



Middle Harbour Amateur Sailing Club Inc.

The Laser Club

Members Handbook

Revised November 2024

THE CLUB**Location**

Middle Harbour Amateur Sailing Club Inc (MHASC) is located below Parriwi Road and accessed from Spit East Reserve carpark and at the end of the 'No Thru Road' laneway that runs alongside Middle Harbour Yacht Club (MHYC).

The location is shown on Google Maps with a map photo available, link here: [MHASC](#). Club email address is mhasc.laser@gmail.com (goes to both Commodore & Secretary).

Background

The single-handed 'Laser' (now known as ILCA) sailing dinghy was adopted by MHASC members in 1976. This is enduring proof that the ILCA dinghy is a 'boat for life'. Today MHASC is still proudly known as 'The Laser Club'.

More ILCA background is available on this link; [Laser ILCA link](#).

MHASC aims to provide members a friendly, competitive, safe, inclusive high-quality sailing experience for members who enjoy a common interest in the challenge of single-handed dinghy sailing. The benefits for members include 'fitness for life', a good-fun social environment, and the ability to indulge in a 'passion for sailing' on the wonderful waters of Middle Harbour.

MHASC is an 'amateur sailing' club with no employees and is entirely run and maintained by member volunteers. The main functions of the Club (running Sailing Events; providing Members Services; maintaining the Facilities; Governance and Administration) are co-ordinated by the Committee who are listed in the 'Useful Contacts' below and on the MHASC website here; [Club Officials](#)

There are lots of opportunities to provide volunteer help ranging from rostered 'Race Duty' to facilities repairs. Every Club member is expected to contribute, guided by the general principle that 'many hands make light work'.

MHASC is an Incorporated Association. A copy of the Club's Constitution is available from the Secretary on request.

All members need to observe the 'Members Terms & Conditions' (see p.6) which they acknowledge when registering to join the Club and when renewing their Annual Membership each year.

Club members have a wealth of experience in ILCA sailing and the running needs of the Club. Feel free to ask anyone for help or tips.

Useful**Contacts**

Commodore	Graham Jennings	0417 061 634
Vice Commodore	Jacqui Winship	0423 760 162
Secretary	Naomi McKeown	0418 636 996
Treasurer	Jonathan Brown	0497 292 955
Club Captain	Nick Alexander	0498 059 188
Results & Website	Rob Lowndes	0419 266 257
Race Captain	Bruce Savage	0402 060 967
Safety & First Aid	Vanessa Dudley	0418 118 133

Associations

Australian Sailing - MHASC is a member of Australian Sailing, the governing body for sailing in Australia (see link here; [Australian Sailing](#)). MHASC membership links to the Australian Sailing database enabling access to an Australian Sailing number, services, and information for members and Clubs (including 'Personal Accident Insurance' for registered financial members in club organised events and 'SailPass' for prospective members).

Your Australian Sailing 'RevSports' online record is also used by MHASC for contact, safety, newsletters and member registration and renewal processes.

It is important that you maintain accurate contact information (including emergency contact) in your member records. You can check or update your records on the Australian Sailing database anytime. Link here; [Australian Sailing Record members log-in](#).

ILCA NSW & ACT is our District ILCA Association and Aus ILCA is the Australian ILCA organisation under the auspices of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA).

Membership of ILCA NSW & ACT is required to participate in any District, National or Worlds events. For details are on the ILCA NSW & ACT website under: [Enter & join](#)

The respective Association websites provide a wealth of information on the ILCA class and activities. Association links here;

[ILCA NSW & ACT](#)

[Aus ILCA](#)

[ILCA](#)

Club Sponsors

MHASC is indebted to the continuing support of our two sponsors:

[NB Sailports](#) (Laser/ILCA dealer, parts & equipment) and [Zhik](#) (specialised dinghy sailing clothing available at most Sailing outlets and online).

The Club encourages members to support these Sponsors when making their own purchases.

SAILING

Information

The MHASC website provides a wealth of information on the Club including the 'Race Calendar'; 'Sailing Instructions'; 'Race Duty Roster' and 'Sailing Results' plus more. Familiarise yourself with the site and save the link; [MHASC website](#).

A regular news update is sent to all members weekly during the season and periodically off season via your email address in the Australian Sailing database. To avoid the email being caught as spam we recommend (mhasc.laser@gmail.com) is added to your email address list.

Members communicate with each other about Club related activities via a 'MHASC' 'What's App' Group, particularly to arrange sailing activities and exchange of information.

We encourage members to follow the Club's Facebook page, link; [Middle Harbour Amateur Sailing Club](#).

If you have any issues with these communications or sites, please contact the Secretary.

