



JMS FLEET CIRCULAR

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SUBJECT : Enjoy Yachting – But do it Responsibly

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Dear Captain, Officers and Crew,

For the majority of yachts, the charter season has already started.

For many of you, yachting is your life, for others; this may be an opportunity to see the world or to earn some money to buy a house, pay off a student debt or by saving for a study for the next chapter in your life.

For those looking in from the outside, yachting is a glamorous, wonderful world but we all know how much hard work it takes to run a yacht; demanding owners and charters, short turn arounds, crew issues, irritability, maintaining enough rest hours...this list could go on!

The importance of down-time and days off for those onboard is a necessity, for both physical and mental well-being. Whether this is exploring the local surroundings, sports activities, having a drink/dinner with crew members or catching up with friends within the yachting community. These days off give you the chance to relax and enjoy yourself.

In the last few weeks, JMS have been faced with issues where responsibility for ones-self and that of other crew members seems to have faded, where the possible risks have not been thought about and where either dismissal or a serious accident has occurred.

On a MY, there was a suspicion that drugs were being used by one crew member. After completing a full round of tests on all crew members, 20% of crew were found to have used drugs recreationally.

On another MY, drugs testing was carried out and roughly 50% of the crew were found to be using drugs recreationally. In both cases, all positively tested crew were dismissed with immediate effect.

Last week, crew members were enjoying a day off together before a owners trip would commence, a sunny day out on motorcycles, enjoying the scenery and each other's company. This ended in a tragic accident where a crew member swerved from the road and hit a tree. After emergency surgery, the crew member is now faced with paralysation from the waist down.

We all want you to enjoy yachting, it's hard work but the rewards can be exceptional.



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But for the sake of yourselves, we ask that you think about what you are doing, take a step back, think of the risks you may be taking and the consequences of your actions. This is not only for your own welfare and safety but also that of your crewmembers and friends.

Kind regards,

Zoe Bolt-Falconer