



Sydney Model Yacht Squadron **Risk Assessment and Management Plan**

Overview

The Sydney Model Yacht Squadron (SMYS) conducts Radio Yachting activities in the eastern part of Kissing Point Park, Putney NSW. Kissing Point Park is a public park overlooking Kissing Point Bay. The park and associated boat ramp facilities are used by boat owners and picnickers.

The Venue

Kissing Point Bay is part of the Parramatta River adjacent to the suburb of Putney in the council district of Ryde. The bay is approximately 750m long and 350m wide and is used mainly as a mooring area for yachts. SMYS has permission from Ryde council to utilise the public area of the park for the launching and retrieval of boats. NSW Maritime has given SMYS permission to conduct racing activities in the bay by virtue of the fact that RC Yachts are not defined as vessels capable of carrying people and therefore no certificate to conduct a waterway activity is required.

Kissing Point Bay can get choppy and rough when strong winds are blowing from the East through to the South West and the Officer of the Day (OOD) will determine if conditions are suitable for RC Yachting activities.

The adjacent boat ramp facility provides car parking and public toilet facilities and more parking is available in nearby streets. There is also a public ferry wharf on the South Eastern edge of the bay.

Rigging, Launching and Retrieval

The rigging areas are the bitumen car park area adjacent to where an individual's car would be parked or the adjacent flat grassy area next to the beach. Care should be taken when transiting from the car park to the Launching/Retrieval Area ensuring that individuals obey all road safety rules while walking through the car park area.

Launching and retrieval requires wading into approximately knee deep water on a hard compacted sand beach. While the sandy river bottom is hard, level and stable it is advised that all club members wear enclosed footwear for this operation due to the possibility of treading on shells or glass etc....

In some areas of the bay there are flat rocky outcrops, which may be uncovered, partially submerged or submerged depending on the tide. These are generally covered in a light green moss and should be avoided at all times due to their slipperiness.

The control area is the sandy beach above the tidal limit. This area has a number of flat rocky areas that should be avoided and it is again recommended that enclosed footwear be worn at all times due to the possibility of sharp objects in the sand.

The public ferry wharf on the south western edge of the bay is out of bounds for the launching and retrieval of boats at all times.

Retrieval Dinghy

The retrieval dinghy is only to be operated by members of the SMYS or a person authorised by the OOD. The dinghy will be located adjacent to the waters edge whilst sailing is in progress.

The dinghy shall only be used for the laying of course markers and the retrieval of Radio control Yachts.

The dinghy is to be operated in a safe manner at all times. All occupants must be wearing an approved Personal flotation Device (PFD) and must remain seated at all times.

General Safety

The SMYS will endeavour to ensure a safe and healthy environment at the sailing venue during sailing activities by conducting regular risk assessments and evaluations.

This document will be continually updated to identify both general and specific hazards together with the appropriate risk minimisation proposals and all club members will kept up to date of any new Risk Assessment Information.

Accidents or Incidents

In the event of an accident or injury during sailing activities at the SMYS the following action is to occur:

- DON'T PANIC, SPEAK CLEARLY
- Render immediate assistance.
- Report incident to the OOD or other club member
- Obtain emergency assistance if appropriate (call 000)
- Suspend sailing activities until advised by the OOD that it is safe to continue.

REMEMBER SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY