Royal Cork YC Supervision Policy

General Supervision

Probably the most critical element to ensuring children's wellbeing both on and off the water is the provision of appropriate adult (over 18yrs) supervision. The number of adults required and the skill or competencies they should have, will depend on the nature of the activity, the age of the participants and any special needs of the group.

Specific ratios for on the water training and coaching activities are set out in Irish Sailing Training Centre Operating Requirements. These are a good guideline for any on the water activities and examples include – 1 to 3 for power boating or windsurfing, 1 to 6 for start sailing, 1 to 8 for instructor training and 1 to 12 for advanced sailing courses.

The guideline ratio for safety boat cover at competition events is 1 safety boat: 10 sailing boats

Otherwise, a ratio of 1:8 for under 12 years of age and 1:10 for participants over 12 years of age would normally be considered adequate.

Of course, all of these are guides or maximums and will change depending on the circumstances, e.g. environment, conditions, participants with special needs or away trips and must be set out and agreed prior to the event.

Apart from the numbers, organisers should also consider the following when deciding on appropriate supervision.

Leaders should be competent. For on the water activities this would typically mean they hold an Irish Sailing instructor or coaching qualification. Safety boat drivers should hold the appropriate powerboat certificate.

Leaders should have more than one adult present on all activities for safety and safeguarding purposes. Where there are mixed groups there should be leaders of both genders

In changing rooms, ask parents to take responsibility and supervise in pairs of appropriate gender. If parents are not available, leaders should provide this supervision. Beware of leaving groups unsupervised in changing rooms for any length of time as this is area / period where bullying is more likely to occur.

Clearly state time for start and end of training sessions or competitions, leaders should not be left alone with young people at the end of sessions. If there are late collections leaders should remain in pairs until participants have left.

Keep attendance records and record of any incidents / injuries that arise

Gavin Deane

January 2023 Centre Principal

Royal Cork Yacht Club

Ask parents to stay and supervise sessions, (for safety and supervision, not necessarily for their 'technical' expertise)

Gavin Deane

January 2023 Centre Principal

Royal Cork Yacht Club

General Safety

All clubs / organisation should have a safety statement, including an assessment of specific and potential risks attached to their activities. They should also have procedures in place for safeguarding against such risks.

Irish Sailing document “Guidelines on Developing Policies & Procedures” provides information on how to conduct a risk assessment and develop policies & procedures.

Accredited Irish Sailing Training Centres will have this documentation examined as part of their accreditation / inspection process.

In addition, organisations should;

Ensure activities are suitable for age and stage of development of participants

Keep a record of any specific medical conditions of the participants

Keep a record of emergency contact numbers for parents / guardians

Ensure any necessary protective equipment, particularly personal floatation devices, are of a correct type, in good condition, properly fitted and properly used.

Ensure First Aid kit is close at hand with access to qualified first-aider

Know the contact numbers of emergency services

Have available appropriately stocked first aid kit(s).

Ensure easy access to medical personnel if needed and have an emergency plan

If an incident occurs, make a brief record of injury and action taken. Make a brief record of the problem/action/outcome. Contact the participant’s parents and keep them informed of all details

Officials and leaders should ensure that participants conduct themselves properly.

Participants should know and keep the rules of their sport, keeping in mind that many rules are there for safety

Instructors & coaches should hold appropriate qualifications required by the governing body

Ensure there is adequate insurance cover for all activities

Ensure parents / guardians are present at finishing time of sessions or events

Gavin Deane

January 2023 Centre Principal

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