

Time on Water

This document is intended as a recommendation for Clubs, Classes and other regatta organisers involved in developing sailors at beginner and junior levels. This document is to be used as a [guideline](#). Please note all situations cannot be covered in these guidelines however this document is a guide to assist.

Clubs, Classes and regatta organisers of junior sailing events should carefully consider the make-up of its race management team. Members of the RM team, and the PRO in particular, should be responsive to this guideline document, and be able to understand the needs and 'fun levels' of young sailors, and cater for their needs. Clubs, Classes and regatta organisers should select PROs and ROs that are best suited to junior sailing.

Sailors should be treated in accordance with their varying abilities. The Clubs, Classes and other regatta organisers should work together each day and during activities to get the best outcomes for all.

The over-arching principles are

- To maximise the experience
- The spirit of fun and fairness
- The pursuit of balance and learning

Some factors to consider are

- Retention/Participation
- Age
- Standard
- Competition level

(a) The Time on the Water period begins one hour prior to the first scheduled warning signal of the day, or at the time that AP ashore is lowered, whichever is later.

(b) Time on the water shall not exceed 4 hours. Except in exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the PRO and one other senior official such as the host club, class or regatta organisers, Commodore or President. This consent shall be granted when conditions are moderate. Eg: wind, waves and temperature.

(c) The warning signal for a race shall not be made later than such time as would permit the race in question to be completed:

- I. within 4 hours of the start of the Time on the Water period; and
- II. within the 'Time Limit' described in the Sailing Instructions.

d) Except with the consent of the PRO and one other senior official such as the host club, class or regatta organisers Commodore or President. Time on the water shall be reduced to no more than 3.5 hours.

- I. when sustained winds do not exceed the maximum as stated by the class association. Please note other relevant conditions including sea state, sea and air temperature, and wind chill need to be considered.

- II. when the temperature reaches or exceeds 35C.
- III. if the Time on Water exceeded 3.5 hours on the previous day.

(e) The PRO can authorise a twenty (20) minute break for each group/class(s) so that competitors may attend to personal needs. This break shall occur following the second race of the day or as soon after 2 hours on water. It is recommended a dedicated 'Toilet Boat' be available on the water to competitors when possible. This option may be available only if provision has been made for a toilet boat on water.

(f) In the event that the Race Committee, on the water, displays "AP over H" (races are postponed, more information on shore) or "N" over "H" (races abandoned, more information on shore):

Appendix

1. In hot conditions an AP will be displayed ashore (eg. temperatures are above 35 degrees) until the Race Committee has a stable breeze and is ready to set a course.
2. In strong wind and/or sea conditions the Race Committee should consider reducing the time on water to 3-4 hours, or delaying ashore until seas/wind abate with consideration to safety and wellbeing. The RO should consider laying the course prior to competitors leaving the shore.
3. At no time should the Race Committee allow a particular day in the regatta schedule to influence any consideration and decision to race. Instead safety and wellbeing of the sailors should be the overriding consideration at all times. (eg a regatta which has not achieved the required number of races on the last day should not place the sailors wellbeing at risk to achieve a result. This day should be viewed the same as any other day of a regatta).
4. To ensure competitors wellbeing is considered during the regatta, competitors should be given a reminder on clothing, sunscreen and hydration during time on water.
5. This guideline is recommended for the open fleet in Junior Sailing. We suggest that time frames vary for green, novice and intermediate fleets. Each level have different sailing objectives at a regatta. Eg. Green Fleet/Novice the emphasis is on participation, introduction to racing and fun, intermediate fleet expanding on racing experience and open fleet on competitive and fair racing.

Thank you for considering and implementing the Yachting Victoria time on water guidelines. Doing so will help to enhance the sailing experience of the children involved and help to maintain their love of sailing and the likelihood of them coming back to the next event, next year and beyond.