



Hunters Hill Sailing Club

Shark Sighting Policy

PREAMBLE

In order to manage the risk posed by the presence of sharks in the Parramatta / Lane Cove River, the Hunters Hill Sailing Club Committee have established the following procedure:


Prior to the commencement of any sailing activity conducted by the club, and while setting the marks the sailing area shall be surveyed to satisfy race officials that there are no obvious signs of sharks in the area.

PROCEEDURE

All Rescue Boat crews, Race crews, Radio Room Attendants and sailors are to be generally aware that sharks do reside in Parramatta / Lane Cove Rivers and be vigilant at all times. No diving or swimming off the jetty is allowed.

Actions on Sightings

In the event of a confirmed sighting of a shark that is deemed to pose a threat to the safety of competitors the Race Officer must attempt to get competitors to shore quickly by using one of the following.


1. Shorten the Race [Code flag S]  at the nearest mark and direct competitors to shore, or

2. Postpone Racing [AP over H]  All boats directed to return to shore, or


3. Abandon Racing [N over H].  All boats directed to return to shore.

Then

POLICY DETAIL:

1. Fly code flag K  [All boats to remain ashore]
2. Advise competitors and/or parents of competitors that competitors are to remain clear of the water (where junior competitors are impacted the race officials are to advise parents of competitors who will decide together with race officials whether to directly advise junior competitors).
3. Do not resume racing for a minimum of 1 hour from the time of the LAST sighting, with increased surveillance for an additional hour at the location of the sighting and surrounding areas until the potential risk is deemed to have subsided.
4. Agree with the Commodore, class secretaries, Race officials and competitors or parents of competitors whether to resume racing. If training is impacted through a confirmed shark sighting training is to be abandoned with parents advised of the sighting.
5. 1 hour after the last sighting and with additional surveillance racing can

resume.

6. Should a shark attack occur, the sailor shall be removed from immediate danger and first aid applied. The PRO/Senior Instructor/Officer of the Day shall be informed immediately and emergency services are to be contacted.
7. At the first available opportunity, the PRO will report the incident to either the Commodore, President or a Class Secretary.
8. Race Officials retain in their absolute discretion, the right to abandon any race in the interests of safety. In this event all sailors must immediately return to shore upon direction from the race officials and the hoisting of Code Flag K .

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