

# **Mackay Power Boat Club Social Ski Racing** **Rule Book 2022**

## **Vessel Condition**

The safety of the vessel is the sole responsibility of the vessel owner.

Must be in accordance with the MPBC Vessel Scrutineering Sheet.

A MPBC member will carry out a visual inspection prior to the event.

Scrutineers are not expected to undertake a "condition survey" of the boat, but general appraisal shall be made of the structure.

Any items on the vessel that are deemed to be substandard must have the issues addressed and inspected prior to the event start.

## **Briefing of Competitors and Rescue Crews**

The organisers will hold a pre-race briefing during which fullest possible details will be given concerning navigation, course and safety of the competition, including the dropping off area at the conclusion of the race or issue a detailed briefing sheet.

Boat drivers and observers must attend briefings or will not be allowed to start.

Rescue crews will receive separate briefing immediately after main competitors briefing

## **Flags and their Meanings**

### **Blue**

- Used in conjunction with the green for the start.
- Used to signal start of the final lap of a race.
- Used to signal to all boats that its safe to return to shore at completion of the race.

### **Green**

- Used in conjunction with the blue for the start.

### **Red**

- Used to stop a race and signal all boats to return to shore.

### **Orange**

- Flown from a course boat it represents that boat is a course boat.
- Flown from a competing boat it represents their skier has fallen. In this case it must be flown until skier regains skiing position.
- May also be used by a competing boat between races to show they need more time to get ready.

### **Yellow**

- Used by the course boat to notify competitors of a skier in the water or boat stopped in the near vicinity.

### **Chequered**

- Flown from the course boat to signal finish of the race

### **Start Method**

An Official Race Starter will be appointed and briefed by the Race Controller.

Starts will be simultaneous mass start unless otherwise communicated at the event briefing.

Starts will be off course.

Simultaneous mass start, all boats are to form in a straight line.

- A 5 minute signal shall be given
- at 1 minute a Blue flag and a Green flag shall be raised on the moored start boat or dock in sight of the skiers and boat crew.
- The 30 second signal shall be given by lowering the Blue flag.
- Skiers may then enter the water from their boats which may take up the slack in the tow line.
- The start will be signalled by the lowering of the Green flag and skiers must not be in a skiing position until the start is signalled.
- Boats must not be over the start line prior to the lowering of the Green flag.
- The start line will be indicated by placing a buoy or buoys in line with the stern of the moored start boat.

In the case of a fall in the start area the boat must idle and turn slowly and return to the skier for a pickup. Wide fast turns may result in disqualification.

Safety flag not required in marked Start Area.

In the event of a race having to be stopped; only boats which took their grid positions for the event will be allowed to restart.

### **Unsuccessful Starts**

If a successful start is not made following two attempts to start, the competitor must either withdraw from the event.

### **Tow lines**

Tow lines must be fed from the boat at the start of an event.

### **Drivers**

All drivers are to be a minimum of eighteen years of age.

Must wear a life jacket and brightly coloured helmet

Current state licence

The driver must keep his attention AHEAD of the boat at all times.

Boat drivers must look ahead at start of race — observer to watch skier/s take off, however, driver may glance back.

### **Observers Duty**

All observers are to be a minimum of sixteen years of age.

Occupants of boat must remain in cockpit at all times.

Observers must keep the skier under observation at all time during his participation in the event.

Observers will remain in their seats at all times whilst pulling a skier after reaching a plane.

Observers are to watch the direction their boat has travelled to see that their boat is not going to cut off another team and to keep his driver informed of where he is compared to the poles the other teams occupy.

### **Skiing Position**

Skiers must be in the boat wash

A Skiing Position is defined as the skier's weight is wholly supported by the ski or skis and he has possession of the tow rope.

A Fall is defined as accomplished at the time when a skier loses possession of his ski, the tow line, or is not maintaining a skiing position, that is, the skier's weight is wholly supported by the ski or skis and he has possession of the tow rope.

A driver or observer shall acknowledge the safety or medical flag on a race boat and the downed skier by putting his hand up. Failure to do so may result in a penalty.

### **Passing**

Passing shall be either side unless specifically stated otherwise at briefing.

A boat or team shall not force a passage between other team/s or a team and course or hazard buoy.

Boats shall not follow closer than 100 metres directly behind any skier.

All turns shall be marked by buoys, moored vessels or permanent sea marks.

All markers shall be passed on the outside.

No changing of lanes is permitted from within 100 metres of the turn buoy or mark; this distance may be shown by a 100 metre buoy or marker, until the skier rounds the buoy and attains a straight line on the natural course.

A minimum distance of 5 metres must be kept between competing boats after the start.

When taking a turn, the boats on the outside must leave room for teams on the inside.

An overtaking boat must not cut in until the skier is 100 metres ahead of the boat being overtaken.

**Passing Applicable to All Events Unless Noted Otherwise**

Boats shall not follow closer than 100 metres directly behind any skier except when overtaking, in which case it is imperative that the driver should keep his boat in a different line than the preceding one.

Skiers must ski to the outside of each turn, course or hazard buoy.

A fallen skier may be passed on whichever side is deemed to be the safest. The passing driver or observer shall acknowledge sight of a fallen skier by raising a hand.

**Penalty-Disqualification-Suspension**

Will be handed out by the judge at their discretion

**Failure to Complete Course**

Any boat not completing course i.e. missed turn buoy, will not be given a finishing time.

Any boat that misses a course buoy/s will be given a penalty relative to the infringement.

However, should a missed buoy/s be recovered before the completion of the same lap, course will be deemed as completed.

**Finish**

The finish of the ski race shall be determined by the skier.

Skiers must be in skiing position when crossing the finishing line or as long as a skier is attempting to regain a skiing position and in the process crosses the finish line and eventually attains skiing position within a reasonable distance

**Finish Drop-off area**

The drop-off area for a ski race will be determined by the Officials prior to the event and announced at briefing. Skiers must hang onto handles and must drop off in the areas indicated.

**Procedure to be followed after a Fall**

In the case of a fall of a competitor, the driver must immediately stop the boat, the observer must display the fluorescent orange flag.

The driver will turn to pick up the skier without interfering with the progress of the race. In picking up a fallen skier, the driver must give right of way to oncoming boats and then turn in whichever direction is safer.

A fallen skier is allowed to make physical contact with the boat and crew to enable the replacement of equipment. At all times whilst such action is being carried out the motor of the "tow boat" will be dead or in neutral, i.e. propeller not rotating".

The fluorescent/flame orange flag must remain visible until the skier is in proper skiing position.

### **Level of Behaviour**

Compliance with the MPBC Level Of Behavior Standards.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

In accordance with the MPBC standards

### **Safety Flags**

Safety flags (for downed competitor) must be fluorescent orange 50 cm x 50cm fixed to a pole of 1 metre length, and must be part of equipment. Boat name and registration number must appear on handle.

A suitable flag pole holder must be provided for use when the skier is in the water and the observer requires both hands for other operations. The safety/medical flag must be in a clearly visible location in all directions when mounted in the pole holder.

### **Skiers**

Can wear an approved buoyancy wet suit or life jacket and wet suit pants. All skiers must wear a helmet at all times, which should be fluoro orange.

### **Helmets to be worn on race day and practice**

All team members shall wear their helmets in the normally accepted manner during the race and whilst under power on race day or practice periods. Failure by any team member to correctly wear his/her helmet whilst under power on race day, may incur a penalty. When a boat is on the plane idling back upon completion of an event, no helmets are required to be worn.

