



For Dinghy Skippers sailing our 303 dinghies

All skippers should be present for the OOD briefing at 8.45am each sailing day. If late, you need to speak with the OOD to obtain relevant information, including on tides, winds and other relevant information.

Sailing time per client is 40 minutes (dock to dock) unless otherwise advised by the OOD. Skippers must comply with all directions from the OOD and the support boat skipper.

Pre-departure

Check all equipment has been installed correctly and all systems are working. All skippers are to collect a VHF radio and check it is on Channel 72.

Check life jackets are securely fastened and the client is comfortable. If possible, check with the carer about any specific client needs, communication issues and/or potential issues. Ask for the name of the client to foster communication.

You may refuse any client for any reason. As refusal may be sensitive to someone's feelings speak first to the OOD.

Leaving pontoon

- Unfurl sails and adjust outhaul and mainsheet to existing conditions
- Carefully check for other vessel traffic and advise pontoon volunteer(s) when ready to leave (pontoon volunteer should not release you until advise)
- Check leaving time on your watch and calculate return time (40 minutes unless otherwise advised)

Sailing

Sailing takes place on Waterloo Bay, immediately to the East of the Manly Boat Harbour and in the general area south of the second and third Red Channel Markers (leads).

After leaving the pontoon dinghies sail out of the harbour on the starboard side of the channel when possible. Skippers will keep a sharp watch for other vessels entering or leaving the Harbour AND will give way to all other vessels.

If wind direction requires tacking in the main channel, keep a sharp watch for other craft. Do not tack across the path of an approaching or overtaking vessel.

Skippers are to leave the channel to the south immediately after passing the second red channel marker and sail in the vicinity of the sailing buoys.

REMEMBER

**Do not force 'Right of Way'. Sailability always 'gives way' to all vessels.
Keep a sharp look-out.**

Assistance

If you need assistance call the Support Boat, identify the boat you are sailing (name and sail colour if necessary), your location and advise of your need. If necessary, reef your sails and wait for assistance.

All sailing must be outside the harbour and to the south of the main channel in the designated sailing area unless otherwise instructed by the OOD or support boat skipper.

Be prepared to reef your jib and mainsail if wind freshens. This will make your dinghy easier to control. Remember, some clients don't rough conditions or getting wet.

The OOD will advise if weather prevents sailing outside of the harbour. If directed, all skippers must return to the harbour. Sailing will then be reduced to 30 minutes.

If a client becomes uncomfortable when sailing outside the harbour, advise the support boat and return to the harbour. Advise the OOD that you will finish your sailing in the harbour and/or, if necessary that you need to shorten your sailing time. If this occurs the OOD will need to advise the client's carer.

Sailing in the harbour is limited to a maximum of eight (8) dinghies. This is where wind strength is above 15 knots or the state of the sea makes sailing uncomfortable. A decision to sail in the harbour will be made by the OOD in consultation with the support boat skipper. All skippers will be advised of changes by radio.

When sailing in the harbour do not sail South of the Wave Break Pontoon, maintain a look-out for other vessels at all times.

Return to the pontoon upwind with jib furled (and main furled if conditions dictate). When there is traffic at the pontoon you may need to wait (for example, by circling) and ask a pontoon volunteer for permission to dock.

Safety

Safety is paramount in all situations.

Avoiding incidents

You can avoid incidents by:

- Never standing up in a dinghy
- Never attempting to lift the keel (centreboard)
- Staying within channel markers and well clear of shallow water, especially in light winds
 - If grounded, radio support boat (and wave paddle if necessary), furl sails and wait for assistance
- Should you need assistance for any other reason, use common sense to decide your best course of action, and whether to,
 - Signal for 'urgent assistance' using your VHF radio, and furl your sails
 - Return to the pontoon, or
 - Sail towards the support boat and orally advise the support boat of the assistance you need

ALL INCIDENTS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE OOD IMMEDIATELY

(this includes: boat issues, safety infringements and client behaviour)

Life jackets

Life jackets must be worn by skippers and clients at all times when sailing.

Holding a client down by their life jacket collar is an effective way of controlling an unruly client and should prevent the client from standing in the dinghy or from other unsafe behaviour.

Man Overboard Situation (MOB)

Our life jackets inflate automatically and are also equipped with manual toggles and a mouth inflator. If for some reason a life jacket does not inflate when immersed you may need to use the toggle or inflator.

In the event of a MOB,

- **Immediately** advise support boat (be aware that the MOB may be face down and incapable of righting themselves).
- Stay in your dinghy and sail back to the MOB
- Do not attempt to bring the MOB into your dinghy
- Secure alongside with your sails fully furled
- Continue communicating with the support boat and wait for assistance

Note

The designated sailing area has been approved by your committee and is subject to the supervision of the support boat. By sailing in this area as required you will be contributing to the safe practices that we pride ourselves on at Sailability Bayside.

Please remember, skippers are responsible for the safety of their dinghy and their client once they have departed from the pontoon.