



CBYA Safety Procedure- Skippers

Quoting the RNLI Sea Safety: “Being the skipper of a vessel means taking responsibility for your actions. Your safety and the safety of the crew are in your hands.”

The following is the procedure that the CBYA would like all skippers to follow when taking CBYA members out to sea. It does not cover every possible scenario or subject but is the basic minimum that the CBYA would require every skipper to follow in the interest and safety of all concerned.

Skippers Briefing:

- 1- Before leaving the dock briefing the crew is to be conducted covering the following:
 - 1.1 Weather, obtain the forecast for the duration you will be out and brief the crew accordingly.
 - 1.2 Ask and establish the level of experience of each crew in general and specific to the vessel you are skippering at the time.
 - 1.3 Based on the information, appoint a first mate to take control in case you are incapacitated.
 - 1.4 Ask the crew if they have any medical condition? Do they carry any medication and where do they keep it and when should they take it?
Example: Asthma, location of inhaler.
 - 1.5 Each crew must be wearing a flotation device, life jacket etc is it fitted correctly and do they know how to use it? If the device is a life jacket has it been checked? If not, check it before going out.
 - 1.6 MOB procedure, explain what you expect each crew to do.
 - 1.7 Point out to crew the dangerous items on the vessel: Boom, main sheet, winches, sheets, blocks etc. Do not underplay the danger: So, saying “If the boom hits your head it could kill you!” is better than saying the boom hitting your head will hurt??!!
 - 1.8 Establish and decide on means of communicating emergency, radio VHF channel 16 is the preferred method.
 - 1.9 Invite your crew to ask you questions.

2 Vessel

- 2.1 Check and explain the workings of the vessel.
- 2.2 Make sure the sheets, halyards are where they should be.
- 2.3 Inspect standing and running rigging.
- 2.4 Remove and stow any loose items from the deck.
- 2.5 Rotate crew to get used to the helm/tiller.
- 2.6 Place the least experienced crew in the safest location on the vessel.

3. Notes to the crew:

Sailing is a very enjoyable sport, but it could also be dangerous.

3.1 Be aware and responsible for your own safety.

3.2 It is in your interest to follow skippers' instructions.

3.3 If you're not sure or do not understand the instruction by the skipper! Ask for clarification.

3.4 If the skipper raises his voice, he is trying to be heard and perhaps convey urgency.

3.5 Do not be offended if the skipper does not say please and thank you after every instruction.

3.6 When on the helm you are controlling the vessel, so stay alert and concentrate.

3.7 Wearing high visibility garment (Yellow, Red, Orange) is preferable so you could be spotted quickly if you fall overboard. Black is the worst colour you could wear.

3.8 If you do not agree with skippers' instructions or not sure if it is the right thing to do, you can query and discuss later when back ashore and all is safe and enjoying a drink.

The above is not meant to be complete or comprehensive it is the minimum knowledge to help everyone enjoy sailing safely.

Samir Chami