



RS Classes UK Association Safety Guidelines

Safety guidelines for all RS (UK) racing and training events

The purpose of this document is to outline the operating procedures for RIB drivers at RS racing and training events held in the UK.

1. RIB speed

- a) RIBs to maintain slow and controlled speed when in proximity to Sailors. Maximum 15 knot RIB speed limit, with minimal wash, within 50m of an RS Feva, unless dealing with an incident
- b) Kill cords should be worn at all times

2. Carrying of passengers

- a) Where a RIB is required to carry sailors as passengers (for example to ferry sailors ashore to use the toilet) if they cannot occupy a seat, care needs to be shown and the RIB kept below planing speed so as to minimise the risk of injury

3. Helm Age, Qualification and Experience

- a) No under 16 year old RIB drivers, unless specifically approved by the event / training organiser (Safety control or Lead Coach) and under the direct supervision of an 18 year old or over (RYA PB2 qualified driver) who takes responsibility for the RIB.
- b) All RIB helms to hold minimum of RYA Powerboat level 2
- c) No under 18 year old RIB Helms unless under the direct supervision of an 18 year old or over (RYA PB2 qualified driver) who takes responsibility for the RIB.
- d) 2 responsible persons (PB2 qualified or Adult) to be in the RIB while afloat, unless specifically approved by the event / training organiser (Safety control or Lead Coach).
- e) For newly qualified RIB helms, it is recommended that they are supervised by a qualified experienced RIB helm while they build experience

4. Coach RIBs at RS Events

- a) No Coach RIBs inside the course, unless specifically requested by Safety Control
- b) Move around course in an anticlockwise manner, staying > 100m from any legitimate place a sailor may sail
- c) May only contact sailors in holding area, downwind of start

5. Night use

- a) No Night RIB use unless approved by Safety Control or Lead coach
- b) If use of a RIB during night is authorised, navigation aids, search lights, torches and normal safety kit are required

6. Risk assessments

- a) Assessment to be completed for all RS (UK) arranged Races and Training events
- b) All shore based activities organised as part of RS Feva training/squad camp are subject to a risk assessment.

7. Communications:

- a) All RIBs to carry VHF radio, and be at least 1 crew be qualified to use it
- b) At least 1 RIB to have fixed antenna VHF if fleet plans to go 3 miles off shore, preferable to also carry portable VHF
- c) Guidelines to carry 2 forms of communication, VHF + Mobile phone.

8. Safety Equipment

- a) All occupants of the RIB must wear suitable personal buoyancy at all times whilst afloat. One member of the crew should be prepared to enter the water if necessary.
 - b) All ribs should have as a minimum the following equipment
1. A VHF radio capable of lasting for eight hours
 2. A whistle or fog horn
 3. An appropriate first aid kit
 4. A sharp and easily accessible knife
 5. Some form of safety blanket (plastic or tin foil)
 6. A large bucket or bailer
 7. A compass
 8. A mobile phone
 9. An anchor and sufficient warp (15-18m)
 10. Spare kill-cord
 11. Adequate fuel
 12. A Paddle
 13. Red and white tape for fastening to the pintle of an abandoned boat