



Victoria Friday Night Special Series Notes for Skippers

Notes for briefing crew participating in the Friday Night Special racing series

Preamble

The objective is to teach new crew and boat owners to sail, race and to develop racing skills in a safe and less competitive environment.

Introductions

Skippers should introduce themselves to all crew and familiarise them with the boat layout, risk areas (boom, other hazards). Gear stowage, location and use of heads, sail storage and other relevant equipment should be defined and located.

Safety Briefing

Skippers must complete a safety briefing before each race. Aspects covered must include ensuring overall personal and boat safety, location of safety equipment (in particular, life jackets), emergency procedures (man overboard), communication of procedures, maintaining lookouts, noting things that can hurt and communicating potential conflict situations. **All crew should be offered the chance to wear a life jacket.** It is a legal requirement for all vessels over 6m to carry life jackets on board for all members on board.

Docking

Docking will be covered in the Introductory Session; however, crew should be briefed on your undocking and docking procedures. Roles and communication must be established for both procedures prior to leaving the dock.

Role allocation

Crew have been encouraged to introduce themselves and share their sailing experience. This will help you to allocate roles prior to the start of the race. The emphasis should be to up skill crew and to learn different aspects of sailing, subject to maintaining a safe environment. When possible, encourage the crew to be hands on and not just to observe. There is no point to having the skipper do everything and have the crew sitting doing nothing.

Other aspects

To complement the on-water experience, short post-race seminars will be held at the club, covering subjects such as sail trim, points of sail, knots and manoeuvres. Skippers are encouraged to support this training program by pointing out these areas wherever possible with every crew you have onboard. We will send out the topic with the crew allocations to both skippers and crews so an emphasis can be made on that subject both on the boat and at the clubrooms later on.

Courses

Friday Night Races in 2023-24 start from the **Westhaven** Tower, not Richmond Tower.

RNZYS run their Rum Races on Fridays too, so beware of what flags are flying!

Courses are different to the standard Harbour Racing Course. They can be found in the Friday Night Special section of the handbook.

Alcohol

Skippers may choose to have a drink or two on the boat, some may not. For some, it is the wind-down from a week at work and instead of having a drink in a pub or elsewhere, skippers are giving their time to enjoy the boat, the water and share their skills with new people. **We request that any alcohol be consumed after the sail** and in moderation as the majority of FNS crew are inexperienced and can easily make mistakes. Please remember that the safety of our crew is our number one priority.

Thank You

We couldn't run the Victoria Friday Night Special without you, so a big heartfelt thanks to all of you for joining in and helping get a lot more people out on the water. Over multiple years, many a good sailor has graduated from 'the special' and gone on to purchase their own boats and start taking more students out. It also brings in new members and their enthusiasm to help keep our club going. Thank you! Please come up to the club post-race and enjoy a 'Famous in Westhaven' burger and fries on us!