INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

OBJECTIVE: To provide a management plan in respect of on water incidents and managing risks associated with racing and cruising conducted by MCYS.

DEFINITION: "Incident" means any happening, adverse weather, collision or situation where any person is at risk of injury including but not limited to serious injury or death.

AIM: To ensure that appropriate response is put into effect should an incident occur by the event organisers, participants and any designated safety vessels.

ENVIRONMENT: Weekend and twilight sailing and cruising events are conducted on the waters of Port Phillip Bay which whilst relatively safe, may be dangerous depending on wind and wave conditions.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (in priority order):

Race Officer - incidents shall be managed and co-ordinated by the Race Officer for the event via VHF radio on VHF Ch. 72 and by any other suitable means e.g. mobile phone;

Designated Safety Boats – the Race Officer may in his or her discretion nominate prior to or during any event, by VHF radio or other means boats participating to be *"Safety Boats"*. Safety boats shall be dutybound respond to any incident immediately and shall for that purpose cease participation, and render assistance as required so as to minimise risk of injury or death to any person provided it is safe to do so;

Emergency Services – the Race Officer or Safety Boats may at their discretion call for assistance from other participants or authorities such as the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Volunteer Marine Rescue or Victoria Police (Water).

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard – VF 6 Safety Beach - 0407 465 335 or VHF Ch. 16

Volunteer Marine Rescue (Mornington) – 0419 233 999 or VHF Ch. 16

Victoria Police or Ambulance – dial 000

PARTICPANTS: Participants competing in or undertaking MCYS events shall–

- Yachting Australia Safety requirements in respect of that event, or the requirements nominated in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions;
- be fundamentally capable of participation in the expected conditions;

- ensure that their crew has adequate knowledge and experience to participate safely;
- be responsible for ensuring the seaworthiness and compliance of the vessel they are participating in;
- conduct themselves so as to avoid danger of injury to their crew, or other participants;
- comply with the Racing Rules of Sailing, Collision at Sea Regulations, the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1, Sections 1 – 6 or other rules or regulations applicable to the event;
- have a positive fundamental duty to assist any vessel, member, participant or other person(s) who is in danger of injury or death, or in distress as a result of an on-water incident, illness or adverse outcome however caused;
- have completed and comply with at all times whilst participating a safety compliance declaration and checklist.

RACING RULES OF SAILING – Participants are reminded of the following rules in the Racing Rules of Sailing, which while applicable to yacht racing, are nevertheless adopted as fundamental rules applicable to any MCYS event, including Power Boat and Yacht events:

RULE 1 - Helping those in danger:

"A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger"

RULE 4 - Decision to Race

"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

POST INCIDENT INQUIRY AND INCIDENT REPORTING

The sailing committee, Race Organiser, Safety Boats and others involved in any incident shall assist with any inquiry called by MCYS or the Race Officer concerning the incident with a view to:

- improving the incident management plan;
- gauging the effectiveness of the incident management plan;
- bringing to the attention of members of MCYS of any feedback concerning or which might improve the safety of future events;
- any other matter concerning the incident;
- reporting as required to any Yachting, State, Local or Legal authority;

and the inquiry shall be chaired by and conducted as seen fit the nominee of the General Committee of MCYS.