

Person Overboard (PoB) Procedures

In the event of a PoB from a dinghy or Hobie, the safety boat skipper is to take charge of the situation. Keep calm and use your seamanship skills to resolve the situation. As every PoB will be a unique event and common sense at the time will dictate your options. Please remember that The Causeway is shallow. In most PoB situations the person's feet will touch the bottom which is very muddy. The following are strategies to use if the situation arises.

- ✓ If a PoB is sighted the support boat observer must call out the alarm "Person overboard" and point, with arm extended continually, towards the PoB to direct the support boat skipper to the area.
- ✓ When approaching the PoB, consider the best direction of approach with reference to the wind and tide. When coming alongside make sure the engine is in neutral and the motor is then stopped.
- ✓ The lifebuoy can be used as a flotation device to support the PoB.
- ✓ The second support boat must immediately return to shore, pick up the spineboard and deliver it to the scene.
- ✓ The spineboard can be used as buoyancy support for the PoB.
- ✓ Normally the safest way to lift a client into the safety boat is by the combined efforts of the Safety Boat Skipper and Safety Boat Crew lifting on either side of the PoB by means of their PFD or clothing and easing the client over the gunwale facing inboard.
- ✓ The spineboard can be used as a slide to slide the client over the side of the boat.
- ✓ Safety Boat crew should not enter the water unless the client is calm – it is safer to assist the PoB from the Safety Boat, with the help of the skipper as needed – take care with Safety Boat balance.
- ✓ Use an oar or boat hook to reach a PoB and draw them toward the Safety Boat if required.
- ✓ Consider leaving a PoB tied safely alongside if unable to get them into the boat and then closely monitor them using the other crew member.
- ✓ Remember not to injure yourself, get the PoB to help if possible, work as a team.
- ✓ Once the PoB is onboard, render any first aide, as necessary.
- ✓ Immediately radio the shore as soon as possible to advise them of the situation.
- ✓ Return to the shore. It is Sailability Qld policy that an ambulance be called to assess the client's injuries, if any.
- ✓ An incident report must be completed.