

Solo Sailing Guidelines

Practice for Solo Sailing

There have been instances where competitors in organised keelboat races have come into difficulties. This particularly applies where novice crew are on board. Every racing yacht should have all the safety equipment on board as prescribed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and should 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.

It should be noted that Hobsons Bay Yacht Club does not encourage or promote the practice of solo sailing in either races and/or events.

Safety Requirements: Solo Racing and/or Events

1. Solo skippers to advise race control of their intention to race solo prior to the commencement of each race via the TopYacht Crew Declaration and POB sign on procedure.
2. VHF radio to be always carried, available to be operated without leaving helm and tuned on to the appropriate channels.
3. Solo skippers to sign off by race finish or retirement advice to race control via radio. Race control shall remain on standby until all yachts are accounted for.
4. A code flag Y **should** be flown from the backstay to indicate solo operation.



5. Solo skippers to **always** wear a PDF with safety tether capability as prescribed within the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
6. Solo skippers to be **always** tethered on with Jack stays 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.

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

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