

Shelter Island Yacht Club Safety Plan

Emergency Contact Information

Shelter Island Ambulance/Fire/Police	911 631-749-0600 (non-emergency)
Shelter Island Yacht Club Manager/Safety Officer	631-749-0888
Shelter Island Yacht Club Waterfront Manager	VHF Channel 74
Shelter Island Bay Constable (SIPD Marine Div.)	911 or Marine Channel 16
Eastern Long Island Hospital	631-477-1000

For our Racing Fleets

The decision to hold a race or to postpone a race is the decision of the Race Officer (RRS 27.3, 32.1).

The decision to participate in a race or to withdraw is the decision of each boat captain (RRS 4).

Go/No Go

The Principal Race Officer (PRO), in conjunction with the Sailing Director and appropriate Fleet Captains, will review the weather forecast with attention to wind, tide and approaching storms prior to making the Go/No Go decision. They will:

- Consider postponement on land or on the water to allow conditions to improve or to further assess conditions.
- Consider the median skill level and seaworthiness of the racing fleet on a class by class basis.
- If conditions change after a start, consider a shortened course (S flag with two sounds) before an outright abandonment (N over A with three sounds).

PROs and Fleet Captains will communicate with each fleet on a pre-arranged VHF channel about changing weather conditions, postponement, shortened courses and abandonment.

Emergency Response on the water

The obligation to assist a person or boat in danger is the first obligation of all boats and competitors (RRS 1.1). The safety of participants is the priority; boats and property are secondary.

- In the event of an emergency on the water, notify the PRO, the Sailing Director and the Club Manager immediately on the prearranged channel.

- Participants should be aware that immediate assistance may not be available to them and should be prepared to be as self-reliant as possible in the event of emergencies such as man overboard, injuries and equipment failures.
- All available assistance from participants and on the water Race Committee should be deployed if necessary.
- The PRO and the Club Manager will coordinate the response to the emergency. In the case of life threatening or serious injury, the PRO and/or Club Manager will coordinate evacuation with the Shelter Island Police/EMS or the Bay Constable. In the case of absence of life-threatening circumstances, the PRO and Safety Chair will stand by and assist until the situation is stabilized.
- VHF/cell phone contact will be maintained with the SIYC Club Manager/Waterfront Manager until the emergency is resolved.
- All on-the-water emergencies shall be reported to the Club Manager.

General on the Water Safety

- One Design Fleet Captains shall review fleet specific safety requirements and local emergency response information annually with their fleets and Race Committee representatives.
- Each PRO shall designate an onboard assistant and/or a RC mark or safety boat to observe racing yachts.
- Before the first warning, the PRO may require all participants to wear PFDs (Y with one sound (RRS 27.1).
- If a boat retires from racing, it shall inform the Race Committee on the prearranged VHF channel.
- With the exception of participants in the Junior Sailing Program, every competing boat is required to carry a VHF radio tuned to the prearranged channel.

For Cruisers

Safety on the water is paramount for all boaters, including the cruising fleet. Weather conditions, the “rules of the road”, safety drills (e.g., MOB maneuvers) and having the proper safety equipment aboard (e.g., fire extinguishers and life jackets) are primary considerations. Each skipper is responsible for his/her crew, passengers and vessel and for ensuring their safety. Safety parameters will be discussed at each cruise committee meeting and safety material will be made available. While not exhaustive, there are some helpful references for cruisers available in "Cruise Resources" in the Cruising section on siyc.com.