

On-Water Volunteering

Membership participation plays an integral part in running safe and fair racing for all SBSC sailors. It is also a fantastic opportunity to see your developing sailor(s) up close and in action!

Not all positions require certifications and experience, and there are always spaces for fresh faces on board.

On-Water Volunteer Roles

Boat	Position	Certs Required?	Extra Training Required?	Comfort High - Dry & can pee Med - Dryer Low - Wet!	Responsibilities
Start Boat	Race Officer	Yes	Yes	High	Overall Safety and running of Races. Timing, hoisting flags, centre of communications
	Asst RO	No	On the Job		
	Volunteer	No	No		
Finish Boat	Skipper	Yes	Yes	High	Setting the finish line, recording finishes and times, communicating with Start Boat
	Scribe	No	On the Job		
	Volunteer	No	No		
Mark Boat	Skipper	Yes	No	Med, & physical	Setting the marks of the course, communicating with Start Boat, operate as Safety as nec
	Mark Layer	No	Yes		
	Volunteer	No	No		
Safety (Rescue) Boat	Skipper	Yes	Yes	Low, & physical as required	Monitoring designated zone of the course & responding to events as required (e.g. standing by a capsized boat), communicating with Start Boat
	Volunteer	No	No		

Mark Boat

- 1 licensed and experienced person on board
- 1 capable person (able to physically manage lines & weights)
- Room for up to 2 novice volunteers (including non-sailing siblings)

Role

- Under the Race Officer's (RO) guidance, set marks according to the SBSC Sailing Instructions course descriptions
- Lead by example in best safety practice with proper sun protection, life jackets, use of kill chords (skipper), and responsible driving

Duties

- Load marks, mark lines, mark line weights, safety barrels into Mark Boat
- Lay marks with RO's guidance
- Assist in rescues as required
- Assist in towing dinghies as required
- Take wind readings, mark rounding times & confirmations or other information as requested by the RO

Time commitment

- Approximately 1130hrs to 1600hrs
- Arrive at SBSC 1130hrs to load equipment and drive to Derwent Sailing Squadron (DSS)
- Be on-water at 1230hrs, 60 minutes before the first race of the day at 1330hrs to complete a radio check and lay the course
- The RO will direct you to pull marks and other hardware during racing, and when competitors have finished racing
- The RO will release you from duty at the end of racing, approx 1530hrs
- Return boat to DSS and unload equipment
- Return mark equipment to SBSC

Essential qualifications

- The skipper must have a current Motor Boat Licence
- At least one person on board, should hold a Marine Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency
- SBSC in-house training for the race course, assigned zones and protocols

Desirable qualifications

- SBSC recommends attending the Australian Sailing mark laying course or completing its online mark laying course
- SBSC recommends having a Marine Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency
- First Aid Certificate and CPR
- Working With Vulnerable People registration

Safety (Rescue) Boat

- 1 licensed and experienced person on board
- 1 capable person (some upper body strength and willingness to get wet required)
- NO room for extra persons or non-sailing siblings

Role

- Under the RO's general direction, monitor assigned zone of the race course
- First responder to capsized and first aid events in that zone
- Lead by example in best safety practice with proper sun protection, life jackets, use of kill chords (skipper), and responsible driving

Duties

- Check and load Safety barrel into Safety boat
- Launch safety boat
- At least one crew member should be prepared to enter the water to rescue
- Attend and visually monitor any capsized boats while on water
- Attend to First Aid incidents while on water
- At the end of racing:
 - return boat to trailer and pull out of water
 - unload and store safety barrels
 - wash down rib (inside and out), flush engine
 - store the boat

Time commitment

- Approximately 1215hrs-1545hrs
- Be prepared to launch at 1245hrs, 45 minutes before the first race of the day at 1330hrs to complete a radio check and escort competitors to the race course
- Not leave the course until all dinghies are safely ashore or otherwise permitted by RO

Essential qualifications

- Skipper must hold a current Motor Boat Licence
- At least one should hold a Marine Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency
- SBSC in-house training for safety and rescue

Desirable qualifications

- SBSC and Australian Sailing recommend supplemental Power Boat Handling and Safety Boat Operator accreditation
- First Aid Certificate and CPR
- Working With Vulnerable People registration

Start Boat - Race Officer

Role

- Responsible for fair and safe racing
- The Alpha Course RO is in charge of safety (as set out in the SBSC Safety Plan) in liaison with Shore Patrol

Duties

- In conjunction with Sailing Management Committee Rep and SBSC Shore Patrol, determines if conditions are safe for racing
- If conditions are not safe for racing, cancels, postpones, or abandons racing
- Alpha Course RO makes the decision for both courses
- Conducts a sailing and/or safety briefing before each event
- In accordance with the SBSC Sailing Instructions, chooses the course location and sets the course for the day
- Responsible for racing as set out in the Sailing Instructions
- Monitors the race course for capsizes and potential safety risks such as abrupt changes in conditions or other boating traffic
- Manages/supervises the tasks of Assistant Race Officers and volunteers on the Start and Finish Boat
- Monitors the safety of all competitors and on-water volunteers before, during and after racing

Time commitment

- Approximately 1130hrs to 1600hrs
- Arrive at Derwent Sailing Squadron (DSS) to prepare Start Boat
- Be on-water near intended racing area at 1200hrs, 90 minutes before the first race of the day at 1330hrs to assess conditions, plan the Race Course and any necessary modifications based on conditions and set course with Mark and Finish Boat
- RO is the last to leave the course area at the end of racing

Essential qualifications

- Minimum Australian Sailing Club Race Officer certification
- Marine Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency
- A current Motor Boat Licence (if and only if there is no other proficient skipper on board)

Desirable qualifications

- First Aid Certificate and CPR
- Working With Vulnerable People registration

Start Boat - Other Roles

- 1 person with prior start boat experience
- Up to 3 persons with no prior experience (1 non-sailing sibling is welcome, minimum age of 10)

Role

- Responsible for assisting the RO to conduct fair and safe racing

Duties

- On the Start Boat:
 - **Timekeeper** - keeps the time for starting races including timing race signals – visual/flags and sound signals.
 - **Scribe** – records competitor sign-ons and other details for the RO eg observations during a race start such as OCS (a boat that starts early)
 - **Visual/flags signaller** – displays visual signals/flags at the appropriate time
 - **Sounds signaller** – makes sound signals to accompany visual signals/flags at the appropriate time.
 - The above duties can be combined
 - Assists in monitoring the race course for capsizes and potential safety risks such as abrupt changes in conditions or other boating traffic
- On the Finish Boat:
 - **Line caller** – usually an RO who calls sail or bow numbers of boats for the scribe(s) as they cross the finish line
 - **Timekeeper** - keeps the time for finishing races, times between Alpha & Omega of each fleet, and different fleets finishing
 - **Scribe** – records start times of races and placing and finish details of each boat as they cross the finish line
 - **Boat driving, Visual/flags** and sound signal duties as above
 - The above duties can be combined
 - Assists in monitoring the race course for capsizes and potential safety risks such as abrupt changes in conditions or other boating traffic

Time commitment

- Approximately 1130hrs to 1600hrs
- Arrive at Derwent Sailing Squadron (DSS) to prepare Start Boat
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- RO is the last to leave the course area at the end of racing

Essential qualifications

- If designated skipper, must have a current Motor Boat Licence

Desirable qualifications

- Australian Sailing Club Race Officer certification
- A Marine Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency
- First Aid Certificate and CPR
- Working With Vulnerable People registration