



Mawson Lakes Model Yacht Club

SAFETY

Policy 6 current as at Thursday, 29 June 2017

Model yachting is not a dangerous sport but accidents can & have occurred. We need to be conscious of the safety of members, visitors and onlookers at all times.

A club safety officer has been appointed and has the authority to stop any activity deemed unsafe.

1. Recovery Dingy and Life Jackets

- The recovery dingy is not to be launched if the average mean wind strength exceeds 21 Knots (39 Kph) or if the conditions are judged to be dangerous by the Sail Master or Safety Officer
- It is only to be operated by the holder of a Boat License and only with two members aboard, both of whom must wear PFD's (personal flotation devices) which must be readily available during activity
- An observer should watch from the shore
- Ensure that the bung, oars and bailing bucket are in place prior to launching
- Ensure no person is in danger from the propeller when operating the thruster
- Lower electric thruster only when there is sufficient water to prevent propeller hitting bottom and becoming damaged. When returning to shore lift electric thruster up prior to propeller hitting sand/rocks
- Ensure correct lifting procedures when recovering for return to the shed
- Remove positive battery clip when electric thruster is not in use

2. Aerial Covers

- A cover over the tip of any extendable aerials must be used at all times.

3. Infection

- Prevention is better than cure - so wash your hands as soon as possible after sailing. Cover scratches and minor abrasions with a waterproof plaster from the first aid kit.

4. Medical Kits & Assistance

- Both a fixed and mobile first aid kit are located in the toilet / change room alcove. The Safety Officer will regularly check them and periodically arrange update and replacement of the contents
- Members trained in First Aid have been identified and are listed by the kits.
- Any member wishing to be trained will have their costs reimbursed by the Club
- Club members should be aware of the precise and registered location of the shed to summon an ambulance should one be needed
- Designated (registered) ambulance access is via the rear driveway and should be cleared and organised at the earliest opportunity
- Club members should know the route to the nearest hospital with an Accident and Emergency Department

5. Recovery of Yachts & Model Boats

- Boat recovery can be very hazardous, even when care is being taken. Slippery rocks, over reaching, entanglement and so on can all be a risk. Often using one of the various aids or rescue dingy will be the safer option
- If your yacht is out of control and you cannot reach it, try to get another member to stop it for you. With their experience they are better equipped than members of the public who could hurt themselves in the process

6. Tools & Equipment

- Tools and equipment should not be operated by persons not trained in their use, if in doubt ask for assistance
- Safety glasses should be worn at all times & hearing protection when appropriate

7. The Internal Site

- All electrical leads are to be inspected before use to ensure no deterioration
- Obstructions such as rowing boats or fitness equipment are either to be relocated or protected with hazard protection covering to remove the risk of personal injury
- Access to Fire Extinguishers, First Aid Kits, Buoyancy Vests etc. and visibility of any safety signs must be maintained

8. The External Site

- **Safety of others.** Our club activity is all in a public area with narrow paths, walkers, joggers, children on bikes and close to the water. The public including residents have an entitlement to safely access to these paths and we have a responsibility to not unreasonable restrict that access and certainly not to endanger them. We must acknowledge how easy it is to walk into people, particularly children, when concentrating and so must exercise care. Specifically we must;
 - Not allow yachts and other equipment to clutter up the paths
 - Take care with mooring lines for rescue boats
 - When carrying boats watch out to avoid masts injuring anyone.
- **Tidiness.** A tidy, litter free sailing site is not just a good advertisement for us, it is essential for the health, safety and good of the environment. Paper, foil, food scraps and drink cans can be dangerous to local wildlife and attract the wildlife we don't want to see. Use the rubbish bins. Discarded lines and coils of wire are particularly dangerous to birds - pick them up every time, no exceptions, including fishing lines – we owe it to the community who host us.

7. Pollution

- Do not throw anything into the water and where practical and safe to do so clear up anything that should not be there

8. Wildlife

- **Snakes.** In the hotter months brown snakes will be about and even the babies are poisonous. **LEAVE THEM ALONE** and they will leave you alone. Make noise as you walk and you will probably never see one
- **Water Birds.** If you see a bird in distress caught in fishing line, see if you can help it, if not call fauna rescue, its personally rewarding

9. Hazards

- **Bikes.** Bikes need to be watched out for, particularly when ridden by children. Unfortunately their awareness is often as lacking as them not having a simple bell or the inclination to use it.
- **Fishing Gear.** Beware of fishers, their rods, buckets and chairs. They too have an entitlement to be in most areas

10. Attitude.

- Respect every ones use of the area whether allowed by the bylaws or otherwise. Avoid any confrontations, although we are lessees and licensed users we **DO NOT HAVE A POLICING ROLE**

The Executive