



# Tasmanian Jet Sports Boating Club

## Code of Conduct

They say there's nothing better than messing about with boats<sup>1</sup>. When it comes to Personal Water Craft (PWC, commonly known as jet skis), this rings loud and true. You don't see anyone sad on a jet ski.

However, for everyone to get the most out of the experience, we have developed this Code of Conduct to promote safe and responsible riding, and to achieve the aims of the Club.

We acknowledge that we are representatives of the PWC fraternity. We agree to treat each other and other water users respectfully and strongly oppose any behaviour that damages, or is likely to damage, the image of our recreation/sport or the reputation of the Club.

By signing the Club's membership form, including the indemnity and release section, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with the Code may lead to expulsion from the Club.

### As Club members, we agree to:

- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of our recreation/sport,
- Show respect and courtesy to the Club itself, those involved in the Club or others with whom we come into contact while participating in our recreation/sport,
- Avoid any action or behaviour that could reasonably be expected to damage the Club or its reputation, or threaten its existence, or be otherwise detrimental to the Club's interests,
- Not tolerate abusive, bullying, threatening or discriminatory behaviour,
- Act responsibly in relation to alcohol and other drugs and comply with all relevant laws and regulations related to behaviour-modifying substances,
- Ensure our individual and collective decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment,
- Place the safety and welfare of participants above all else,
- Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips,
- Ensure we take appropriate precautions if riding in or to remote areas,
- Obey legal and regulatory obligations associated with our recreation, including licensing, boating and MAST rules,
- Keep the environment clean: carry our own and, where practicable, any other rubbish out,
- Keep our PWCs mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact,
- Use minimal impact riding and refuelling practices,
- Respect our flora and fauna: stop and look but never disturb, and ride slowly and carefully around marine life.

### During Club activities we agree to abide by the following Safety Rules.

1. **Safety first.** Safety is paramount when participating in any Club ride. It is essential to ensure you and your ski are set up with all safety gear for your planned trip. This means approved clothing for warmth and protection, an approved and current PFD, all required and appropriate gear including flares, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, high-visibility vest, sunscreen etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Grahame, 1908, adapted from Wind in the Willows

It also means ensuring that your ski is well maintained and free of any defects.

A readily accessible tow rope is essential. Adequate water and food is essential to keep your energy levels up and maintain basic health during any mechanical delays or rescues.

Respectfully listen to, and obey any instructions or directions given to you by the ride coordinators or event organisers including committee members and/or experienced peer Club members.

Ensure you have at least a full fuel tank before commencing the ride: ideally, more fuel than is required for the planned trip to allow an available reserve for any unplanned event that may occur during the ride. For example, on full day rides, 45 minutes of fuel is a prudent reserve.

2. **Risk.** You and your passengers ride at your own risk. Please ensure that you have signed a liability waiver for each year of your membership.

We expect that your ski is registered and insured for third party damage and liability at least.

3. **Local Speed Limits.** It is mandatory that all riders abide with speed limits wherever posted. These are usually near ramps, jetties and when leaving a bay.

Speed limits also apply around moored or anchored boats. Keep clear of those who are fishing, diving or are other water users.

The MAST website also provides details of specific mandatory limited speed zones.

4. **No hooning.** On Club rides, all riders are to avoid the temptation of free styling when close to other skis or water users. Please maintain good separation (side and front) from other skis when underway in case someone needs to stop or turn suddenly. If you are braking or slowing suddenly, raise your hand to warn those behind you.
5. **Leader & Sweeps.** All Club rides will have a Leader and at least one Sweep. Please remain behind the Leader and in front of the rear Sweep at all times. The Leader and Sweep will be in radio contact and the Leader will wait for slow riders from time to time.

Do not leave the group, including returning to the ramp, without agreeing a plan with the Sweep(s). The Leader and Sweep(s) will also carry an EPIRB and marine radios.

6. **Passengers.** Some rides are suitable for passengers while others are not. The final decision as to whether a passenger is approved to travel on a particular ride, rests with the Ride Coordinator. Passengers must also wear a high-visibility vest.
7. **Sea Life.** Keep a lookout for whales and dolphins (in particular). Slow down and try to manoeuvre away. Dolphins may follow you so slow down to a minimum speed until they swim off.

Approved by the Committee at its meeting on 4 November 2016.