

Safety guidelines for Dinghy Sessions and day trips

July 2017

It's up to the captain to judge how long or where dinghy sessions take place, taking into account:

- The weather conditions,
- Boats and equipment available and
- Experience of participants.

In addition to the dinghy safety guidelines on the club website:

[http://www.sailingindublin.ie/ Club/DinghySafety](http://www.sailingindublin.ie/Club/DinghySafety)

The following guidelines should apply:

1. Captain has to judge the weather conditions, condition of boats and crew experience and err on the side of caution
2. If there's no safety boat, the session should stay inside the harbour.
3. If there is only 1 person in the safety boat – the session should not leave the harbour unless captain judges weather, boat conditions, sailor experience suitable, erring on the side of caution
4. For dinghy cruises (i.e. north of the shipping lane and south of Dalkey) 2 people are required in the safety boat and a support boat is required (i.e. Ruff Diamond, Obsession, Silver Wind) or hire a Rib. The skipper and crew of the support boat must be aware of their responsibilities and stay in radio and visual contact with the dinghies.
5. When a dinghy session takes place outside the harbour participants should stay within the designated area e.g. Seapoint area or Scotsmans Bay area.
6. While on a dinghy trip/cruise outside the harbour, dinghies must sail in flotilla and stay close to each other i.e. within 100m of each other.
7. Cruises should only take place when the sea temp has increased (June/July/Aug/Sept). And sailors should dress as if it was a season colder i.e. Full wet suit, kag, booties, hat, lifejacket. Safety Boat crew will need additional layers. The safety boat should carry snacks.
8. Dublin port is a very busy port. Large vessels, travelling at speed, enter and leave it. Extreme caution must be taken crossing the shipping lane. A capsized dinghy in the shipping lane could result in a very serious incident. Where a cruise involves crossing the shipping lane, Dinghies will need to be towed across the shipping lane by the support boat.
9. Before any cruises an equipment safety check should be done.