

AVALON SAILING CLUB

WARNING ABOUT RISKS INHERENT IN SAILING

The terms of the **Civil Liability (Personal Responsibility) Act 2002** and the terms of our license from the NSW Waterways Authority make it necessary for us to give you the following **warning about the risks inherent in sailing**.

Sailing is a sport that involves interacting with the uncontrollable and difficult to predict elements of nature and therefore involves a degree of risk. Many of the risks inherent in the sport are intuitive. Without seeking to list all possibilities the following are brought to your attention.

- There is a significant risk of bruises, cuts, scratches and other injuries resulting from contact with the boat or collision with other boats. Flapping sails, or unanticipated changes in wind direction or in the direction of the boat can cause a spar to bump the head or other part of the body or cause a rope flick injury. These injuries can occur both afloat or while near a boat on land.
- When launching or coming ashore, hard surfaces below the high tide line can become slippery resulting in slip and fall injuries. Oysters and other sharp marine creatures can also grow on these surfaces. Sharp objects can be hidden in sand or weed below the water which can cut or pierce feet or other parts of the body. Exposure to the elements makes it more likely for nails or splinters to be raised in wooden decks and floors and these can also cause foot injuries and trip hazards. The wet feet of sailors can make surfaces slippery.
- Because of reflected glare, sunburn will occur more rapidly than normal on unprotected skin. Dehydration or hypothermia can occur in those who do not heed and prepare for the conditions.
- Most injuries are relatively minor. However, on occasions the injury can be more significant.
- When sailing on inshore waters, really serious injuries of the type that can cause permanent disablement or even death are statistically very rare but can and do occur. As with any water sport, the possibility of drowning is also present. While for many sailing activities a response boat might be present, the boat cannot be everywhere at once and cannot observe every incident that occurs and may not always recognise an observed incident as being a serious one requiring immediate response.

REDUCING RISK

You can help reduce risk to yourself while sailing by always following the following guidelines:

- Always wear footwear while sailing or on the club premises
- Always wear a life-vest and adequate sun protection
- Always examine launching ramps before using them to see how slippery they are
- Always check the weather forecast before going sailing. You are responsible for the decision of whether to sail or continue sailing and for ensuring the people on your boat are competent for the conditions.
- Wear warm clothes and carry drinking water.
- Do not run on rigging deck or jump or dive off wharf or deck.
- Beware of flapping sails.
- The Club is not responsible for supervising minors while ashore. This is the responsibility of their parents or delegated adult.

The NSW Waterways Authority also requires the disclosure that while the Club and its officers are covered by a normal third party liability policy, in the circumstances in which most boating injuries occur, the law relating to negligence and damages and the terms of the Civil Liability (Personal Responsibility) Act make it very highly improbable that you would be successful in claiming any compensation in respect of any injury or loss you might sustain as a result of participating in a Club event.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

I have read and understood the above risk warning and I agree that I participate in the sport of sailing at my own risk and I acknowledge that neither **Avalon Sailing Club** nor any official, volunteer or member shall be under any liability whatsoever for the death or bodily injury, loss or damage which may be suffered or incurred by me or the minors for whom I am responsible.

Child's Full Name				
Parent Name				
Parent Signature				
Date				

**Please insert detail of Responsible Adult in relation to Junior members first*