

Support Boat Guidelines

Support boat duty is a great way to get out on the water and watch our sailors in action. It is most effective when done in pairs—one person focused on driving the boat, and the other managing support activities. As a support boat volunteer, you serve as an extension of the Race Committee, providing additional eyes and ears on the course. We truly appreciate your time and commitment in helping ensure our races at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club are fun, fair, and safe.

Pre-Race Preparation

- Retrieve the Support Boat bag from the office prior to departure; return it after racing.
- Ensure you have a working cell phone onboard in case a 911 call is required.
- Review the LGYC emergency card (located on the back of this checklist).

Arrival & Coordination

- Notify the PRO via radio when you arrive and any time you depart the race area.
- Follow all instructions from the PRO.
- Monitor and use Channel 18, which is typically designated for Club racing communications.

On-Water Operations

- Be proficient in operating your assigned boat.
- Always keep eyes on the fleet and maintain a safe following distance.
- Avoid interfering with competitors or creating wakes that could impact race conditions.

Safety & Incident Response

- If a boat capsizes, approach safely to assess whether assistance is needed.
- Provide aid when appropriate and within your capability.
- Immediately radio the PRO to report on the situation and any actions taken.

Communication Protocols

- Respond promptly to radio calls such as “Flagship to Support Boat” with “Support boat here.”
- Communicate clearly and proactively with the PRO regarding any issues or observations.

Weather Monitoring

- Continuously monitor weather conditions.
- Report any concerns (e.g., lightning sightings or sudden changes) to the PRO via radio.