

Procedure for Child Safety Who Are on Duty or Sailing on Race Days

ESC actively encourages children to engage in all aspects of sailing to build their knowledge, experience and competence. This includes being involved in volunteering for on-water race management, course laying and safety boat operations. Child members (Family Child or Junior Members under 18) are not rostered on for duty but are encouraged to volunteer.

Special actions and care should be taken by the parent/guardian of the child and by the Duty Team to provide safe sailing and duty experiences for child.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and life jacket.

- a) Child Racing:
 - You or your child should Inform the member on duty in the tower that your child will be sailing, who they will be sailing with, and the boat type, name and number.
 - Ensure your child is capable of sailing by themselves or with their crew, swimming, and righting and getting back into a capsized boat unaided. Sea and wind conditions in the bay can change very quickly and be stronger than forecast, and a rescue boat may not be immediately on hand.

- b) Child Volunteering for Duty:
 - Discuss and agree with the duty crew and your child what the child will do, and whether the child will be with you or with other members on duty and for transport to the marina.

Child Responsibilities

- You or your parent/guardian should inform the member on duty in the tower that you will be sailing, who you will be sailing with, and the boat type, name and number.
- Always sail in conditions that are within your and your crew's capability. Sea and wind conditions in the bay can change very quickly and be stronger than forecast, and a rescue boat may not be on hand quickly.
- Wear appropriate clothing and a life jacket.
- If you have volunteered for duty, discuss the arrangements with your parent/guardian and the duty crew, and speak up if you are not comfortable.
- If you have volunteered for duty, and your parent/guardian is not present, you must have written approval (email or a signed note) from your parent/guardian for your duty and transport to the marina.

Duty Crew Responsibilities

All adults on duty are required to hold a Working With Children Check (WWCC)

- a) Child Racing:
 - Tower Officer: record whether there are any children planning to sail, keep an eye on the beach for children preparing to sail, and inform the start boat of their details.
 - Start Boat: record whether there are any children planning to sail and of any boats hailing on at the start boat with children sailing. Request the rescue boats to keep a special look-out for their safety.

- b) Child Volunteering For Duty:

- Duty briefing leader/RO: discuss and agree with the parent/guardian and the child what the child will do, and whether the child will be with the parent/guardian on duty and for transport to the marina.
- If the child's parent or guardian is not present, the child may volunteer for duty only if the duty crew is given a standing or specific written approval from the parent or guardian (email or signed note) that the child may volunteer for duty and be transported to the marina as required. Where possible, an on-water child volunteer should be assigned to a boat with 2 or more adults. If possible, have the child be in the company of another child during transport or duty, and avoid situations where the child is only in the company of one adult.
- Agreement for the child to do duty is at the discretion of the boat master.