

# Hornsby Ku-ring-gai PCYC Sailing Club

## Safety Boat Use Policy - Draft

### Applicability

All Sailors, Active Members and Volunteers involved with sailing at HKSC. This policy does not cater for issues of a non-sailing nature.

### Overview

HKSC owns a number of safety/support boats. The primary purpose of these boats is the support of club events, coaching and other events as authorised. Access carries the understanding that the operators will comply with all club directives on use.

### Assessment of competence/ safety

Anyone requesting the use of the Club's safety/support boats is required first to be approved by the Club Commodore or delegate after being accredited by the Club's appointed support boat instructors, have attended the Club's in-house safety boat operators' course (SBO) and be familiar with the Clubs policies and Procedures. This assessment will be made from either their knowledge of the person or from an on-water assessment or other appropriate method.

All approved skippers must present their current NSW Maritime Boat drivers licence or equivalent to the Club Commodore or delegate, along with proof of attendance at the SBO Course before boat usage will be permitted and ensure that these are copied and stored within the Club's files. It is the responsibility of the person listed as the skipper to assure themselves that the boat is seaworthy and in working order.

### Conditions

- Club boats are only to be used for HKSC sanctioned events.
- Written request to use the boats outside of sanctioned club events must be made to the Club Commodore or delegate.
- The boats are only to be taken out by appropriately licensed and approved skippers as approved by this or any other Policy, by-Law or rule of the Club.
  - Any skipper needs a junior boat licence (12-16) or full boat licence
    - Any skipper without the above licence(s) must not drive the safety boat unless in an emergency situation that requires it.
  - Any skipper over 18 years old needs another crew person on board for their own protection and child protection purposes (if sailors under 18 are participating in that sailing session). i.e. skippers on their own are unable to have one under 18 person on board with them unless they are their own child.
- Any skipper must check with the person responsible for that sailing session before skippering a coach/safety boat - **do not assume consent to skipper a**

**safety/support boat** and just take a safety boat because you thought it would be helpful.

- It is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure the boat complies with NSW Maritime minimum safety requirements. If the boat does not comply it is not to be used and the non-compliance issue should be reported to the Club Commodore or delegate immediately.
- It is essential that a safety boat has a minimum of two (2) persons on board and a maximum of four (4) persons if being used for race support or sailing training work. It is unsafe (physically and in regard to child protection) to attempt any form of rescue with only one (1) person on board.
  - The boats are not to be overloaded and are strictly never to be used as spectator boats during club racing or training.
- One person on board must hold a MROVCP issued by the Department of Transport and Communications (Radio Operator's Certificate).
- It is desirable that at least one person on board shall be trained in emergency first aid or hold a senior first aid certificate.
- Deckhands and drivers should be fully conversant with ropework, towing, anchoring and general boating skills before they attempt to use the club's boats.
- At the completion of club racing, operators are not to leave the course area without first logging out with the Starter (PRO). Safety boat operators are to remain on course until such time approval is granted to leave the course area and return to shore.

## **Off Site Use**

The Club may provide an appropriate safety/support boat for our sailors in competitions such as interclub regattas, State and National championships when a boat is available. It is of critical importance that our safety/support boats are used in accordance for their purpose and are subject to restrictions.

- Boats can only be taken to offsite events with the permission of the Club Commodore in consultation with the Sailing Committee. Application must include the event, date and proposed skipper's name(s).
- The boat is to be used at the event as a safety/support boat only and not for any coaching purposes after the warning signal of any race. It is to provide assistance and support all club sailors at the event as required.
- The boat is only to be operated at the event by the approved driver of who must be an elected and an approved Club Safety Boat Operator and must hold a MROVCP issued by the Department of Transport and Communications (Radio Operator's certificate).
- The boat is not to leave the course area until every sailor representing the Club at the event has finished the race or is on shore and recorded as a DNF.
- It is the responsibility of the approved skipper to ensure that the maintenance and care of the boat whilst off site is up kept (including, washing after each race and

refuelling) and the boat is returned to the Club.

- Any damage or incidents occurring to the boat whilst off site must immediately be reported to the Club Commodore or delegate.

### **Safety/Support Boat Provision**

HKSC aims to provide all our race management and sailing training teams safety/support boats designed and suitable for the allocated task. The Club will aim to ensure that an ongoing replacement programme is in place ensuring that the best possible boat is always available to support our sailors.

### **Storage**

The safety/support boats (except *Hornsby Start*) are to be housed at the Dead Horse Bay or Rest Park facilities at all times unless permission is granted by the Club Commodore for off-site storage. *Hornsby Start* will be stored on a Club owned mooring in Dead Horse Bay. Hornsby 1-5 will be stored on road trailers for ease of towing to off-site events or beach dollies as appropriate.

### **Maintenance and Consumables**

Maintenance of all Club boats and replenishment of fuel and oil is the responsibility of the Club Commodore or delegate.

Regular monthly inspections of safety and other equipment required onboard will be carried out by the Club Commodore or delegate.

### **Volunteer/Member Support**

- HKSC will support members and regular volunteers through consultation with the Sailing Committee to gain appropriate qualifications in the following areas for support/safety boats:
  - First aid
  - Marine radio operations
  - Powerboat handling
  - Safety boat handling
  - Mark laying and course setting
  - Race management

### **Authority**

HKSC Sailing Committee

This document has been prepared and approved in accordance with the Club Constitution and Sailing By-Laws.

Signed

Commodore