

# Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

## Inclement Weather Policy



This policy has been written to assist Race Management and Cruise Rally Coordinator's with decision making around inclement weather and whether to start a race/rally or postpone/abandon prior or once started and for event entrants to understand the Clubs rationale for inclement weather.

### 1. Responsibility

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

### 2. Overview

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 3 states that, "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

Whilst specific, this rule does not remove the obligation to exercise a "Duty of Care" to all entrants and to meet the Code of Practice for Yacht Clubs a Risk Assessment must be conducted for all Club Boating Activities.

Our primary objective is to run a **"fair and safe race/rally"**. There are risks that must be assessed to ensure our primary objectives are met.

### 3. Procedure

Prior to each race/rally or first race of the day, an assessment is to be made if conditions are expected to be suitable for the boating activity by the rostered Race Officer/Rally Coordinator and a Sailing Committee representative. It is the rostered Race Officer/Rally Coordinator's duty to continuously review this decision in the event competitors are on the water.

#### Gale Warning and Abandonment of Races

Should a Gale Warning be current two hours prior to the scheduled start of a race or the scheduled start of the first race, racing will be postponed to another day or abandoned.

Racing will not normally be postponed or abandoned until the day of the event. If the conditions are marginal, it is normal practice to review two hours prior to the scheduled start time of the race before abandoning racing. Consideration should be made for boat crew traveling distance.

For scheduled races the Club will advise boats of an early postponement or abandonment by using Racing Rules of Sailing race signalling via the Club flagstaff, email and/or SMS to the boat contacts nominated within the TopYacht Entry System (TES) and/or via the Club web site.

#### Strong Wind Warning

Should a Strong Wind Warning be current within one hour prior to a scheduled race start, consideration should be given to the race being postponed or abandoned. There may be occasions when conditions in the vicinity of HBYC are suitable for racing, but the Strong Wind Warning is in place for likely conditions elsewhere in Port Phillip. Refer to clause 4 Decision Making Criteria.

### 4. Decision Making Criteria

Decisions that conditions are suitable for racing to proceed need to be based on several items expected in the local race area.

- Wind Strength and Direction
- Sea State
- Air Quality and Temperature
- Visibility
- Lightning Strike Activity
- Capability of competitor and race management vessels.
- The experience and capabilities of the fleet and expectations and preparedness for the expected weather.
- The time frame of racing. An event start might be delayed if the conditions are considered not suitable to race at that time but are expected to moderate on the day.