

## Sailing Risk Assessment – Sailing without safety boat cover

Risk assessments prepared on behalf of the Committee of Shoestring Sailing Group  
These assessments will be subject to ongoing review and amendment as required.

**All members please be advised - S.S.G. is run by the members for the benefit of the members. We all have a responsibility for our own health and safety and the safety of others. It is the members responsibility to follow the advice and guidance laid down in this risk assessment and not to engage in any activity that puts you or others at risk of injury.**

**Sailing without safety boat cover** - This exposes sailors to all of the hazards as listed below.

Hazard	Potential severity and risk	Who is at risk	Control Measures	Further measures as appropriate	Residual risk
Medical emergency such as a heart attack / stroke or similar life-threatening event.	Death / permanent disability  Low	Sailors	Sailors to render assistance as required.  Person with mobile phone available to contact emergency services.	First aid / CPR to be administered as necessary. Assistance from members of the public on shore to be sought if needed (presence cannot be relied upon)	Low
Drowning from capsizing or falling overboard.	Death / permanent injury  Low.	Sailors	Sailors to ensure that their personal buoyancy is worn at all times and is fit for purpose.  Person with mobile phone available to contact emergency services.	First aid / CPR to be administered as necessary	Low
Capsizing resulting in crew trapped under boat	Death / permanent injury  Low.	Sailors	Sailors to ensure proper clothing worn and boat equipment and fittings do not present a hazard	Use masthead floatation to reduce risk of inversion.	Low
Capsizing resulting in	Crew in water for	Sailors	Crews to ensure they	Assistance of another	Medium

inability to right boat (e.g. mast stuck in the mud when inverted)	substantial time. High to Low Depending on type of boat, and physical ability of crew		are familiar with capsizing recovery procedures for each boat sailed.	craft may be sought with a view to transfer of crew to land.  Crew must be prepared to abandon the dinghy and swim to shore if necessary.  Recommended to use masthead floatation.	
Injury through collision with another watercraft.	Concussion, cuts, Bruises  Medium	Sailors	The Rules of Sailing are mandatory and will be obeyed by all sailors. These are designed to minimise the risk of collision.  First Aid equipment in boat	Helms and crews to ensure that they are competent to take avoiding action and do not present a hazard to other craft.  Group insurance to be in place.	Low
Injury through being struck on the head by boom.	Concussion, cuts, bruises.  High for inexperienced sailors in smaller boats and gybe turn manoeuvres.  Low for lee turns and experienced crew.	Mainly Inexperienced Sailors.	Inexperienced sailors or those with medical condition to wear head protection at their discretion.  Boats only available to helms who have demonstrated the appropriate sailing skills.  First Aid equipment in boat		Low
Hypothermia from immersion or exposure.	Death	Sailors	Appropriate clothing for weather conditions	Sailors to ensure own welfare and to retire if	Low

	Medium		e.g. hat, gloves, windproof jacket, wetsuit.	affected to a degree that would hinder their recovery from capsized.	
High temperatures and strong sunshine	Heatstroke / sunburn / eye damage  High	Sailors	High SPF sunscreen, hats, sunglasses with high UV rating to be worn.  Sufficient fluid intake.	Sailors to ensure own welfare and assess level of risk for weather conditions	Low
Unsuitable weather conditions including deterioration of weather and lightning strikes.	Boats in difficulties with crews unable to self-recover.  Medium to high risk of injury or hypothermia in severe conditions.  Lightning strikes  Death – High in local thunderstorm.		Sailors to retire as dictated by the weather conditions. Helms / sailors are responsible for ensuring their own safety  Abandonment of sailing mandatory if risk of lightning	Helms are responsible for ensuring that they, their crew and boat are suited to the conditions at the time and should retire if in doubt	Low
Collision with other boats	Personal injury and damage to boats.  Medium	Sailors	Crews to take all reasonable precautions to avoid coming into contact with other boats	Observation of the rules of Sailing is mandatory and must be obeyed.  Group insurance to be in place	Low
Dinghy gear failure resulting in inability to manoeuvre	Capsized, stranding or presenting a hazard to other craft resulting in personal injury.  Low	Sailors	Users to ensure craft in proper working condition to sail.  Paddle to be carried.  Crew to check boat and gear before launching		Low
Injuries from	Head injuries,	Sailors	Buoyancy aid to be	Users to remove any	Low

Slipping, tripping or falling on slipway.	fractures, bruising, drowning.  Drowning low, other medium		worn before entering water.  Sailors to in contact with boat when launching and recovery to reduce chance of slipping.  First Aid equipment in boat	unnecessary slipping or tripping hazards.  Appropriate footwear to be worn.	
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Reviewed on (date)