



# Sligo Yacht Club

## Marine Handheld VHF Radio Guide for non-licensed users.

In Ireland all VHF radio operators should be licensed by the Minister of the Marine following training. A VHF radio is your contact to Race Management, the Coast Guard or other boaters in distress or urgent situations. It also keeps you informed of hazards to navigation and weather and sea conditions.

### Use your VHF marine radio for:

- operational and
- routine SYC business messages
- distress, urgent and safety messages (it is preferable this is left to licensed users)

### Do not use VHF marine radio for:

- making false distress calls;
- profane or offensive language; causing interference or superfluous transmissions (idle chit chat);
- broadcasting music

### Power, signal, channel, volume & squelch:

When retrieving VHF Radio from charger in race office, ensure it is charged (bars). Switch radio on using on/off/volume knob at top of radio.

Select **Channel 71** if not already selected, using up and down keys and depress lock key to unlock/lock channel.

### Radio Check :

Confirm that your radio is working for both transmission and receiving.

**Do not use Channel 16** for radio checks - this is for emergency only.



Listen first to ensure you will not interrupt current transmissions.

Before transmitting, engage brain and prepare your thoughts and what information you want to convey in concise terms.

To transmit over VHF radio, speak clearly, concisely, use simple and appropriate language.

Do not:

- rush your words
- shout
- use personal names or offensive language
- transmit for conversational purposes

**Transmit:**

Call the PRO on channel 71.

Press and hold transmit button

**SYC Committee Boat,  
This is Shore Parent  
Radio check  
Over**

Release the transmit button and await a response.

**Shore Parent,  
This is committee boat.  
Receiving.  
Out.**

Indicating end of exchange.

*Not 'Over and OUT'*



### **Transmissions during duty:**

During the course of your duty you will be required to make contact with the Safety Boat covering launch and recovery and the Committee boat. If you are unsure of which Safety boat this is, your call can be:

#### **Harbour Safety Boat or Safety Boat x This is SYC Shore Parent**

**Over**

await a response

When you receive a response eg:

**SYC Shore Parent,  
This is Safety Boat 2**

**Go Ahead,**

**Over**

continue with your message:

**Safety Boat 2  
Capsized Mirror/GP in the channel.**

**2 sailors in water.**

**Please attend.**

**Over**

**Shoremaster.**

**Will attend/On way**

**Out.**

If you receive a garbled message, and do not know if it was for you, WAIT as it will be repeated. Overheard communication on the VHF radio, unless directed to 'All Stations', is considered privileged and confidential information and may not be repeated except in cases of emergency.

If required to spell something use the internationally recognized phonetic alphabet for isolated letters. (See overleaf)

When transmitting numbers say each number separately - 267 is transmitted as Two Six Seven. If letters follow the number, as in a call sign, 267AB becomes Two Six Seven Alpha Bravo.

After your duty, return the radio to the charger and ensure the unit is switched off.



## **Phonetic Alphabet**

**A - alpha**

**B - bravo**

**C - charlie**

**D - delta**

**E - echo**

**F - foxtrot**

**G - golf**

**H - hotel**

**I - india**

**J - juliet**

**K - kilo**

**L - lima**

**M - mike**

**N - november**

**O - oscar**

**P - papa**

**Q - quebec**

**R - romeo**

**S - sierra**

**T - tango**

**U - uniform**

**V - victor**

**W - whiskey**

**X - x-ray**

**Y - yankee**

**Z - zulu**