



RACE OFFICER – DUTIES LIST

The Sailing Master will appoint a Race Officer for every race day.

Responsibilities

- **Deciding whether a scheduled race should be run or continue.**
- **Setting a course and conducting a race briefing for all sailors, indicating the course to be sailed by each division, the starting time and sequence.**
- **Briefing the Tower and Rescue Boats crews on the conditions and planned races.**
- **Arranging for rescue boats suitable for the size and skill of the fleet and prevailing weather conditions.**

Duties

1. The Race Officer shall confirm the availability of the race day duty personnel listed in the duty roster and gain an understanding of their relevant experience. The Race Officer should contact the Sailing Master if concerned that the race management crew is not enough in number or experience to safely conduct the scheduled event.
2. The Race Officer shall keep a watch on the weather forecast for Western Port for three days prior to the day of the event.
3. The Race Officer will attend the club 2 hours before the start of the race and report to the Duty Officer on arrival. The Race Officer shall be assisted by the Rescue Boat Crew and/or other suitable members in setting the course and ensuring rescue boats are launched prior to the commencement of the race.
4. The Race officer shall ensure that only licenced drivers shall command each rescue boat and each has the necessary crew.
5. He/she shall be responsible for safety on the water and have the final responsibility for decisions as to whether the on-water conditions are safe or

unsafe and give the order to postpone or abandon the race. In making this decision the Race Officer should consider:

- If there is an Incident during a race that may not be effectively managed given the number of rescue boats and experience of race management personnel currently engaged in the running of the race.
 - If there is a high probability of an Incident occurring during a race, that may not be effectively managed given the number of rescue boats and experience of race management personnel rostered on for the event
 - An average wind strength greater than 22 knots is generally considered to be unsuitable for off-the beach yachts.
6. Should a decision to postpone or cancel a race before the scheduled start of the event, an attempt should be made to promptly notify rostered personnel and likely competitors of this decision. The Sailing Master or other General Committee members can be called upon to assist with this communication.
 7. The Race Officer, in the absence of the Sailing Master, shall conduct a briefing for all divisions and check that all sailors have signed on. He shall check the competence of all young sailors. The briefing should clearly indicate the course to be sailed by each division and the starting time and starting signal for each division.
 8. During the event the Race Officer shall maintain a watch on the weather conditions and on all of the sailors on the water.
 9. After the event the Race Officer shall check in concert with the tower crew that all sailors have signed off.