

Instructor Training 4

Shunting

Patrol Boat Exercise

This method of towing is only suitable for towing an opti directly into the wind, as the sailor has drifted down wind from the Beam Reach Course, a common problem for beginners, and now they cannot get back to the course. The quickest and easiest way to fix this, is to Shunt them back to the course. **NOT BACK TO SHORE**



Sailor is spotted drifting down wind of the course.



Patrol Boat to come alongside the opti on the WINDWARD side, so the sail is flapping away from you, keeping the motor on low, just to maintain this position. Sailor to let go of the mainsheet, and hold onto the Patrol Boat, whilst the crew picks up the PB painter and threads through the handle at the front of opti , or round the mast and pulls tight, this keeps the Opti bow close to the PB bow, making it easier tow alongside. The stern of the opti should be ahead of the PB motor to allow the PB to manoeuvre easily.



Sailor holds onto the PB with one hand, keeping tiller straight with the other hand, and head down.
Patrol Boat turns into the wind and shunts the Opti back to the course



When the Opti is in line with the course, turn PB so it is on a beam reach, PB on WINDWARD side. Crew to pull back the PB painter, sailor to let go of PB, and pull in mainsheet, until it catches the wind and sails away.

What would you do if your motor suddenly stopped during your session?
It is unlikely, but you need a plan.

Quickly check;

Put your motor in neutral and try starting it again, no choke.

Is the kill cord attached properly?

Is the fuel line properly attached to the fuel tank and the motor?

If all these are ok, it must be something else that may take time to find/ fix, which you don't have, whilst watching the children.

Lower your anchor and tie off excess rope to bow handle, this will keep you head to wind and you will not drift off. You should still be close enough to talk to the children, and get them to sail back to shore. WW rules are that if you only have 1 patrol boats on the water you must have another patrol boat on the beach ready for launching should it be required. This means another PB will available to bring you back to shore.