



## POLICY FOR THE USE OF POWERBOATS

### Introduction

“The objects for which the Club is formed shall be the encouragement and promotion of amateur sailing.” (Club Rules) The powerboats at TSSC, therefore, exist to support the sport of sailing: powerboating as a sport in itself cannot take place at TSSC and would contravene the terms of our Agreement with Yorkshire Water.

In order to handle the powerboats safely and effectively, however, members need to be trained in their use, and will need to practice and update their skills. Powerboats may occasionally be used in a training situation to demonstrate teaching points. It is important that these activities are distinct from “joyriding”, as the latter activity is not allowable and could lead to complaints against TSSC from fishermen or members of the public, as has happened in the past.

Previous policy and guidelines issued by the Club did not allow for any training of juniors, even though such a junior could immediately be required to undertake safety boat duty on becoming 18. The RYA has changed its powerboat policy to allow for training juniors from the age of 8.

The policy below has been agreed by the committee to promote safe handling of powerboats, and to ensure that any safety boat is properly manned and operated by a responsible helm and crew. It also allows for some training of junior members, with clear safety restrictions.

### Policy

Powerboats used at any time will be classed as either safety boats or training boats.

If only one powerboat is on the water it must operate as safety boat, and is subject to the following restrictions.

#### SAFETY BOAT

The primary duty of the safety boat is to be ready to assist sailors in danger or difficulty. When rostered, or if a group of sailors have agreed that a safety boat is needed, it should be launched, equipped, and ready for immediate use. A safety boat **must** be available during racing. For more detailed guidance please see Guidelines for safety boat Crew.

The safety boat must be manned by a helm and crew, who must each be 18 years of age or over.

Persons on board should only be the helm and crew, plus persons being rescued, or persons undergoing safety boat training – providing the boat is large enough. There should always be the initial capacity to pick up rescued persons.

The safety boat might be used to aid sail training at the direction of the Principal, but must always be ready to revert to its safety boat role.

#### TRAINING BOAT

This designation can **only** be used if another powerboat is acting as safety boat.

#### Sail Training

A powerboat may be used to aid training under the direction of the Principal, or an Instructor acting for the Principal.

#### Powerboat Training

Members are strongly recommended to undertake formal powerboat training at an RYA Training Centre, which ensures quality of provision and offers levels of qualification. Members may, however, seek help and advice from other more experienced members and may use a powerboat to practice their skills.

1. Junior members aged 12 and above may be allowed in a powerboat providing that the helm has an RYA Powerboat Level 2 qualification.
2. Junior members aged 12 and above may only helm the powerboats if accompanied by a Powerboat Instructor, and a twin kill-cord must be used.
3. A junior member holding a Powerboat Level 2 qualification need not be restricted as above, but must have an adult member acting as crew.