

CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB



Gaffers in the Bay



Assessment of Risks for the Gaffers Series

Cardiff Bay Yacht Club

Assessment undertaken 6/07/2018

Undertaken by Series Chairman

Signed and dated Roger Wallington 6th July 2018

Assessment Review Date: Annual or when circumstances dictate.

Hazard

- Danger inherent in sailing craft originating from the interaction of spars, sails and cordage all in a waterborne environment subject to changing weather conditions.
- Multiple craft engaged In waterborne environment, sometimes at close quarters, with the possibility of collision, navigation error, stranding.
- Possibility of collision resulting from several, different fleets within a common geographical area and possibly under diverse management.
- Interaction of leisure series fleet and other leisure vessels.
- interaction of leisure series fleet and small commercial ferries within Cardiff Bay.
- Severe inclement weather.

Those at Risk

- Crew members of participating vessels.
- Crew members of other non-series leisure vessels.
- General public and crew aboard small ferries within Cardiff Bay.

Controls Deployed to Manage Risk Levels

- **Series Management:**

Each series is controlled by a designated series officer. A series officer will have significant sailing experience. Series officers are provided with a series management bag containing series guidance notes and sailing instructions related to the series inside Cardiff bay barrage, hand held radios, notepad and pens.

- **Dangers inherent in sailing:**

It is not considered possible to eliminate the dangers inherent in sailing but measures have been introduced to mitigate the risk:

All Series are conducted under the auspices of the Racing Rules of Sailing of the ISAF and all competitors acknowledge this when completing their entry forms. This is considered to promote the orderly conduct of the Series with the resultant reduction in the risk of collision and injury.

In both the Notice of Series and the Sailing Instructions all participants are reminded of their absolute responsibility to maintain their vessels and to manage the competence of both crew and vessel in relation to prevailing conditions.

All participants are required to carry insurance for their activities in the amount of £3m. All participants are required to carry a minimum of safety equipment and this provision is scrutinised each season.

All competitors declare their familiarity with the current Notice of Series and Sailing Instructions to further control the conduct with a view to reducing risk.

- **Different fleets:**

The club schedules activities within the bay so as to separate the timing of activities undertaken by different fleets operated by the club. Where possible overlap with neighbouring clubs are resolved by inter-club liaison usually involving an agreement to stagger activities and deploying courses which minimises any overlap.

Different classes are given courses which avoid fleets rounding common marks in opposite directions.

- **Interaction with other water users:**

All users of Cardiff waters are governed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and the Regulations of the Harbour Authority. Further club regulation is not considered to be able to improve the position and incidents of this nature are virtually unknown.

- **Severe inclement weather:**

Guidance to series officers indicates that races will not be undertaken if the Met Office forecast for Cardiff predicts winds in excess of 20 knots for the scheduled time of the event.

- **Deployment of club vessels:**

All series officers or marklayers scheduled to use a club vessel are required to hold a minimum qualification of PB2 or higher. Qualification to Day Skipper and above is considered to be acceptable. Potential users of club vessels are offered PB2 courses, at no individual cost, if they do not already hold the requisite level of qualification.

Vessel familiarisation sessions are held for those that require them.

Operators of club marklaying vessels are provided with guidance notes which identify requirements to use a kill cord, wear a buoyancy aid and other safety procedures. They are also provided with a safety 'barrel' containing a kill cord, radio, first aid kit and length of rope.

Risk Levels

Hazards identified are all considered to be low risk following the adoption of the control regime implemented by the club.

Supporting Documentation

The following documentation is revised at least annually and circulated to those individuals involved in the various series management roles:

- Series Entry forms. These acknowledge familiarisation with other supporting documentation.
- Notice of Series.
- Sailing Instructions for the Series inside the bay.