

Advice to briefers, December 2012

This advice addresses the issue of providing adequate safety cover with only the 20HP 3.4m Avon in stronger winds and/or with inexperienced support boat crews and/or an inexperienced OOD following the theft of the 30HP engines from the larger RIBs. This advice also applies to the 20HP aluminium-hulled Ribeye RIB which the Oppy fleet have kindly made available if the Avon is unavailable.

1. Inexperienced crews should not be expected to go out in the small RIBs if the ambient wind speed is or is expected to be above force 4. (This is for the safety of the powerboat crew). **The briefer should make a note in the OOD's log if he has advised the OOD that the crew is not sufficiently experienced.** The crew may decide this for themselves in which case the OOD should make the note.
2. If the powerboat crew is not in a position to launch because of their experience level or the conditions, the OOD must make all sailors who do want to launch aware that there is no support boat cover. **The OOD should note in his log that sailors have been briefed** and not fly the ensign.
3. The OOD may ask the briefer for his/her opinion on the conditions and may decide that racing should not take place. He may advise the sailors that racing can take place but that he believes there is an increased risk to their safety and, therefore, that it is each sailor's individual decision whether to sail. **Any discussion should be recorded by the briefer in the OODs log.**
4. If the OOD decides that racing can take place, but the support boat crew has not launched, he should invite the sailors who want to race to find an experienced support boat crew that they are happy with if they consider this to be a better course of action than sailing unsupported. If they decide to sail unsupported (or inadequately supported) he should advise them that it is each sailor's individual decision whether to sail. **Again notes should be made by the OOD in his/her log.**

Important note - There are two key strands to this advice:

- **notifying the sailors** if there is any reduction in the normally expected level of safety cover, so they can decide for themselves whether or not to sail; and
- using the OOD's log to **record all advice given and all decisions taken**