

Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

Solo Sailing Requirements



Every yacht 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.

With solo skippers the typical “man overboard “procedure does not apply. Prevention of such an incidence is the best procedure. Organisers of races and/or events 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 event and recommended for all Solo Sailors.

Safety Requirements: Solo Racing and/or Events

1. Solo skippers shall advise race control of their intention to race solo prior to the commencement of each race 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.**
2. VHF radio to be always carried, available to be operated **without leaving helm** and tuned on to the appropriate channels.
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.
4. A code flag Y **shall** be flown from the backstay to indicate solo operation.



5. Solo skippers shall **always wear a PDF** with safety tether capability as prescribed within the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
6. Solo skippers shall always be **tethered on with jack stays/jacklines fitted and used.**
7. Responsibilities are with the skipper of the boat that he/she has completed the HBYC Man Overboard Awareness Session or a MOB Course by a recognised Authority and has a written (on board and lodged with HBYC) MOB procedure for getting back on board.
8. Any boat not complying with any of the above may face disqualification
9. HBYC recommends that all Solo Sailors carry a registered ‘Personal Locator Beacon’ (PLB)

Reference should also be made to the Maritime Safety Victoria website for additional information

<https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-vessel-operators>