
Water Based Activities ~ COMPETITORS, RIB DRIVERS & CREW, RACE OFFICERS & HELPERS at the Taittinger Regatta at the Royal Solent Yacht Club 25th & 26th July 2026

Organisation name: Royal Solent Yacht Club

Assessment carried out by: RSYC Rear Commodore Sailing, Chief Race Officer, Taittinger Regatta Chairman, Head Boatman.

Date assessment was carried out: 20th February 2026

The Royal Solent Yacht Club (the 'Club') has carried out this Risk Assessment of the sailing activities during the Taittinger Regatta to satisfy the requirements of Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The sailing activities involve competitors, RIB drivers and crew, Race Officers, Club staff and Volunteers.

During the Regatta, the Club will be running racing for sailing boats including racing IRC yachts, NHC cruisers, Folkboats, and day boats. Racing will be run from Committee boats in the Western Solent.

No one may participate in racing unless they have completed fully the Online Entry Form and they have read and understood this Risk Assessment. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. This activity is for competent people capable of making their own decisions and sailing without support from others. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in the activity is theirs alone.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Date Assurance Provided
Communication system not clear	All participants if race management is affected or any issue arises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VHF radio protocols to be followed by Race Officers and Support Vessels. - Ensure adequate numbers of VHF radios are available and are carried by all competitors and have correct channels available. - Courses to be communicated as per Sailing Instructions and repeating at regular intervals over VHF radio. - Results to be on Club website 	Review daily	PRO and Race Officers.	On each day of racing	
Competitor gets into difficulty and requires urgent assistance with their boat	Sailors and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following standard sailing protocols - Buoyancy aids/floatation devices are recommended to be worn on the water. Support Vessel Drivers and crew must wear Club life jackets at all times. PRO and Race Officers may require Club Life Jackets to be worn if conditions mean that it is appropriate to do so. Clear protocol to communicate requirement to competitors. - Wind and sea conditions to be considered to assess hazards for sailors and Support Vessels. - PRO and Race Officers to assess adequacy of Support Vessel cover given numbers, experience and wind/tide conditions - Upper wind speed limit to apply. - Radios to be carried by all support Vessels for communication with shore team and PRO with protocols followed to summon rescue. 	All racing to be closely monitored by PRO, Race Officers and Boatmen and immediately cancelled / abandoned if the wind/sea conditions are becoming more than acceptable.	PRO Race Officers, RIB drivers	On each day of racing	

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Competitor gets into difficulty in the water and requires assistance	Sailors and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above - Standard RSYC Protocol, Afloat and Ashore Emergency Action Plan RIBs to follow rescue procedures as set out in the Support Boat Briefing - Radio communications and protocols to summon external assistance if required. RSYC support vessels carry the following devices to enable self-recovery from water: <i>Solent RIB</i> carries a mounted step and deployable ladder on its transom. <i>Marksman</i> has a deployable solid ladder stored on board under the console. <i>Countdown</i> has a rope ladder on board. - Deployable floatation devices on <i>Countdown</i> 		Sailors and RIB drivers and crew	On each day of racing	
First Aid including Basic Life Support	support vessels and sailors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above, endeavouring to minimise the actual risks of sailing - Defibrillator on <i>Marksman</i> if required - Follow UK Resuscitation Council Guidance +/- RYA recommendations - St John's Ambulance personnel shoreside at RSYC Club house during both days of the event; 1 x Community First Aider and 1 x Emergency Responder - For incidents afloat, Head Boatman or Senior First Aider to decide re RNLI lifeboat or Helicopter, coordinated with CRO. 		RIBs, other sailors,	On each day of racing	

Fire on Board Committee Boats	RIB drivers and Race Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Extinguishers on board all boats - If out of control to follow abandon ship protocols, - Everybody to don Life jackets – Radio for immediate assistance giving location – take handheld VHF with you – enter the water safely – swim away from the boat to avoid fuel and oil igniting on the surface – stay together until help arrives. 		RIB drivers and Race Officers	Immediate	
Medical Emergency such as: Allergies Seasickness Sunburn Dehydration Choking	Sailors, RIB drivers, Race Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support boat drivers notified and to carry Sailors epipens if required. - Seasickness tablets can be recommended - Suncream and hats recommended - Water on board all Support Vessels. - First Aiders on Support Vessels who are made known to the Race Officers on the daily Risk Assessment sheet completed at the start of racing each day 		RIB drivers and Race Officers	Immediate	
Other vessels in the Solent, including ferries	Sailors, Committee vessels and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sailing Instructions draw attention to need to give ferries and commercial vessels priority and room - Alerts given to Wightlink ferries - Notification about Regatta to other Clubs 		Sailors, Sailing Office	Immediately prior to and throughout the Regatta	
Decision to race	Sailors and RIBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision to race on the grounds of wind strength, will be made by a Committee of Rear Commodore Sailing, Chief Race Officer and the Regatta Chairman 		RCS, CRO, Regatta Chairman	On each day of racing	