



# Welcome to the Dinghy Division

## Hillarys Yacht Club



Handbook for new dinghy  
sailors and families!

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# Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to the Dinghy Division at Hillarys Yacht Club (HYC)! We are a volunteer-run division offering training and racing opportunities for all sailors. This handbook is designed to help new sailors and families understand how our program works and how to get involved.

Please familiarise yourself with the club website which has lots more information.

<https://hillarysyachtclub.com.au/>



## Registration

To register for Dinghy Division sailing you will need to have an Australian Sailing number which you would have received during your training course. You can find this in your emails, this [website](#) or the Training Coordinator at HYC.

- [Club Membership](#) is required and a
- [Series Registration](#) is also required

When you register yourself or your child at a sailing club, you or they will receive an Australian Sailing (AS) Number. This number may be required when participating in events or regattas, as well as other sailing training or coaching programs.

## Fees

When you register with our club, you are required to pay annual membership in addition to the Series Registration fee, with both links available above. Sailors under 18 can join as Junior Members, while adults can join under the relevant membership category.

Better yet, sign up the whole family!

### Club Membership Fees 2026/2027

|                                    |                                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Annual Junior Club Membership Fee  | \$100                                                  |
| Adult and/or Family Membership Fee | Visit the <a href="#">HYC WEBSITE</a> for current fees |

### Dinghy Training & Racing Fees 2025/2026

|                              |                        |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Combined Winter & Summer     | Single & Double Handed | \$357               |
| Winter Series Only           | Single & Double Handed | \$76                |
| Summer Series Only           | Single & Double Handed | \$315               |
| Single Race Day Registration | Single & Double Handed | \$27                |
| Club Opti Usage              |                        | \$10 per day/sailor |
| Club ILCA Usage              |                        | \$15 per day/sailor |
| Quest Usage                  |                        | \$20 per day/boat   |

**\*\*Club Boat Usage fees to be charged monthly**

## Volunteer and Parent Participation

Dinghy racing is run by a dedicated team of volunteers. Most of our volunteers are family members of sailors, including parents and grandparents and partners. Family participation in volunteering roles is essential to the operation of racing days, without it we simply can't provide adequate race control and safety support.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Join the race committee and provide on-land support, including race results, timing, and signal flags.
- On-water support, including driving/crewing RIBs to provide safety support to sailors and lay marks for the racecourse.
- Ramp operations, including launching and retrieving boats.
- Snack shack operations.

Dinghy Division training and support will be provided for all volunteer roles. It is a big team effort to run race days. Sailors get so much benefit from participation in this sport, ocean access, developing skills, community & friendship - as do our volunteers. Training and Development also run formal courses in Recreational Skippers Tickets, Safety Boat Operation, Short Range Radio Operator Certificate of Proficiency for those ready to expand their skills.

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## Dinghy Division Committee

Behind the scenes the committee work hard organising for smooth sailing. The committee consists of:

### Executive Committee

- Captain
- Vice-Captain
- Treasurer
- Secretary

### General Committee

- Race officer
- Fundraising officer
- Trophy officer
- Snack Shack coordinator
- General committee members

We hold committee meetings at 7pm at HYC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month and our AGM is held in May each year. All meetings and the AGM are open to all to attend and have their say and offer support and assistance in operating our division.

## Sailing Season

### Dates

The Sailing season runs from May through until April, consisting of a Winter and Summer series. The annual calendar is posted on the Hillarys Yacht Club website, and is best to be checked as it can be updated from time to time, the Team App will also show all dates

[Dinghy Sailing - Hillarys Yacht Club](#)

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### Training Days

Training days are held on Thursdays during the Summer Racing Series only. We do not offer training throughout Winter due to the earlier sunset times.

- 4.00pm: Arrive and rig boats
  - 4.30pm: The coach will determine sailing activities based on winds, sea state and sailor experience level
  - 6.00pm: Return to land, pack up, debrief.
  - 6.30pm: Depart
- 

### Race Days

Race days are held on Saturdays, with the main racing season taking place during Summer. Racing is generally conducted weekly throughout the school term, with a break over the school holidays. We also run a Winter Series, consisting of a shorter 4–6 race program, with racing held fortnightly during the school term.

- 8.00am: Arrive and rig boats. Snack shack orders, pay boat hire fees.
- 8.30am: Race Officer will determine sailing activities based on winds, sea state and sailor experience level. Sailor briefing & volunteers briefing. **SIGN ON**
- 9.00am-9.30am: Head out onto the water
- 12.00pm-1.00pm: Return to shore, **SIGN OFF** Pack up, results, debrief, snacks, depart.

## Preparing for Training & Race Days

### Setting up your boat – Rigging

Sailors are responsible for setting up and packing away their boats. New sailors may require help from their parents. Other sailors and families will be willing to lend a hand to assist. Coaches/instructors/volunteers are not responsible for this task.

