



## OUYC Yachting

# Man Overboard Procedures

While yachting risks vary with competency of the crew, skipper, equipment condition, and weather conditions. These can all be appropriately addressed with proper risk assessments and prior knowledge. Beyond the risk assessments found on the OUYC website for each individual section of the club this document serves to educate its members and community on the procedures we expect each member to be knowledgeable of prior to joining.

A man overboard (MOB) can occur in any situation and at any time. This occurs when a person has fallen, been thrown from, or otherwise disembarked unintentionally from the vessel they are on. At this point there is a specific protocol that must be enacted:

1. Everyone who has witnessed the MOB, or as soon as the MOB is recognized, must immediately shout at their highest volume “Man Overboard!”.
2. Everyone must point and keep their eyes on the MOB until they receive further instructions.
  - a. One person must point and keep their eyes on the individual at all times regardless of other activities.
3. The danbuoy (if equipped) or other floating device must be thrown into the water as near the MOB as possible.
4. The skipper or first mate will orchestrate crew members from this point while maneuvering to retrieve the individual as hastily as possible.
5. One crew member must immediately issue a Mayday on the VHF Radio on Channel 16, preferably using digital selective calling (DSC).
  - a. A MOB cockpit card will likely be available that has a particular script used for Mayday calls. This will include the vessels MMSI number used for DSC, the name of the vessel, the call sign, as well as other information specific to the vessel. Ideally this call will be made by someone comfortable with the VHF radio. The full script can be found below.
6. The individual performing the Mayday call will monitor the VHF during the duration of the MOB and communicate with rescue authorities.

### **Mayday VHF Script:**

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday

This is <name of vessel>, <name of vessel>, <name of vessel>,

Call Sign <call sign>, MMSI <mmsi number>

Mayday <name of vessel>

Call Sign <call sign>, MMSI <mmsi number>

My Position Is <vessel position, descriptors okay if known>

We have a man overboard, I repeat, we have a man overboard.

I Require Immediate Assistance

We have <number of people on board> persons on board

<any other relevant information>

Over