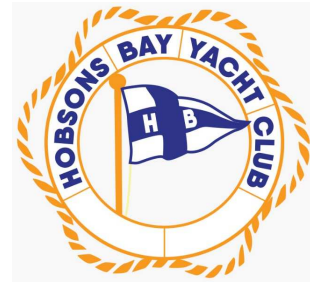


Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

Abandon Race Guidelines for a Club Boating Activity Event



This guideline has been developed to meet the State Government's Code of Practice for Yacht Clubs which manage Boating Activity Events.

As Organising Authorities and Race Officers our primary objective is to run a "fair and safe race". There are risks that must be assessed to ensure our primary objectives are met.

The Risks to be assessed are:

1. Wind Strength and Gust patterns
2. Sea State
3. The Race Entrants - their experience, skill level and boat size.
4. The Course area associated with the race.
5. Shipping movements in relation to Course area.

The above risks must be assessed

- Pre – Race.
- During the race.
- Post - Race.

Pre – Race Risk Assessment

Check the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Marine weather forecast for wind strength and sea state conditions.

If the BOM issues a 'Gale Warning' abandon the race as decreed in the HBYC Sailing Instructions Safety Regulation section 9.0.

"Races will not be started if there is a current GALE warning for the waters of Port Phillip issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Racing will be abandoned if the Bureau of Meteorology issues a GALE warning for the waters of Port Phillip during the race".

If the BOM issues a 'Strong Wind Warning' or 'Severe Weather Warning' there may grounds for a race to be abandoned

- If a Course of a Race sends entrants to a race area outside of the Breakwater protection of the Hobsons Bay and the BOM forecast is of Wind Gusts to 30 knots with large 2 metre swells the Race should be abandoned.
- The skill level and boat size of entrants (for example Thursday Pursuit Series).
- Classic boats and or S80 fleets may decide to abandon a race in breeze up to 25 knots. Some entrants are Cat 7 and skippers like to protect their wooden masts.

For any of the above criteria, the decision to postpone or abandon should **not be made more than 2 hours prior to the Starting Signal**. This allows the Race Director/Officer to view the most Up To Date forecasts, weather warnings and local observations of wind and sea state etc.

If a race is abandoned due to any or all of the above

- A message (email or text) will be sent to all entered skippers via the TopYacht Entry System (TES) that the race has been abandoned.
- Appropriate Race Signal flags may be flown on the HBYC flagstaff.
- A 'pop up' message may be displayed on the front page of the HBYC website

Once the BOM weather Forecast is assessed and the decision to conduct the Race is made

- The on duty Race Officer will check Shipping Movements with 'Melbourne VTS' one hour before the Race. Defer Race Start if Shipping Movements dictate. If required advise Entrants of Shipping Movements by VHF on the race channel.
- Record pre - race wind strength and sea state on Start Line.
- Complete the Race Officer Pre -Race form to confirm all pre – risk race assessments have been completed.

During the Race

- Monitor BOM forecast and if a 'Gale Warning' is issued by this authority **Abandon the Race.**
- If you observe the Wind Strength or Seas increase to a dangerous level during the Race – **Abandon the Race**
- Record wind conditions experienced during the race.
- Monitor VHF Race Channel, Race Officer Phone and VTS Channel 12.

Post – Race

Check the Finish Sheet with the TES 'Crew Declaration' and Start Sheet to ensure all yachts who have completed the Race have been accounted for.

Sailing Instructions require entrants to advise Race Officer (by VHS radio on the race channel) when they retire from a race and should be accounted for by the Race Officer.