

## Rowing NZ Recommended Operating Procedure (ROPs): Hireage of Safety Boats

*Rowing New Zealand is committed to water safety by offering clubs recommended procedures for operation. Clubs should take these recommendations as guidance and consider the risk of their own training waterways when making decisions on their club procedures. The following list of ROPs is non-exclusive but aimed at assisting clubs in considering their risks depending on the relevant hazards.*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this ROP is to guide rowing clubs in hiring out their safety boats to other clubs/users while emphasising the importance of adhering to the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code. This procedure ensures the safe and responsible use of safety boats by all parties involved.

### **1. Compliance with Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code:**

- a. It is recommended that the following wording is included in the Hireage agreement:
  1. All parties involved in the reservation acknowledge the importance of complying with the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code.
  2. It is the sole responsibility of the hirer to follow the requirements of the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code.

### **2. Safety Equipment**

- a. It is the responsibility of the hirer to ensure all safety equipment required by the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code, such as PFDs, paddles, and throw ropes, must be available on board each safety boat.

### **3. Incident Procedures**

- a. Both clubs should establish and communicate clear incident procedures to all participants.
- b. Ensure that all participants are aware of emergency contact information and procedures in case of accidents or emergencies.

### **4. Allocation of Responsible Person**

- a. It is recommended that both clubs designate a responsible person to coordinate safety measures during the reservation. In most cases, this will be the club safety officer.
- b. The responsible person should be familiar with the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code

### **5. Safety Craft Usage**

- a. Safety boat drivers should always operate the vessel following Maritime Rules and local guidelines. This includes the wearing of life jackets and carrying two forms of communication at all times. Refer to 'ROP – Safety Craft Usage', for further recommendations.