

GFS Safety Officer - NOTICE TO SKIPPERS - 12/8/22

Welcome to GFS Summer Season of Sailing 2022-23. To be involved at GFS we skippers need to do 3 things:

1. Renew your GFS membership and have your crew do the same. At GFS we will be maintaining the TopYacht crew registrations for all GFS events so sailors will need to be registered as a YA member at GFS, another registered club or through the YA Sailpass system.
2. Enter your chosen events. Links to online entry are on the GFS website. Skippers are reminded to take care that your entry is complete e.g., note that Summer Sats and Summer Twi's are separate events as are Downharbours. Also you Twilighters could consider the odd Saturday, e.g. the Mick York Trophy Series. This is PHS so you don't need to use the spinnaker.
3. **SAFETY AUDITS** will need to be completed and lodged and uploaded to TopYacht with your insurance CoCs. GFS Audit days are scheduled as:
 - a. **Saturday 20/8/22** Primarily for the Saturday Fleet;
 - b. **Saturday 27/8/22** Primarily for the Saturday Fleet;
 - c. **Saturday 17/9/22** Twilight Fleet Day 1;
 - d. **Sunday 25/9/22** Twilights Day 2.

My plan is to resume hands on audits this year to ensure club and skipper accountability is in place. However, given that we remain not free from Covid and other health concerns, I propose limited contact for basic Cat 7 renewals. I would request of skippers the following process:

- Complete your Cat7 paperwork in advance ready for audit.
- Prepare your boat on the day as follows:
 - MOB and Life rings etc. deployed in working position;
 - Lifejackets laid out on deck for inspection;
 - Inflatable life jacket survey reports to be available for audit.
 - Anchor visible with chain laid out on foredeck;
 - Fire extinguisher, Fire blankets, sound signals, flares, buckets, knives etc. topside or in cockpit to be viewed and ticked off;
 - First aid kits available for inspection;
 - Radio ON , channel 72, we can use this to call you in for audit alongside the club (radio check);
- Turn up at GFS on your chosen day of audit with crew assistance if required and rigged to come alongside at the club or wharf.
- Your auditor can then clearly and quickly see that your vessel is prepared and ready for Cat 7 events and ask any necessary questions for clarification.

For those vessels new to the club and vessels requiring Cat 6 and above please forward your completed audits to me and we can book an auditor as in previous years.

I am hoping the weather will be kind, I recall doing audits last year in full wet weather gear visiting boats on moorings using a RIB!

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