

Instructor Training 11

Righting an opti from the Patrol Boat Patrol Boat Exercise

Here is a scenario that you may need to handle sooner or later.



Capsized opti, child and rudder drifting away.
(What if centreboard was drifting away too?)
What to do FIRST?



Always pick up the child first
Where is the wind coming from? You need to approach the child from Downwind. So when you get close and put motor in neutral the PB will drift away, not towards the child. Work out your course.



Approach on windward side of PB, slow down and put motor into neutral when close enough for your crew to reach over and help the child onboard. Are they ok? May need some words of support?



Motor back in forward gear, motor slowly to pick up the rudder on the windward side, (*same instructions if you need to pick up the centreboard, now, as well*)



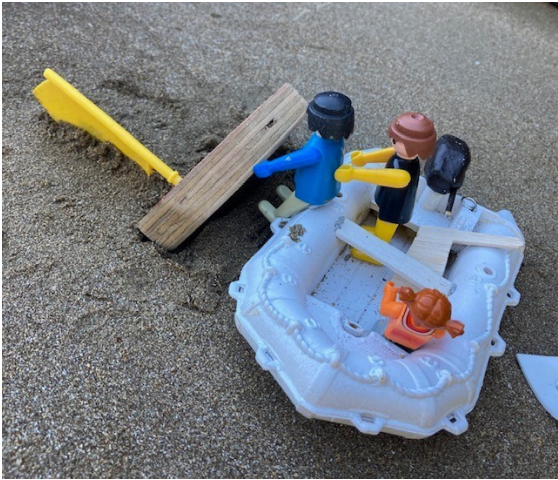
Motor over to the windward side of the opti in preparations for righting it.



Put motor in neutral when alongside the opti, one adult to sit on side buoyancy tank, feet on the opti corner, both hands holding the side of the centreboard at the top, the second crew member to stand behind, holding on to their buoyancy vest, just in case they might lean too far out, and slide off.



Push the lower corner of opti down with feet whilst your hands are pulling the centreboard towards you.



As the opti roles over, the centreboard will get low enough to put your feet on it, pull hull down with your hands. Don't let go until opti is upright.



(If the centreboard is in the patrol boat, sit on the side buoyancy tank, with crew holding your vest, you can put centreboard into the centreboard case, holding the top, push down far enough to get some leverage. Now, push on your feet and pull with your hands, make sure you are not pushing the centreboard down into its case.



When the opti is nearly over, you will need to remove the centreboard and grab the gunwhale to push opti down to rest of the way, don't let go until the opti is upright.)



When opti is up, you can put child in opti to help bail the water out, then put back rudder, (and centreboard), get child sorted, correct sating position, sail in right place etc, and let them sail away from you. Remember lots of praise.