JK/ST 24.10.2019 Note on Pioner Squad removed
- Updated by NL to include capsize recovery and the personnel rescue strop. 08/02/2021
- Updated by NL to include entrapment 16/02/2022
- Reviewed by DM, NL, ST. Updated to include CODE RED.
- Reviewed by JB, NL, ST, HF, MM, PC. No changes
- Reviewed and updated by JF/ST 04.03.2024. SWL and load distribution, bow door locking notes for Pioner added.
- Reviewed by NL 22.02.2025 and updated following MAIB Report on Wheelyboat 123
- Reviewed by NL 19.03.2026 new dates