



RACE MANAGEMENT - WEATHER POLICY

Introduction

Safety is paramount for our sailors and volunteers, as part of our risk management the policy will ensure consistency across our Race Officers

Purpose

The primary purpose is to provide guidance to our sailors and race management on suitable sailing conditions and when events may be postponed or cancelled.

To Whom Our Policy Applies

To all sailing members, visitors, the race committee and the BSC board

Extent Of Our Policy

The policy sets out the guidelines for Race Officials and Sailors in regards to weather impacts and ensuring safety of all members, visiting sailors and guests in accordance with World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing, part 1 fundamental rule 4

Thunder Storms

BSC abides by the lightning protection 30/30 rule:

- Flash to bang less than 30sec lightning <10km away so get off the water and come into the clubhouse, don't de-rig.
- Don't start again for 30minutes after last thunder (or lightning seen). If during that 30 mins you see another flash then the 30 mins starts again.
- Advise all volunteers in the event of lightning risk not to touch the metal on the boats and to get under cover on the boat, where possible.

Wind Limits

The Tasar association uses the following and all BSC classes have agreed to use these measures:

- If wind gusts are greater than 25kn for 30secs, or
- Wind gusts 30kn or above, then:

If already out on the water the committee boat will abandon the race and fly n over h flags (please see the list of flags at the end of the document) to notify sailors to go back to the club. The safety boats will also inform sailors, please pass it on to other dinghy's in the area as you head back ashore.

Please note, the Victorian recommended limits for our dinghy's are 22kn <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/x7xyivqjxnf9acez.pdf>

If the wind is forecast to drop then the race officer may hold everyone ashore and postpone the start until the wind reaches suitable levels

If winds are close to these speeds then talk to the sailors, novices don't go out.

If dangerous conditions (i.e. misty, rainy, high swell) as well as high winds then put safety first.

If inexperienced safety boat drivers/crew then err on the side of safety and postpone or abandon.

If the conditions in Hunter Bay are more favorable discuss/choose Heavy Weather course with sailors at the briefing.

Race officers have flexibility for specific events such as state titles, to agree with a class requirements or discuss at briefings, for Junior events or inexperienced classes these limits may be reduced in consultation with the classes or event organisers.

Additional Information for Race Officials

In the event of mass rescues or if conditions are unsafe to tow boats back to shore, take crew on powerboats, abandon boats after tagging them with crew safe tape or signs. The race officer can decide to radio/call or have one of the other powerboats contact marine rescue or water police for assistance with towing if there are inexperienced crew or too many boats.

Before coming ashore check the area for any of our dinghy's and radio "Balmoral Beach" and ask to check how many ashore. Once ashore double check that everyone has made it back safely.

The incident logbook available on each powerboat should be used to record any incidents with the race officer overseeing the incident.

Club Responsibilities

- To provide safe sailing for our sailors and manage weather related risks.
- To manage the risks for our powerboat volunteers
- To help everyone off the water and into the club house as safely and quickly as possible in the event of dangerous conditions

Individual Responsibilities

- To recognise their own ability and sail to that ability i.e. World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing, part 1 fundamental rule 4
- To ensure they know this policy
- To participate in discussions about the weather conditions during race briefings
- To follow the directions of race officials in the event of unsafe weather conditions
- To sign off at the door to the club or with the race officers once they come ashore