Racing Format

The 'Race Calendar' provides for:

1. 'Club Championship Trophy Series' – based on 'outright results' on selected event days.
2. 'NB Sailports Spring Series' – handicap series from season start to Xmas.
3. 'Zhik Summer Series' – handicap series from New Year to season end.
4. 'Short Race Series' – short/sprint race format - 'outright results', up to 6 heats each race. Usually held prior to ILCA Association Championships.
5. 'Marathon Race' – Once a year, longer race around the Harbour, early January.

Racing is scheduled to start at 1300 (at 1400 during daylight saving time), from the first week in September to late April. 'Winter Racing' is conducted usually once a month 'off season'.

A Club Update including Race Briefing is held approximately 90 minutes prior to start time to update on any matters and enable the Race Committee to communicate conditions, possible race course and other important information.

Separate starts are usually held for the ILCA 7 and the combined ILCA 6/ILCA4 fleets. Apart from the 'Marathon' and 'Short Race Series', all races have a target time of 50 minutes. NB Sailports & Zhik Series are raced under the club's handicap system. The 'Race Calendar' and 'Handicap and Scoring' system are on the website under 'Sailing'.

Post-season an Awards Presentation function for all members, partners, guests is held to celebrate the completion of the Season, usually in late April/May.

Sailing Instructions

Racing is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing ([RRS and Special Regs](#)). 'Sailing Instructions' (including 'Course Maps') are in the Racing section on the MHASC website.

Your ILCA & rig and Rig

Whilst MHASC encourages the development of the class, all equipment used during MHASC club races must be Class approved equipment.

Visit the [ILCA website](#) 'Rules & Technical' if in doubt (link here; [ILCA Rules & Technical](#), or ask for assistance.

Race Officer Duty

MHASC requires all members to participate in our 'Race Management' program by completing 'Race Duty' at least once or twice per season. The ['Duty Roster'](#) is maintained on the Club website under 'Sailing' and coordinated by the 'Race Captain'.

New members are rostered for 'Race Duty' with an experienced club member.

The Club's 'Race Committee Boat' is used for 'Race Duty' for course laying, race starts/finishes, safety, and rescue (in need) at MHASC.

If a rostered member is unable to complete Race Duty on their rostered day it is the member's responsibility to act early and take the initiative to arrange a swap with another member to an alternative roster day, and to let the Race Captain know.

The Club website also contains the [Race Officer Checklist](#) and [Emergency Plan & 'How To' Aids](#) which are critical in understanding your duties and responsibilities on roster.

The Club also encourages members to hold a Power Boat licence which assists with Race Officer duty, knowledge of the waterways and boating rules.

'Race Duty' provides a great opportunity to see racing from another perspective, provide valuable volunteer support and learn new skills.

Insurance

To race, we require all members to have 3rd Party Public Liability Insurance for \$10 million. We also encourage our members to consider comprehensive boat insurance as part of their racing plan.

Membership of 'Australian Sailing' automatically provides Personal Accident Insurance for Club organised events including for volunteers, see link: [Personal Accident Insurance](#).

Sailing Outside Organised Events

Members often engage in 'mid-week sailing' and training sessions on their own initiative. 'Time on the water' is a great way to increase skills and knowledge.

From a liability perspective, note that these activities are not part of the Club's official activities and Australian Sailing's Personal Accident Insurance does not apply.

As always sailing activities are at a member's own risk - the decision to go out on the water is yours and yours alone.

Regattas

The Club encourages members to participate in the ILCA NSW/ACT, Australian & World Association Regattas.

The Regattas are fun, provide an excellent opportunity to further racing skills, and to meet like-minded people from the widespread ILCA community.

MHASC usually has a strong Regatta presence, and members often make travel and shared accommodation arrangements to make it easier and more fun!

See the Club Race Calendar for regatta dates.

Sailing - 'Member Terms & Conditions'

The 'Club Member Terms & Conditions' p.6 include a section on 'Sailing' that all members are required to accept and comply with.

Acknowledgment is sought on joining the Club and when renewing annual membership.

MEMBER SERVICES

Boat & Dolly storage is a valuable service for MHASC members only if they choose, subject to availability and current financial membership.

Boat & Dolly Storage

Boat storage rack positions will be reviewed from time to time as vacancies occur. Periodic reviews are also undertaken by the Commodore (at least halfway during the season and post sailing season).

Two factors primarily influence rack position for individual members;

- sailing participation frequency – (i.e., competition, practice including mid-week sailing) and,
- volunteer contribution to the Club (including the premises and facilities).

Members may also store their essential ILCA gear with their boat (tidy and within reason).

The Club Members 'Terms & Conditions' (appended to this document) has a section specifically on Boat & Dolly Storage. It is important that these rules are complied with if you accept a Boat & Dolly Storage offer.

Boat Storage enquiries should be directed to the Commodore.

Club Key & Security

Members have the option of a club key for convenient access to the facilities.

The individually numbered single key will operate all locks at the Club (Clubhouse, car park, dinghy ramp and crane).

