Downs Sailing Club Power Boats Policy

Objective of the policy
To ensure that across the range of DSC power boat activities be that club racing or social powerboating that power boats are operated in a way that gives members opportunity to develop skills and gain experience in a supported way. Skippers must be competent adult club members 18 and over able to take control as necessary.

Club racing safety boat duties
The Skipper shown on Dutyman must always be a Competent adult Club member (Over 18) and able to take charge of the Rib in any situation

Crew must be club members and physically able to perform the duties required of a safety boat. Crew may if conditions are suitable be cadets if they are able to carry out the role.

Under supervision DSC cadet members can helm a rib with the adult skipper able to direct and take control as needed

Designated SB consists of a competent adult skipper (Over 18) and competent Crew.

If conditions allow a third person can be in the boat to gain experience if the skipper is happy. (May not be suitable if only one SB is on water)

Cadets are welcome to sign up on dutyman as a Crew to cover Club sailing/racing or other club duties such as assistant RO or Galley

Social Power Boat cruising
In addition to Club racing DSC may on occasion run power boat cruises with ribs not undertaking safety boat cover. On these occasions there may be more the three people in the boat providing that CE Mark recommendations of the maximum number of persons is not exceeded. Under supervision of the Skipper cadets and members with limited experience can helm the boat to develop skills and gain experience.

Friday sailing
Friday evening sailing between May and August is a hybrid session which includes training, racing and social sailing. There will always be a designated safety boat as club racing. On occasion there may also be a coaching/other boat which could have more than 3 persons provided the CE mark recommendations for maximum numbers are not exceeded. As with Racing and social sailing helms must be a competent club member able to take control as necessary.

Safeguarding
Considering the safeguarding policy which says an adult member should avoid being in a one-on-one situation with a cadet who is not a family member. Our welfare officer feels that as members in a Rib are in the open and full view and that providing the competent adult is happy a non-family cadet can be crew if the above guidance is met.

The Safety boat and Rib policy should be read in conjunction with the DSC operational and safeguarding policies 2025 as shown on the club web site

The Above has been agreed by Exec, Sailing and Training committees

Updated 3rd October 2025