

Procedure For Man Overboard

Crew Briefing

- You don't want to scare your crew, but it makes sense to discuss your Man Overboard procedures with them
- With a regular drill in place you buy yourself time should the worst happen
- The next slide outlines the accepted RYA Yachtmaster crew drill

The Crew Drill

1. Shout 'man overboard' to alert the crew
2. Press the MOB button on the GPS
3. Throw a life buoy and dan-buoy to the MOB
4. If it's rough or in poor visibility mark the MOB with a buoyant smoke flare
5. Allocate a crewmember to point at the MOB in the water and tell them to keep pointing and not to lose sight of the MOB
6. Send a DSC distress alert and a Mayday
7. Start the motor and prepare a throwing line
8. Bring the boat alongside the MOB, with the boat pointing into the wind and the propeller stopped
9. Get a line around the MOB and get them aboard.

Man Overboard Manoeuvres

So that's the crew briefed

Now comes the tricky bit actually pulling off the manoeuvre

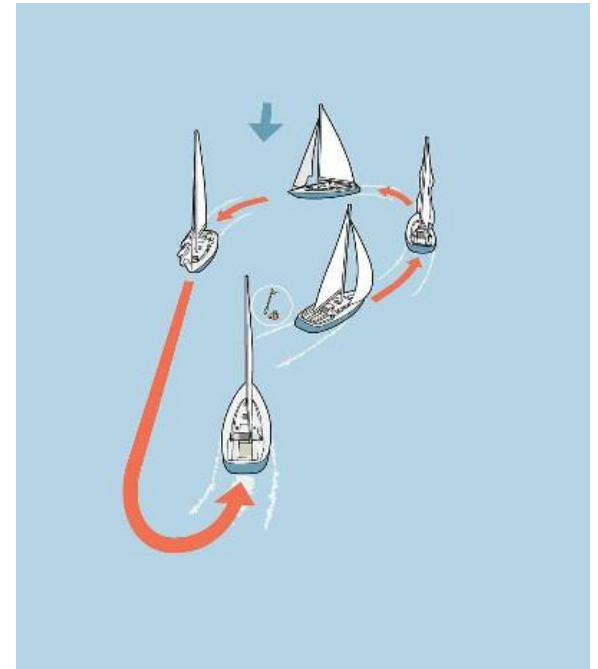
A good method of practicing is by throwing a fender overboard weighted down with a bucket or a coil of rope

Just make sure the crew don't lose sight of the fender!



Under Power

- Sheet in the mainsail and heave to in order to take the way off your boat, pass buoyancy to the casualty and mark with a dan-buoy
- Instruct a crewmember to point at the MOB
- Retrieve any warps from the water and start the engine
- Furl or drop the headsail
- Make ready the throwing line
- Manoeuvre the boat downwind of the MOB, keeping the MOB in sight
- Approach the MOB into the wind, so that the mainsail is depowered
- Pick up the MOB on the leeward side, aft of the mast



Under Sail

Now comes the really tricky bit

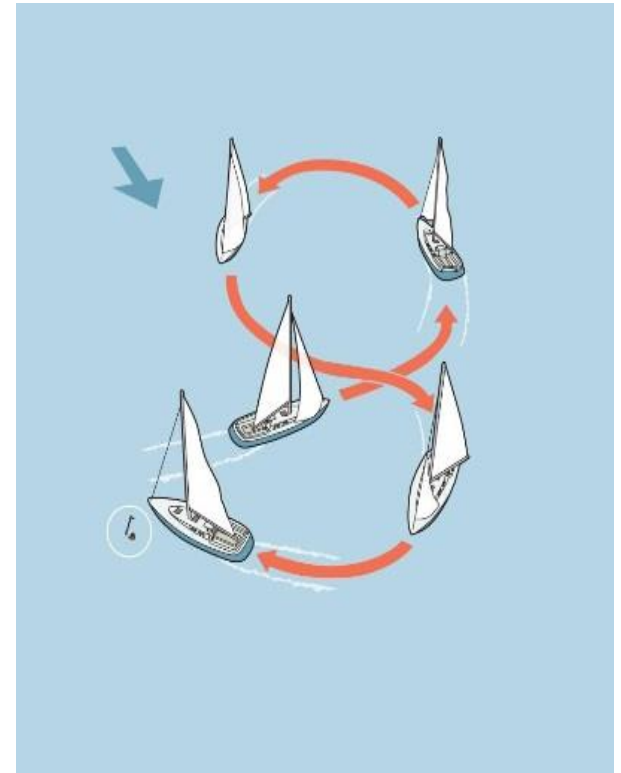
There's a definite art to coaxing your boat gently into the breeze and coming to a standstill alongside your target

It's a trick that's well worth mastering and the fact is that a man overboard situation is **EXACTLY** the time when your motor will decide not to start!



