



## **CBYA Safety Briefing Guidelines – TOMs**

The CBYA regards sailing safety as essential and provides guidelines for skippers and sailing event organisers for each type of sailing activity.

### **GUIDELINES/RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. TOMs are racing yachts and can be dangerous if the correct safety procedures are not followed. There are no safety lines, no toe straps, and it has a low boom! Sailing on a TOM is not for novices, nor for those of limited physical fitness.
2. TOMs are rated for five crew, however the CBYA recommends that we sail with four crew at all times. This allows more room to move safely around the boat. Sailing with only three is not recommended. However, in special circumstances, sailing with three crew only may be permitted with RCNC permission, typically for the TOMs LADDER event only, and when sailing with white sails.
3. The TOMs event organiser should try to ensure that the assigned crew have adequate experience and competence to sail the yacht safely.
4. The skipper must oversee a final check of the rigging prior to leaving the marina to ensure correct. This includes ensuring that the spinnaker is correctly packed, gib correctly rigged, checking tightness of all shackle pins, shroud fastenings, etc. See “**How to Rig a TOM**” at <https://cbya.org/post-format-image/>
5. All RCNC-approved TOMS skippers should ideally invest in their own marine VHF radio. When multiple TOMs are sailing together in a special event, skippers should also be equipped with a whistle/foghorn for attracting attention.
6. The skipper should also invest in a small dry bag containing a Leatherman (or equivalent) set, reefing lines, insulating tape, clips, etc.
7. The skipper should also ensure that all crew are correctly dressed and equipped to safely sail the yacht. This includes the mandatory use of personal buoyancy/life jackets. Inflatable life jackets must be regularly serviced to ensure that they inflate when needed. See other recommendations at <https://cbya.org/invitation-to-fun-sail-on-the-toms/>

### **RULES**

1. The TOMs special event organiser must give a safety briefing to all skippers and crew prior to any special TOMs sailing event. This includes CBYA TOMs regattas, TOMs Ladder, etc.

2. All TOMs skippers have to be checked out by the CBYA Training Officer before being tested by RCNC to become an authorised TOMs skipper. Only RCNC-approved skippers can skipper a TOM during CBYA sailing activities.
3. The TOMs are not permitted to sail if RCNC advise that weather conditions are too dangerous. If RCNC approve TOMs sailing in certain weather conditions, the TOMs skipper must follow RCNC recommendations regarding reefing, use of spinnaker, tow-out, etc.
4. If sailing is approved by RCNC, the skipper still makes the final decision as to whether or not to sail.
5. The skipper has the final decision regarding crew competency under the prevailing weather conditions.
6. The skipper must conduct a joint inspection with an RCNC representative to ensure that the TOMs are undamaged and sea-worthy, and sign a pre-sailing check-list declaration. The procedure must be repeated on returning to the marina, and any damage must be reported at that time.
7. After rigging the TOM, the skipper must provide a full safety briefing to his crew prior to sailing. This includes an explanation of the risk, assigned crew positions, MOB procedure, etc.
8. The skipper **MUST** be equipped with a marine VHF radio. This is the MCA (UK Maritime & Coast Guard Agency) recommended method to communicate an emergency at sea. A mobile phone in a waterproof pouch is not recommended as the primary communication method.
9. When at sea, the skipper must keep the crew fully informed regarding planned manoeuvres, crew expectations for each manoeuvre. This includes leaving and returning to the marina.
10. After returning to the marina, the skipper must ensure that the TOM is correctly de-rigged, and left in a suitable condition for future safe use.

## **INSURANCE**

All TOMS sailors must purchase **SomVela Licensia Federativa** insurance. See <https://cbya.org/somvela-licensia-federativa-cover-for-all-cbya-sailors/>

## **INFORMATION**

The CBYA is planning to purchase three VHF marine radios if suitable charging and secure storage arrangements can be agreed.

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

## **CBYA TOMs CO-ORDINATOR**

**OCTOBER 2020**