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# **Regatta Safety**

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**Event Management  
Workshop  
April 19, 2023**

# **JSA**



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**Junior Sailing Association  
of Long Island Sound**

# **A Regatta Safety Plan Is Different.**

- Unlike The Safety Plan for Your Junior Sailing Program, the Participants are Unfamiliar With Your Facility and Waters.
- The Potential for Greater Numbers of Sailors On Site Increases Safety Risks.
- An Effective Regatta Safety Plan Requires Not Just Resources, Planning & Personnel, But Also Imagination.

# Regatta Safety – Build Your Team

- In Building Your Team, Identify Important Partners and Assign Responsibilities.
  - Event Chair
  - Principal Race Officer
  - Sailing Director
  - Waterfront Director
  - Head Instructor
  - On Water Safety Officer
  - Land Safety Officer

# Regatta Safety – Initial Team Meeting

- Walk Through the Regatta Schedule to Learn On Shore Where People Will be and Will be Moving to Identify Areas of Risk.
  - Docks & Ramps – Managing Crowding Situations
  - Parking Lot – Obstructions, Overhead Wires
- Review Your Emergency Action Plan to Ensure It is Current.
  - If you don't have an Emergency Action Plan for on-water activities, please contact the JSA and we will share resources for building an EAP that is tailored to your Program and Venue.
  - Practice Your Emergency Action Plan to Confirm All Roles & Responsibilities are Covered, Both by the Club and by First Responders.

# Regatta Safety – Planning

- Emergency Action Plan
  - Confirm Roles & Responsibilities for Each Partner.
  - Put Together an EAP Card for Each Coach Boat Summarizing What They Need to Know (Procedures, Radio Channels, etc.).
  - Alert & Brief First Responders on the Details of Your Event (Include Boat Class Descriptions, Number of Participants and Schedule).
  - Update Your Contact List and Phone Numbers.
- Registration
  - Require Coaches Register and Provide Cell Phone Numbers.
  - Have All Coaches Confirm Working Cell Phones, VHF and First Aid Kit (“I forgot!").

# Coaches Meeting

- Review Not Just Race Schedule, Procedures & Rules, But Review Those Aspects of On Water Safety Plan They Need to Know.
- Coaches Should be Briefed on Communications Protocols in Case of a of a Medical Event.
  - Who Calls 911?
  - Who Communicates with On Shore Liaison?
- Distribute EAP Cards to Visiting Coaches.

# Communications

- Incident-Related Communications Should be Covered in Your EAP..
- Confirm Your Plan for Communicating with Parents and Club of an Injured Sailor or Coach.
- Confirm Your Plan for Communicating with Regatta Participants.
- In Case of a Serious Incident, Identify a Spokesman for Dealing with Outside Inquiries.

# In Case of A Safety Incident

- Develop Action Plan for Gathering Information In Order to:
  - Determine Next Action Steps.
  - Conduct an Incident Review.
- Be Mindful That a Serious Safety Incident Carries Potential Legal Liability Risk.



# Inclement Weather

- On Shore Liaison in collaboration with Event Organizer should establish protocols for continual monitoring of changes in weather conditions. (It is recommended that this monitoring be delegated to a staff member or another individual experienced in this area.)
- If a change in weather suggests abandonment of racing for the day, who makes that call?
- Develop tow policies and practices for the event. Under what circumstances would you permit a non-instructor to tow?

# After The Regatta

- Gather Your Team and Ask the Questions:
  - What Went well?
  - What Challenges Did Your Face?
  - Lessons Learned.
  - What Changes to Your EAP Should be Made Based on Lessons Learned.

# One More Thing

- Isn't This Approach – Overkill?
- How Safe is Safe Enough?
- Isn't It Important for the Sailors to be as Safe 'Here' as We Would Expect for Them to be "There"?

*(Just Ask Any Parent)*