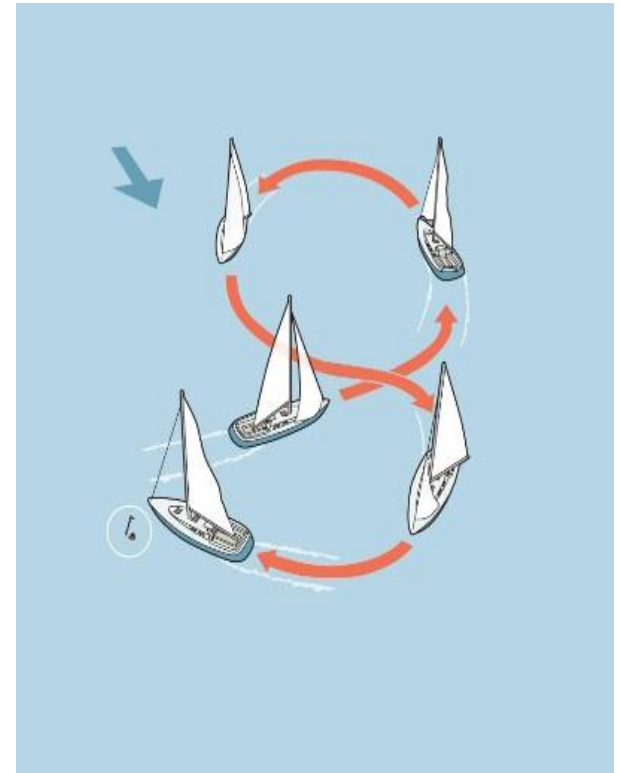
Under Sail

- On a close reach you can spill and fill your mainsail to control your speed
- As before, sheet in the mainsail and heave to, passing buoyancy to the casualty and marking with a dan-buoy
- Instruct a crewmember to check for warps
- Turn away onto a beam / broad reach and sail away
- Sail away for about five or six boat lengths, ensuring that you do not lose sight of the MOB
- Tack and aim the leeward side of the yacht at the MOB



Under Sail (cont)

- Let out the headsail and mainsail sheets. The mainsail should flap; if not, bear off downwind to change the angle of approach
- Point the boat back at the MOB until the mainsail flaps
- The angle of approach should be a close reach so that the sails can be powered and depowered
- Furl the headsail
- Fill and spill the mainsail and slowly approach the MOB
- Pick up the MOB to leeward, aft of the mast.



Man Overboard Recovery

The final step is recovery

If your boat has any kind of freeboard at all trying to get them out of the water is not as simple as it looks

If your boat has a bathing platform on the transom, then you might be able to get them back aboard via the ladder

However in rough conditions this will be a dangerous place to attempt to recover a MOB, as there is a risk of being drawn under the stern

Think about it and make a plan

Parbuckle

This is set on the side of the boat with the foot attached to the gunwale

The head is attached either to a handybilly (block and tackle) or straight to the halyard.

MOB Recovery Raft

These are purpose built for the job

Again, you could use the halyard or, if your boat doesn't have a solid kicker, the boom and mainsheet.

Key Points to Remember

Brief and train your crew – **your** life may depend on it

Practice by throwing a fender overboard weighted down with a bucket or a coil of rope

Think about how you will recover the MOB from the water and work out a plan

Remember the stern bathing platform will be a **dangerous** place in rough weather

Further Reading

These procedures can be found in Keith Colwell's **RYA Sea Survival Handbook (G43)**

To find out more about safety at sea, you can buy a copy of this book by visiting our on-line shop at **www.penguinsailing.com**