

Policy 27 – Life Jackets

Background

An incident occurred during the 2018 Association Cup, an annual interclub keelboat challenge between Victorian keelboat clubs held on Port Phillip. The race was held on Sunday 15 April 2018 and Sandringham Yacht Club (SYC), was the organising authority. During the first race, one of the competing boats from RYCV, 'Top Gun,' an Adams 10 had a MOB (man overboard) and after being retrieved from the water, tragically he could not be resuscitated.

The SYC General Committee immediately thereafter resolved to hold an Independent Review into the incident and in doing so, the general conduct of on water events at SYC. The review of SYC safety procedures saw the Review Panel make seventeen (17) recommendations. The tenth such recommendation was on the subject of lifejackets.

This policy implements that recommendation and applies to SYC registered yachts, participating in keelboat racing in SYC organised races.

Life Jackets

Lifejackets (Personal Flotation Devices, PFD's)

1. SYC requires that all lifejackets comply with AS4758-2008 (Minimum Level150 for adults) or ISO equivalent.
2. Either inflatable or inherent buoyancy lifejackets are acceptable.
3. From 1 October 2021, all inflatable lifejackets must be **automatic** inflating type.
4. Boat owners must ensure that there are sufficient suitable lifejackets on board for all competitors and guests, including children, and that all have been briefed on their correct fitment and usage.
5. All lifejackets shall be stored, serviced and maintained per manufacturer's recommendations, and that service log be maintained for each lifejacket.
6. These recommendations meet or exceed the requirements of AS Special Regulations Part 1 Section 5.01 and Marine Safety Victoria (MSV) Acts and Regulations.