

Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

Solo Sailing Policy



Every boat entering a scheduled race shall have all the safety equipment on board as prescribed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and shall have safety procedures clearly defined, understood and practiced.

For Rally participants current Marine Safety Victoria Safety Regulations are applicable.

1. Responsibility

HBYC Sailing Committee is responsible for the implementation of this policy and procedure.

2. Overview

With solo skippers the typical “man overboard” procedure does not apply. Prevention of such an incidence is the best procedure. Organisers of races/rallies have a duty of care to ensure the safety of competitors notwithstanding the decision to race or continue is the skipper’s responsibility.

The following Safety Requirements are **MANDATORY** for all single-handed entrants in any HBYC organised race/rally and recommended for all Solo Sailors. Failure to comply could result in a disqualification (DSQ) from an event.

3. Safety Requirements: Solo Racing and/or Events

- 3.1 Solo skippers shall advise Race Control and/or Rally Coordinator of their intention to solo sail prior to the commencement of each race/rally. Race entrants shall advise via the TopYacht Crew Declaration system and **POB sign on procedure via radio to the Start/Committee boat at least 15 minutes before the start of the first race.**
- 3.2 VHF radio to be always carried, available to be operated **without leaving helm** and tuned on to the appropriate channels.
- 3.3 Solo skippers shall sign off at race finish or retirement to Race Control via radio. Race Control shall remain on standby until all yachts are accounted for.
- 3.4 Code flag Y **shall** be flown from the backstay to indicate solo operation.



- 3.5 Solo skippers shall **always wear a Lifejacket** with safety tether capability as prescribed within the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and shall always be **tethered on with jack stays/jacklines fitted and used.**
- 3.6 HBYC **requires** all Solo Sailors to carry a registered ‘Personal Locator Beacon’ (PLB).
- 3.7 Any boat not complying with any of the above may face disqualification

For any HBYC Long Distance events, the Sailing Committee would highly recommend that you add the HBYC mobile (0474 079 202) to your AMSAR details.

Reference should also be made to the Maritime Safety Victoria website for additional information <https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-vessel-operators>