

Rowing NZ Recommended Operating Procedure (ROPs): Safety Craft Usage

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.

The operation of safety craft is the cornerstone of safe rowing practice in New Zealand.

Approval of drivers

Rowing New Zealand has developed a dedicated ROP for the approval of drivers. Please refer to ROP – Safety Boat Driver Assessment

Safety Equipment

As per the Rowing New Zealand Water Safety Code 2023, all safety boats must carry the following equipment:

- a) bailer, and for inflatable rubber dinghies, a suitable pump, and a spare inflation valve
- b) sound signalling warning device. i.e., an air horn, megaphone, or whistle
- c) grab line or 'throw bag'.
- d) sufficient approved floatation belts for the largest skiff being supervised (8 is ideal)
- e) basic first aid kit including a survival blanket.
- f) sharp knife in a carrying sheath.
- g) paddle
- h) engine cut-out lanyard device which should be worn at all times by the support vessel driver
- i) fire extinguisher
- j) waterproof torch
- k) when operating more than 500m from the shore a flare should also be carried

Boat Log

All clubs should provide a boat log for their safety boat drivers. This log should show the date & time, and safety boat movements in and out of the shed, including an expected return time. Safety boat drivers should be expected to fill this out.

General Operation

Safety boat drivers should, at all times, 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.