

Short Handed Sailing Policy



Port Phillip Northern Yacht Clubs (PPNYC) is a collaboration between the three keelboat clubs on the northern shores of Port Phillip: the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Hobsons Bay Yacht Club and the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron.

In this document, the term “Home Club” means the club where the boat is registered, and the term “Host Club” means the club that is conducting the race or series.

Every boat entering a scheduled race shall have all the safety equipment on board as prescribed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Australian Sailing Special Regulations, and shall have safety procedures clearly defined, understood and practiced. The competitor is responsible for ensuring that the vessel has adequate insurance cover for short-handed racing.

This policy is an extension of these safety procedures specifically for single-handed and double-handed keelboat racing either for races designated as single-handed or double-handed events, or for competitors making the decision to sail single-handed or double-handed in other approved club events.

1. Definitions:

Single-Handed Entrant: A boat that is sailed by one person only. This means:

- Only one person on board during the entire race.
- The sole crew member is responsible for all aspects of handling the boat, including safety, navigation, sail trim and steering.

Double-Handed entrant: A boat that is crewed by exactly two people during the race. This means:

- Two crew members are on board, and no others are allowed during the race.
- Both individuals share the responsibilities of sailing the boat, including all safety, navigation, sail trim and steering.

[NP],[DP],[SP], “Home Club” and “Host Club” have defined meanings as per the PPNYC Notice of Race.

2. Responsibility

The Home Club Sailing Committee is responsible for the implementation of this policy and procedure.

The conditions of this policy may be varied on a race or series basis by clauses in the NOR or Sailing Instruction associated with that race or series.

3. Eligibility [NP][DP]

Single-Handed entrants shall be over 18. Double-handed entrants shall have at least one crew member over 18 and the second crew member shall be at least 15 unless exempted by the Home Club sailing committee.

When a single-handed entrant wishes to sail in general club racing events (other than a designated Single-Handed Sailing event), they shall apply to their Home Club Sailing Committee for “Single-Handed” endorsement.

The Home Club Sailing Committee may exclude a competitor from competing in either single or double-handed sailing for any reason.

4. Seamanship.

Short Handed entrants must be aware boats may be less manoeuvrable when sailed short-handed and additional time and space should be allowed at the start line, when rounding marks and when changing course.

Competitors should also understand that short-handed sailing places additional physical demands on sailors and they must be prepared to cope with the rigours of this format. The decision to take part remains the skipper's responsibility, as set out in RRS 3.

5. Race Category

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.

PPNYC races are categorised as Category A, Category B, Category C and Category D for the purpose of the allowance of short-handed sailing. The Host Club will categorise each race or series for short-handed sailing.

[NP] Categorisation of each race is at the discretion of the Host club Sailing Committee.

Category A races are lower risk races - short distance races with either competitors or Race Officials close by.

Category B races have a higher risk – Longer distance races where competitors and Race officials may be some distance apart.

Category C – these are highest risk races where no single-handed sailing is permitted. As an example, races conducted during night hours would be considered a **Category C** race.

Category D – No Short-Handed Sailing permitted.

6. Safety Requirements: Short-Handed Racing and/or Events

[DP] [NP] The following Safety Requirements are **MANDATORY** for all short-handed entrants in any PPNYC organised race or rally. Failure to comply may result in a disqualification (DSQ) from an event.

RACE CATEGORY	Short Handed sailing Requirements	Single-Handed	Double-Handed
A	Entrants shall sign on via VHF radio to the Start/Committee boat at least 15 minutes before the start of the first race Advising POB, regardless of any other requirement to do so.	☒	
	A VHF radio to be always carried, available to be operated without leaving helm and tuned on to the appropriate channels.	☒	☒
	Entrants shall sign off at the race finish or at the time of retirement to the Race Committee via radio or mobile phone. Race Control shall remain on standby until all yachts are accounted for.	☒	
	Code flag Y shall be flown to indicate single-handed operation. 	☒	
	Code flag V shall be flown to indicate double-handed operation. 		☒
	Entrants shall always wear a Lifejacket with safety tether capability.	☒	
B	Entrants shall always be tethered on with clipping points and/or jack stays/jacklines fitted and used in accordance with the <i>Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 for Racing Boats</i> clause 4.03	☒	
	In addition to category A requirements	☒	
C	No single-handed sailing will be permitted. Double-Handed Entrants may be permitted in accordance with the Notice of Race for the particular event or at the discretion of the Race Committee. All Category A and B requirements for double-handed entrants shall be met by double-handed entrants for this category.	☒	☒
D	No short-handed Sailing will be permitted.	☒	☒

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