



## Virtual Safety Brief

With the start of the summer TAGS proper this week we have prepared the following virtual safety brief to assist you in preparing for a safe summer of sailing and racing. Remember that the safety of your crew and your vessel is always paramount. As Skipper – you are responsible.

Previous series have been run in a great spirit of friendliness and fun and thankfully we have had few issues. Let's extend that record in this series. As we always say - this is not for sheep stations!

Your committee is in the process of updating our Safety Plan. In the meantime please familiarise yourself with the existing Safety Plan ([www.multihullcruising.org.au/client\\_images/2219961.pdf](http://www.multihullcruising.org.au/client_images/2219961.pdf)) and the Sailing Instructions ([www.multihullcruising.org.au/client\\_images/2219888.pdf](http://www.multihullcruising.org.au/client_images/2219888.pdf))

We would welcome any feedback on both to assist with our review.

Of course the best protection is preparation. Check your boat and make sure that it is fit to race and that all the safety equipment is in place (see the Safety Plan for further info). Make sure your crew are briefed and familiar with the risks of sailing and racing. Make sure your insurance is up to date and allows racing.

As a reminder here are the key risks which you should consider as a skipper of your vessel:

**COVID 19:** NSW is currently achieving success in managing the virus and it is very easy to become complacent. However, it is critical that we continue to abide by the social distancing and other rules both on board and when ashore. This is to ensure that we do not spread the virus and also to make sure that we are compliant with the Health Regulations so that we can continue to enjoy our sport.

**Weather:** For this series we are introducing some guidance on extreme weather.

If the windspeed is forecast to be over 20kt there will be a requirement for a mandatory reef.

If there is an BOM Strong Wind Warning for Sydney Closed Waters (26kt-33kt average windspeed) or if True Wind Speeds of over 30kt develop during the race we will cancel. Always monitor channel 73 for instructions.

In very light weather don't be afraid to use your engine if necessary to avoid incidents. Let the committee know after the race. Often there has been such a delay in the vessel's progress that a further penalty is not required.

Above all - know the limits of your vessel and your crew and make decisions accordingly because the ultimate responsibility for entering a race or continuing remains yours as the skipper.

**Collisions:** Please read the sailing instructions and familiarise yourself with the rules around the start, rounding buoys and giving way. We advise all participants to keep your engine running but not in gear from 5 mins before the start so that if you need to take evasive action you can do so promptly.

**Number one rule of the sea** ALWAYS TRY AND AVOID A COLLISION NO MATTER WHO HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY - IT IS JUST NOT WORTH IT AND ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

**Injuries:** Make sure you have a first aid kit on board and be ready to deal with the likely injuries such as rope burns or minor nicks and cuts and have enough bandages for a makeshift splint if required. In the unlikely event of serious injury which requires you to be met by an ambulance please call Marine Rescue or 000.

**Person overboard:** Make sure your crew are briefed and ready to respond promptly.