



Support Boat Operations

Role of the support boat

To be on-water and ready to assist all our dinghies and our 7.4m keel boat 'Faith' during their sailing operations. In particular,

- To maintain a watch over and direct, where necessary, dinghy operations
- Provide support where needed, for example, towing when there is a lack of wind
- Maintain a watching brief over Faith
- Maintain a weather watch and advise OOD and skippers as necessary
- Communicate with the Officer of the Day (OOD) for purposes of safe operation of our sailing program

* For Faith's specifications see [ATTACHMENT 2](#)

The support boat command structure

The support boat skipper reports to the OOD.

Dinghy skippers must follow directions given by the support boat skipper.

Qualifications for skipper

The support boat skipper must,

- Hold a current Transport Queensland (or equivalent) boat licence
- Hold a marine radio operator certificate of proficiency (MROCP)
- Be proficient in our man overboard procedures and use of recovery sling, and
- Have been certified as a support boat skipper by a person authorised by the committee to do so.

A register of certified skippers will be kept by the committee.

Role for skipper

The skipper's role is to,

- Observe all relevant Transport Queensland Rules
- Be responsible for overall on-water dinghy operations
- Be responsible for support boat crew training
- Remove the boat from storage and park it on the forecourt (allowing room for inspection), and attend to:
 - A motor and boat check list prior to launching the boat
 - On-water observations and duties
 - Then carry out end of day activities.

* The required checks and observations are listed in [ATTACHMENT 1](#)

The crew is required to be,

- If requested by the skipper, prepared to enter the water
- Familiar with the operation of the recovery sling and MOB procedures
- Competent to operate the motor, and operate the boat safely
- Competent and sufficiently agile to work around the support boat
- Familiar with VHF radio procedures sufficient to operate the radio

Reporting

Crew reports to the skipper.

ATTACHMENT 1

MOTOR CHECK	
• Check for visible damage and, if found, record in maintenance book	
• Check propeller and housing and security	
• Check oil level (to correct level)	

BOAT CHECK	
• Check, insert and secure drain plugs	
• Check fuel level and refuel to at least ¼ full using dipstick gauge	
• Walk around the boat & check for any visible structural damage or defects	
• Check-list all equipment is on-board:	Bailing bucket; boat hook; portable keel lifter; anchor; sailing buoys (3); first-aid kit; anemometer; binoculars; tow lines (x2); flares; V-sheet; thermal blanket; water; torch; recovery sling
• Check sufficient & serviceable life jackets are on board	
• Set up canopy and fasten screen	
• Check recovery sling is fitted correctly	
• Attach radio aerial and check for good condition	
• Turn ON main battery switch (located inside lockable binnacle)	
• Turn ON radio, set to Channel 72	
• Ensure motor is tilted up before moving boat to launch point	
• As soon as motor starts check cooling water flow	
• After boat launch, fresh water wash trailer, then park safely	

ON WATER OBSERVATIONS	
• Ensure crew wear life jackets at all times	
• Radio check with OOD on departure from pontoon	
• Be on standby for radio checks from all Dinghy skippers and Faith	
• Monitor fuel levels & alarms	
• Observe dinghies & sailors, & respond to any calls for assistance	

END OF DAY RECOVERY ACTIVITIES	
• Recover boat to trailer, tilt engine, and move to forecourt	
• Lower engine & flush with clean water, using the male-male hose attachment & tilt engine up after flushing	
• Remove drain plugs if necessary	
• Switch OFF radio	
• Switch OFF battery	
• Secure recovery sling for storage	
• Detach radio aerial & safely stow on boat	
• Lower canopy & screen to secured position, close & lock binnacle	
• Return keys to their usual position	
• Fresh water wash boat & trailer, spray trailer brakes with lubricant	
• Return boat to secure storage	

ATTACHMENT 2

Support boat specifications

Type	Rigid inflatable
Length	5.3m
Beam	2.3m
Weight	365kg
Motor	60Hp, 4-stroke outboard
Equipment carried	Bailing bucket; boat hook; portable keel lifter; anchor; sailing buoys (3); first-aid kit; anemometer; binoculars; tow lines (x2); flares; V-sheet; thermal blanket; water; torch; recovery sling
Registration	Annual
Complement	Skipper & crew member (2) plus, emergency passengers (4)

NOTES