

W 1.9 Kite rescue

Rescuing kites (or assist relaunch) is part of the game of kiteboarding. Organizing authorities need to be aware that all boat crews might be required to assist in rescue, especially when the wind drops significantly.

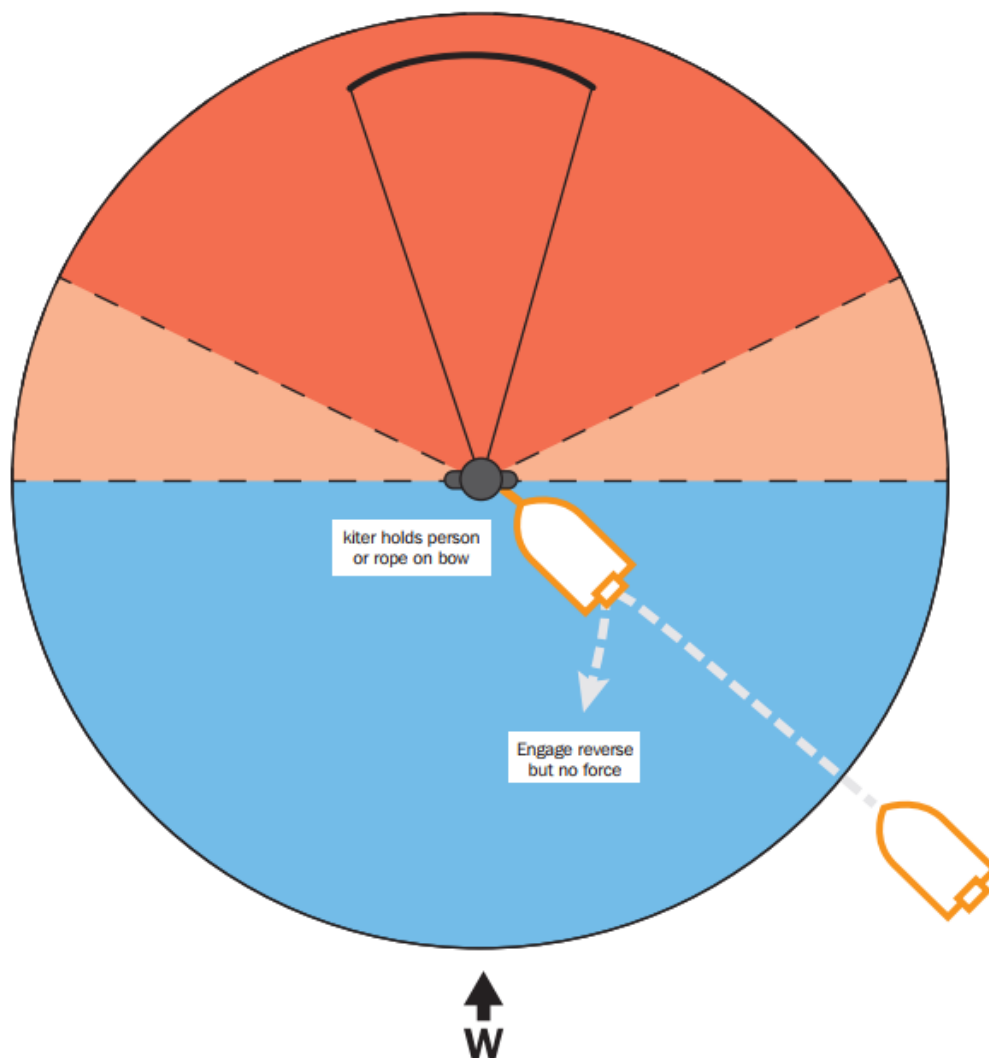
Being capsized (kite in the water) is not an uncommon state (depending on level of competitors) and race management should monitor all capsizes and assess if outside assistance is necessary, and if there may be injury. Usually competitors relaunch their kites after a short period of time. If a kite remains capsized for a longer period, a race committee vessel should assist as soon as possible.

It is advisable to liaise with a local kiteschool or kite community to have kiteboarders on the safety and / or mark boats.

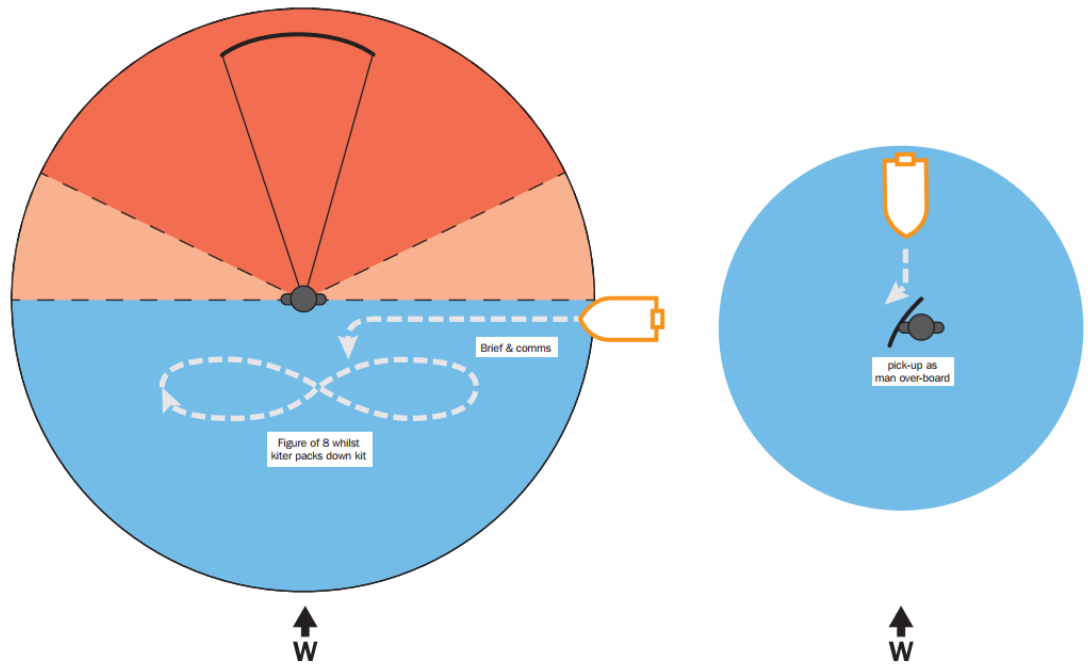
There are two scenarios for assistance:

A) Support to relaunch

In light wind conditions it is difficult to relaunch a kite. Competitors may be assisted by approaching them from windward, handing them a bowline, and when the competitor is ready slowly reverse to increase the apparent wind on the kite. The competitor will release the bowline once the kite relaunches.



- B) Rescue after equipment damage or tangle, or complete collapse of wind
 Approach the competitor from 45 degree upwind and communicate. If pickup is required, take the competitor on board and follow their advise, they will handle the recovery of their kite themselves.



All incidents should be approached carefully, from 45 degree upwind to the competitor. Especially after tangles and possible equipment damage, there might be broken kitelines in the water which easily can take a boat or jetski out of service.

