Policy – Life Jackets (PFD's)

Pages: 2	Approved: Sailing Committee
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Version Control				
Version	**Author**	**Approver**	**Date**	**Changes**
Feb 26	Conrad Byrt	Sailing Committee	19/02/26	Reduce age of persons on recuse boats from 8 years old to 6 years old to align with Tackers ages. Updated RRS references with new 2025-2028 rule book. Removal of old Life Jacket standards no longer accepted.

Rationale

The sailing committee has determined the following regarding the wearing of life jackets on club support vessels. This is to provide protection to the individual, particularly in the case of a person overboard.

Criteria

- By law any child under the age of twelve years (12) must wear a Personal Floatation device (PFD).
- All personnel on any 'open' club vessel shall wear a PFD.
- All personnel on any type of marine vessel, which is supporting a water sport in conjunction with the Keppel Bay Sailing Club, shall wear a PFD whilst underway.
- Any person wishing to travel onboard a vessel that is supporting water sport conducted by the KBSC must be at least six years of age and capable of supporting themselves in the water, without personal buoyancy, for at least 15 minutes and are capable of swimming not less than 50 meters in open water.
- All persons taking part in the sport of sailing must comply with the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028. For PFD definitions refer to: Part 4, *Other Requirements When Racing Section*, and *RRS 1.2*.

Further information

Life jackets for registered vessels must comply with Australian standards:

The current Australian Standard is AS 4758.

All life jackets must be marked with the appropriate label indicating the life jacket level. This label is marked by the manufacturer and should be on the life jacket at the time of purchase.

- ‘Level 50’, 'Level 100', 'Level 150' or 'Level 275' for lifejackets.
- lifejackets must comply and display information about which Australian Standard (AS) they were manufactured to. The current standard is AS 4758, which has replaced AS 1512-1996, AS 1499-1996 and AS 2260-1996

Annual Check

KBSC undertakes an annual inspection of PFD’s on the 1st of July each year. A thorough check is carried out and any damaged life jacket is destroyed and disposed of.

Disposal

Disposal of any outdated life jackets must render them as unusable. Completely cutting through the shoulder straps with a sharp implement prior to disposal is an acceptable method.

Definitions

Under 12 - up to, but not including 12 years of age.

Open vessel - being a boat that does not have a permanent rigid deckhouse, cabin or other enclosed space suitable for a person to occupy (e.g., inflatable of the beach).

Underway - a boat not at anchor made fast to the shore or aground. A boat does not have to be moving to be underway.