### Sign On and Sign Off

This is essential on race days. This ensures the safety of participants and allows the Race Committee to generate results.

### Briefing/De-briefing

This happens before the sailors head out onto the water and after they return, it ensures sailors understand the activities planned for the day and provides an important reflective learning opportunity following activities.

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## Snack Shack

Dinghy Division operate a canteen on race days offering cold & hot drinks, and an assortment of pies, noodles and sweet snacks to keep our sailors and supporters fuelled.

Don't forget to put your orders in for hot food before you head out on the water!



## Essential Gear to Get Started

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunscreen        | Sunglasses                  |
| Hat              | Gloves                      |
| Towel            | Sailing boots/wetsuit boots |
| Water and snacks | Dry change of clothes       |

Clothing: Sailors can get cold in wet and windy conditions, even on warm days. Consider rashies, spray jackets, wetsuit pants to suit the season. Many of these can be found second hand.



A key supplier and supporter of Dinghy Sailing in WA is [Monkey Fist Marine](#), but there are also many other great places to purchase sailing gear both online and in-store, along with plenty of buy/swap/sell options available through social media platforms such as Facebook.

- Zhik: [www.zhik.com/](http://www.zhik.com/)
- Whitworths: [www.whitworths.com.au](http://www.whitworths.com.au)
- NB Sail Sports: [www.nbsailsports.com.au/](http://www.nbsailsports.com.au/)
  - Gill: [www.gillmarine.com](http://www.gillmarine.com)
  - Ronstan: [www.ronstan.com.au](http://www.ronstan.com.au)
  - Slam: [www.slam.com/](http://www.slam.com/)
- Henri Lloyd: [www.henrilloyd.com/](http://www.henrilloyd.com/)
  - Road Tech Marine: [www.roadtechmarine.com.au/](http://www.roadtechmarine.com.au/)
- All Marine: [www.allmarine.com.au/](http://www.allmarine.com.au/)
- Helly Hansen: [www.hellyhansen.com.au](http://www.hellyhansen.com.au)
- Musto: [www.musto.com.au/](http://www.musto.com.au/)

## Our Fleet

| Class    | What                                                                                                                                | Age/Weight/Size                                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Optimist | Beginner boats for single handed sailing, a fibre glass version of the Tackers boats your kids would have learned in during Tackers | Up to age 15 or 55kg                                                |
| ICLA     | 4 (4.7), 6 (Radial), 7 (Standard)<br>Olympic class boats for single handed sailing                                                  | 45+kg                                                               |
| RS Quest | Designed for multi-crew sailing for family, training and racing.                                                                    | All ages, doublehanded boat so 2 or more sailors to sail this class |
| Mixed    | Members are welcome to discuss sailing their own dinghy in our mixed fleet                                                          | NA                                                                  |

Club boats (Optimists and Lasers/ILCA) are generally available for beginner sailors commencing in the racing fleet, at a yearly hire fee and are subject to availability. Club boats are available for a limited period as sailors are encouraged to purchase their own dinghies if choosing to continue sailing longer term. This is to ensure that the club boats continue to be available for new sailors joining the division. There are many second-hand Optimist and Laser boats available for sale in Perth.

RS Quests can be hired for the race season. Sailors are required to complete an orientation with Training and Development and sign an agreement of use.



## Keeping in Touch

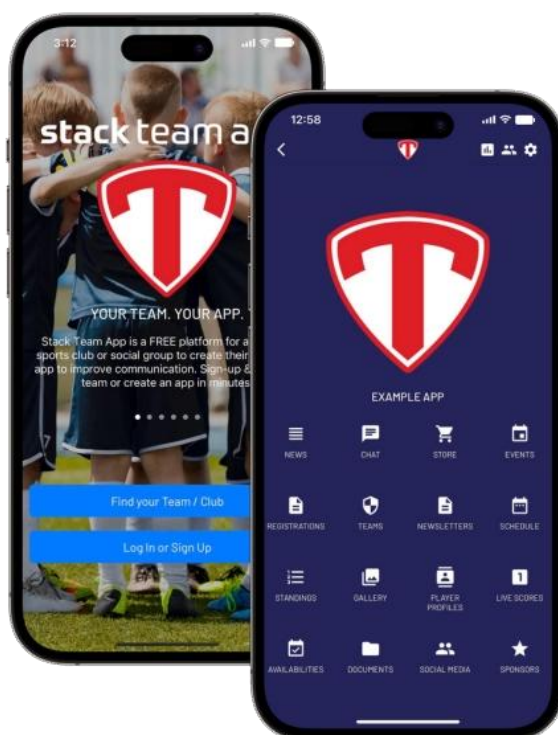
### Stack Team App

Dinghy Division activities are organised on [Stack Team App](#). Download the app and search for 'HYC Dinghy Sailing'. Here you will find our calendar of events with RSVP function and Dinghy Division chat. Important notifications are issued via the app, so check in prior to events.

