

Masthead Floats



Masthead floats are designed to give sailors confidence by helping to reduce the risk of an inversion and possible entrapment. They also help to make a capsize recovery easier and quicker for all, and less daunting for new or less mobile sailors who may not have the experience or ability to right a capsized dinghy.

Crewsaver masthead floats are constructed in a similar way to a lifejacket bladder and, just like lifejackets, are only effective when the correct amount of buoyancy is fitted. For example, a 9 litre float may be all you need for a small single-handed dinghy such as an Optimist or Pico. But if your centre uses larger, heavier

double-handed dinghies such as GP14s or RS400s, a 40 litre float would be needed.

It's worth noting that no masthead float can be 100% guaranteed to stop an inversion. Their performance can be hindered by the conditions including strong tide, wind, swell or incorrect righting procedure.

Many RYA training centres already include the use of masthead floats in their safety policy. All are advised to consider whether masthead floats should be used for their dinghy fleet to reduce or eliminate inversions. If you do choose to use them, students should be introduced to inversion capsizes during their course.