

HEBE HAVEN YACHT CLUB

POLICY ON PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES ("PFDs") including "lifejackets" and "buoyancy aids"

INTRODUCTION

With reference to RRS Rule 40 and with effect from 1 November 2017, any yacht competing in a race organised by the HHYC shall comply with the standards set out below, in respect of the carrying and wearing of PFDs. Dinghy sailors, both adult and youth, whether racing or training, shall continue to wear suitable PFD's at all times when on the water.

A. GENERAL - PFDs TO BE CARRIED ONBOARD AT ALL TIMES

1. Any yacht required to be licensed as a Class IV Pleasure Vessel shall carry onboard, at all times, sufficient number of lifejackets that comply with the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Class IV Vessels. A licensed yacht may also carry additional PFDs more suited for wearing during racing (such as CE 150N inflatable lifejackets or CE 50N buoyancy aids).
2. Any yacht that does not require a Class IV Pleasure Vessel license shall, as a minimum, carry the following PFDs for each person on board:
 - a) a foam vest type buoyancy aid with a minimum CE 50N or equivalent of permanent buoyancy; or
 - b) an inflatable lifejacket with a minimum of CE 150N or equivalent buoyancy.
3. PFDs carried onboard shall be well maintained, properly stowed and be of an appropriate size and fit for each crew. Inflatable lifejackets shall be serviced annually.
4. When worn, PFDs shall be the outer garment (unless worn under a competitor bib supplied by the organizer) and shall be worn according to the manufacturer's guidelines (i.e. zipped or buckled up).

B. FOR RACES HELD ENTIRELY WITHIN PORT SHELTER

For the purpose of this rule, Port Shelter shall include Rocky Harbour and shall extend to an area bound by a theoretical straight line drawn from the south-east side of Clear Water Bay Country Park (22° 17'.55 N, 114° 18'.60 E) and the southern tip of Basalt Island (22° 18'.40 N, 114° 22'.05 E). The attached drawing is provided for reference only.

1. For all yachts, children under the age of 12 shall wear a PFD at all times whilst on deck.
2. Unless the Race Officer hoists the flag Y, the decision whether to wear PFDs remains with the skipper of each yacht.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following areas are not within Port Shelter : Steep Island; Basalt Island; Nine Pin Islands; and any part of races to and from Mirs Bay.

C. FOR ALL OTHER RACES

1. For yachts with lifelines, with the exception of children under the age of 12, the decision to wear a PFD remains with the skipper.
2. For yachts without lifelines (regardless of whether or not the yacht is licensed), the wearing of PFDs is mandatory.
3. In the case of yachts where the lifeline does not continue forward of the mast (such as the J-70), any crew member working forward of the mast shall wear a PFD.

D. ADDITIONAL NOTES TO ALL CREW ON ALL YACHTS

1. PFDs must be worn if the Y flag is displayed.
2. It is strongly recommended that PFDs are worn during the hours of darkness.
3. It is strongly recommended that PFDs are worn by any crew member who is unable to swim 50 metres in calm water unaided.
4. It is strongly recommended that PFDs are of a high visibility colour.
5. Where the wearing of PFDs is at the discretion of the skipper then he/she should take into account prevailing and forecast conditions.
6. A vessel which does not require a license is a yacht which is not capable of having an engine mounted.
7. Users should be aware that CE 50N or equivalent buoyancy aids are not designed to turn an unconscious wearer face up in the water and that manual inflation CE 150N or equivalent lifejackets will not work unless the wearer is conscious and can activate the inflation mechanism.
8. These requirements are supplemental to and do not replace safety requirements for yachts racing under ISAF Offshore Special Regulations.

ATTACHMENT- PORT SHELTER