The mentioned RSVP function for training and race days is very important to use. This tool assists with the planning of activities and rostering coaches and volunteers required for the number of sailors participating.

Our volunteers also use the app for assigning themselves to duties on the duty roster for each activity, particularly on race days.

It is important to note that if the RSVP function is not used, training or race days may be cancelled due to lack of confirmed numbers of either participants or volunteers. RSVP should be registered on the app at least 24 hours before the event, but preferably as far in advance as possible.



## Useful information for our Sailors

### 10 Basic Racing Rules for Beginners

1. Port keeps clear of starboard.
2. Windward keeps clear of leeward
3. The boat astern keeps clear of the boat ahead.
4. A boat Tacking, or Gybing keeps clear of one that is not.
5. Avoid collisions. Racing Rules are defensive to prevent collisions not offensive racing tactics.
6. If you gain right of way or change course, give the other boat time to keep clear.
7. The inside boat (s) at three hull lengths from the mark is entitled to room to round the mark.
8. A boat that is backing up or not racing keeps clear.
9. If you have violated a rule, take a penalty
10. It is better to give way than to spend hours in a protest room.



## Sailing Glossary

1. **Hull** – The primary body or shell of a boat, including the sides, bottom and deck, which provides floatation (buoyancy) and supports the mast and rigging.
2. **Bow** – The front of the boat is called the bow. Knowing the location of the bow is important for defining two of the other most common sailing terms: port (left of the bow) and starboard (right of the bow).
3. **Stern** – The extreme back of the boat is called the stern.
4. **Midships** – The middle of a vessel, halfway between the bow and stern.
5. **Aft** – Towards the back of a boat. If something is located in the aft, it is located towards the back of the sailboat, behind the midships.
6. **Forward** – Towards the front of a boat. If something is located forward, it is located towards the front of the sailboat, ahead of the midships.
7. **Port** – Port is always the left-hand side of the boat when you are facing the bow. Because “right” and “left” can become confusing sailing terms when used out in the open waters, port is used to define the left-hand side of the boat as it relates to the bow, or front.
8. **Starboard** – Starboard is always the right-hand side of the boat when you are facing the bow. Because “right” and “left” can become confusing sailing terms when used out in the open waters, starboard is used to define the right-hand side of the boat as it relates to the bow, or front.
9. **Windward** – The direction from which the wind is currently blowing. In reference to a boat, the windward side faces into the wind (upwind). Windward is the opposite of leeward.
10. **Leeward** – Also known as lee, and commonly pronounced ‘loo-urd’, leeward is the direction the wind is currently blowing towards (opposite to windward). In reference to a boat, the leeward side faces away from the wind (downwind).
11. **Mast** – The mast is the vertical pole which projects upwards from the deck of the boat. The mast is the primary means of supporting the sails.
12. **Boom** – The boom is the horizontal pole which extends aft from near the bottom of the mast. Adjusting the boom position relative to the direction of the wind is how a sailboat can harness wind power in order to move forward.
13. **Rudder** – The rudder is a vertically orientated board hung of the stern and projecting down into the water beneath the boat. The rudder is moveable via a hinge mechanism where it attaches to the stern and used to steer the boat by changing the direction of

the water flow. Larger sailboats control the rudder via a wheel, while smaller sailboats control the rudder with a tiller. On sailing dinghies the rudder and centreboard are commonly referred collectively as 'foils'.

14. **Centreboard** – The centreboard is a vertically orientated board projecting down into the water through the hull approximately midships. The centreboard provides directional stability by providing resistance to sideways movement and promoting forward movement of the boat. On larger sail boats this function is provided by a keel. Unlike a keel, centreboards are relatively lightweight and can be raised and lowered through the hull by hand. On sailing dinghies the rudder and centreboard are commonly referred collectively as 'foils'.
15. **Tacking** – This basic sailing manoeuvre refers to turning the bow of the boat through the wind so that the wind changes from one side of the boat to the other side. Tacking is performed when the boat is travelling upwind (moving towards the direction the wind is coming from). The boom of a boat will always shift from one side to the other when performing a tack or a gybe.
16. **Gybing** – The opposite of tacking, this basic sailing manoeuvre refers to turning the stern of the boat through the wind so that the wind changes from one side of the boat to the other side. Gybing is performed when the boat is travelling downwind (moving in the same direction as the wind is blowing to). The boom of a boat will always shift from one side to the other when performing a tack or a gybe.
17. **Tacking** – The wind direction is the compass direction from where the wind is coming from, e.g. a southerly wind is coming from the South and blowing towards the North.
18. **Upwind** – The direction towards where the wind is coming from e.g. in a southerly wind upwind is generally a southerly direction.
19. **Downwind** – The direction towards where the wind is blowing to e.g. in a southerly wind downwind is in a generally northerly direction.



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# We look forward to seeing you on the Water!

Sailing is for everyone, opportunities are  
available for all ages to get into sailing.