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Australia

Regatta Sustainability Policy

ILCA Australia

Purpose: ILCA Australia is committed to minimizing the environmental impact of our class sailing regattas. Recognizing the logistical demands of large multi-day events involving travel and powered support boating, this policy provides guidance for organizers and participants to promote responsible environmental stewardship.

1. Regatta Management & Planning

- **Waste Management:** Eliminate single-use plastics. Provide adequate, clearly marked recycling and waste stations.
- **Provide Rigorous Recycling Stations:** Ensure clearly marked, highly visible sorting stations for recyclables, organics/compost, and general waste are placed near rigging areas and slipways.
- **Digital Operations:** Implement digital entry, registration, results, and protest forms to reduce paper usage.
- **Don't encourage or issue stick on event signage to hull or equipment.** This single use plastic is inclined to come unstuck at sea and is quite unfriendly to the environment.
- **Encourage registration of your event and following advice and information of "[Sailors for the Sea](#)"**
- **Host beach or marina clean-ups alongside the racing,** displaying clear educational signage, and using the skippers' briefing to promote ocean stewardship.
- **At regatta briefing and/or in venue information educate participants on local wildlife or sensitive seagrass habitats (such as bird nesting areas or seagrass beds) and the location of recycling points.**

2. On-Water Practices

- **Support Boats:** Minimize fuel consumption by consolidating support crews and using efficient, well-maintained engines.
- **Fuel Handling:** Use spill-proof nozzles and containment mats during refueling procedures to prevent water contamination.

- "Leave No Trace" On the Water: Secure all gear (such as water bottles, snack wrappers, and spare parts) inside pockets or zipped buoyancy aid compartments so nothing falls overboard during a capsize or heavy-air maneuvers.
- Ditch Bottled Water: Mandate reusable water bottles and set up centralized, large-volume hydration stations or water refill trailers around the boat park.
- Eliminate Single-Use Packaging: Encourage competitors to pack waste-free lunches using reusable containers, beeswax wraps, or silicone bags rather than cling film and single-use plastic baggies.
- Marine Debris Retrieval: Encourage sailors to practice "Sailors for the Sea"-style habits—if you see floating plastic or trash while sailing to or from the racecourse or idling around the start, pick it up and bring it ashore for disposal.
- Non-Toxic Cleaning Products: Use biodegradable, phosphate-free soaps and hull cleaners to prevent toxic chemical runoff into the water when washing down boats.
- Select and use eco-friendly sunscreen (SPF) products.
- When towing your sailors look out for others who don't have support boats don't just roar by and wave.

3. Logistics & Travel

- Boat Transport: Encourage carpooling and the sharing of towing vehicles or chartering locally where feasible to reduce the carbon footprint of trailering.
- Accommodation: Encourage sailors to book accommodation in proximity to the club to reduce daily vehicle travel.
- Coordinate travel to and from the venue by carpooling with clubmates, or charter local boats rather than towing single dinghies long distances where feasible. Stack trailers (safely) to reduce the number of road towing vehicle kilometres.
- Optimise support, coaching and safety craft for use by teams (not individual sailors) and run them efficiently at appropriately moderate speed. Avoid unnecessary idling, use modern four-stroke or electric outboard engines.
- Learn about types of support boat outboard motors that are both clean and cost effective to operate and maintain. Drive support vessels for maximum efficiency to reduce environmental damage and save money.

4. Environmental Stewardship

- Wildlife Protection: Strictly enforce 'no-go' zones to protect seagrass beds, breeding grounds, and local marine wildlife.
- Education: Include a 'sustainability briefing' for all competitors and support staff prior to the first race.
- Host beach or marina clean-ups alongside the racing, displaying clear educational signage, and using the skippers' briefing to promote ocean stewardship.
- At regatta briefing and/or in venue information educate participants on local wildlife or sensitive seagrass habitats (such as bird nesting areas or seagrass beds) and the location of recycling points.

