



TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB

Sailing

Townsville Yacht Club – Visitor Allocation Policy for Twilight Sailing

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for safely allocating visitors onto participating yachts during Townsville Yacht Club (TYC) Wednesday Twilight Sailing events.

Its purpose is to manage risk to the Club, skippers, and visitors by ensuring safe participation, appropriate supervision, and compliance with relevant legislation.

Twilight Sailing's primary aim is to connect skippers with potential crew members, encourage community participation in sailing, and support ongoing Club membership and racing programs, while maintaining a strong culture of safety and respect.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Visitors (members and non-members) attending Wednesday Twilight Sailing.
- TYC members volunteering to host visitors aboard their privately owned vessels.
- Club staff and volunteers assisting with visitor coordination.

All parties share responsibility for managing risk and maintaining the Club's standards of safety, professionalism, and conduct.

3. Nature of Participation

- Twilight Sailing is a voluntary social sailing activity conducted on privately owned vessels.
- Each skipper participates at their own discretion and retains full control over who is invited aboard their vessel.
- All visitor allocations are coordinated by the Club to ensure safety and equity.

- Participation as a visitor is not guaranteed, even after registration and payment of the temporary membership (SailPass) fee.
- The temporary membership provides insurance coverage and club access but does not create an entitlement to a place on a yacht.

4. Visitor Eligibility and Priority

4.1 Eligible visitors include:

- Club members or guests of members.
- Members of other yacht clubs.
- Prospective members or individuals with an expressed interest in learning to sail and contributing to TYC's racing or volunteer programs.

4.2 Priority allocation will be given to:

- Current TYC members.
- Visiting members from other Yacht clubs.
- Visitors with sailing experience or genuine interest in learning to crew.
- Prospective members interested in ongoing Club participation.

Visitors whose interest is casual or purely recreational (e.g. transient travellers or short-term visitors) may be deprioritised in allocation, as the program is designed to build sustained engagement in Club sailing.

4.3 Fitness and Conduct Requirements

Visitors must:

- Be reasonably fit and capable of moving safely around a yacht.
- Be sober, cooperative, and able to follow skipper instructions.
- Wear appropriate clothing and enclosed footwear.
- Demonstrate behaviour consistent with the Club's Code of Conduct.

4.4 Risk-Based Participation Control

Participation may be refused or limited where safety, behavioural, or liability risks cannot be managed.

Payment of a SailPass or arrival order does not confer entitlement to participate.

5. Allocation Procedure

- The Sailing Coordinator or Duty Officer will manage allocation of visitors to vessels, considering:
 - Skipper willingness and vessel capacity.
 - Visitor experience and suitability.
 - Weather and safety conditions.
- Skippers have absolute discretion to accept or decline any visitor. The Club will respect each skipper's decision without requiring justification.
- Skippers must not personally select visitors - all allocations occur through the Club.
- Visitors whose participation increases risk (e.g., intoxicated, unfit, disruptive) may be excluded without refund.

6. Skipper Participation and Conduct

- Skippers must nominate for twilight sailing to be eligible to take participants
- Skippers are expected to exercise judgment consistent with the Club's Code of Conduct, safety policies, and legal obligations.
- Skippers must model respectful and professional behaviour at all times.
- Sexual harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or favouritism are strictly prohibited.
- Skippers must not approach or select visitors directly or privately.
- The Club may impose conditions or restrictions on skipper participation where conduct or behaviour has created risk concerns.
- Skippers must provide a safety briefing for participants covering lifejacket use, safe movement on deck, and emergency procedures.

7. Safety Requirements

These safety measures form part of the Club's risk mitigation framework, reducing exposure to liability, incident, and reputational risk.

7.1 General Conditions

Twilight Sailing occurs in the late afternoon and evening, often in unpredictable conditions, with variable winds, limited visibility, and increased on-water activity.

These conditions present inherent safety risks requiring careful management.

7.2 Age Restriction

Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to participate as a visitor in Twilight Sailing events, either as crew or passengers, on any participating vessel.

This restriction is based on the following safety considerations:

- Reduced visibility during evening sailing, increasing the likelihood of incidents
- Limited availability of age-appropriate lifejackets.
- Inability to ensure supervision and child safety standards aboard private yachts.
- The informal social nature of the event and adult-oriented environment.

7.3 Fitness and Capability

Visitors must be reasonably fit and able to move safely around a vessel under sail. The skipper may refuse participation if, in their judgment, the visitor's safety or that of the crew would be compromised.

7.4 Safety Briefing

All visitors must receive a short safety briefing before departure, covering lifejacket use, safe movement on deck, and emergency procedures.

8. Visitors with Disabilities or Accessibility Needs

- TYC welcomes expressions of interest from people with disabilities and will endeavour to accommodate participation where it is safe and practicable to do so, noting that each skipper retains full control over who is invited aboard their vessel.
- Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering vessel configuration, crew capacity and capability, and prevailing weather and sea conditions.
- Where accommodation would impose unjustifiable hardship or create unmanageable safety risk, participation will be declined. Such decisions will be communicated respectfully, and where possible, alternative onshore participation options will be offered.

9. Conduct and Behaviour

- Visitors must comply with all instructions from the skipper and crew.
- Unsafe or inappropriate behaviour, including intoxication or refusal to follow directions, will result in removal from the activity and possible exclusion from future events.
- The Club supports skippers who exercise discretion to refuse or remove individuals for safety or behavioural reasons.

10. Fees and Membership

- Club members may participate at no cost.
- All visitors must complete a valid Australian Sailing SailPass and pay the temporary membership fee to ensure insurance coverage.
- The fee provides Club access and event participation opportunity but does not guarantee a place on a vessel.
- All participating boats must pay the relevant fee to nominated for twilight sailing
- Visitors will be encouraged to pursue full TYC membership after attendance.

11. Record Keeping and Review

- The Club will maintain a record of visitor participation for safety and follow-up purposes.
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the TYC Sailing Committee to ensure alignment with Club values, safety standards, and applicable legal obligations.

Approved by: Townsville Yacht Club Board

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Next Review: June 2026