A couple of key points to note;

- The Crane on the deck is only to be operated by 'Authorised Crane Operators' who have completed suitable training. Refer Club Captain in need.
- The ramp is for lightweight sailing dinghies (by hand only) and the chain across the ramp must be left taut and secure when the ramp is not being used.

There is a cost for the key and the conditions for 'Club Key & Security' in the 'Club Member Terms & Conditions' Apply.

Parking

8 parking spaces are located directly in front of MHASC clubhouse for the exclusive use of club members for club activities.

On Race days, we attempt to accommodate parking for all members in the restricted space which is also the dinghy rigging area.

If you are not a Mosman resident and prefer parking where access is easier, it is possible to apply for non-resident Public Parking permits from the Mosman Council for 'Spit West Reserve' and 'Spit East Reserve' carparks, link here; [Mosman Parking Permits](#).

Club ILCAs

MHASC has two Club ILCAs available for use by prospective members, visitors, and club members in need.

Arrangements for use are to be made directly with the Club Captain.

To encourage the growth of our Club priority is generally given to 'Learn to Race' participants including potential new members.

Terms and conditions for use of Club ILCAs are on the website: [Club ILCA Use Application](#). The form is to be downloaded, completed, signed and given to the Club Captain.

'Learn to Race'

MHASC offers a 'Learn to Race' program to help new members, newer members, and potential members to develop and progress the racing skills.

Guidance and assistance are provided by an experienced member who has national/international Regatta experience.

For further details are under 'Join Us' on the MHASC website homepage; [MHASC](#)

Coaching and Mentoring

Members frequently organise mid-week sailing sessions which provide a great opportunity to train on the water, experiment, learn, ask questions, discuss ideas, and exchange information in a non-race environment.

It can also be possible to arrange a mentor system with an experienced sailor who will provide some guidance through your first few months of racing.

The Club also holds 'Rules Nights', 'Race Management Nights' and other events from time to time. Contacts can also be provided for further coaching.

There is also a 'Racing Skills' section with links to useful websites/videos which is under the 'Members' tab on the MHASC website homepage; [MHASC](#)

Club Facilities and Refreshments

The kitchen facilities, common room, and outdoor deck are available to all members and their families. We encourage everyone to use the areas available for chats and de-briefing after sailing.

A limited range of cold drinks are available from the club fridge at low cost.

Coffee and tea are available for a small fee.

Payment is by an 'honesty system'.

Members are asked to keep the kitchen clean and tidy after using it by wash up all items returning them to the cupboards. There are no cleaners.

Male and female change rooms are available. Members rely on each other to keep the areas clean and hygienic. There are no cleaners.

When using the facilities during the week, it's your responsibility to make sure that the areas you use are cleaned, belongings and things used are put away, and all taps are turned off before leaving.

The Club Facilities are only to be used by members for Club related activities. Refer Commodore in need.

CLUB MEMBER TERMS & CONDITIONS

Sailing

- I agree to compete in accordance with the Club's 'Sailing Instructions', including the 'Club's Safety Policy' and respect that my behaviour 'on and off the water' needs to be consistent with the safe, fair, and friendly competitive environment that the Club is committed to.
- I agree that membership of the MHASC is entirely at my own risk.
- If participating in MHASC's 'Learn to Race' program, I understand this is entirely at my own risk.
- I will not hold the Club or its officers liable for any injury to persons, or damage to equipment, in the event of a mishap on the water, or on the Club's premises.
- I acknowledge that insurance for person and property is my own responsibility, and that the Club's insurance does not cover my participation in Club activities.
- I undertake to;
 - Maintain 'Personal Injury Insurance' cover (this is provided to Australian Sailing financial members).
 - Keep 'Off the Beach' Dinghy Insurance cover in place with 3rd Party liability insurance of at least \$10 million.
 - Provide MHASC with details of my 'Off the Beach' Dinghy insurances.
- I understand that the Club strongly recommends that I have comprehensive insurance in place.
- I acknowledge the risks inherent in ILCA sailing, and that the MHASC does not & cannot provide rescue facilities for all contingencies. Attention is drawn to Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) Rule 4 Decision to Race: The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race, or to continue racing, is hers alone.
- I undertake to compete in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing, Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 for 'Off the Beach Boats', and the by-laws of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA). Accordingly, I undertake to;
 - Always wear an approved PFD 2 (EN393-50N) when sailing.
 - Ensure restraining fittings are used for my mast, centreboard, and rudder - always.
 - Ensure the condition of my boat is at least 'fair and reasonable' to minimise gear failure risk and the need for rescue.

Boat & Dolly Storage

- I accept that the storage of my boat & dolly at the Club's premises is conditional on space availability and being a fully paid member.
 - I accept that boat & dolly storage locations are allocated at the discretion of the Club Committee with reference primarily to sailing frequency, volunteer contribution, and availability. These are subject to regular/periodic review. In relation to any dispute relating to Boat Storage the decision of the Commodore will be final.
 - I agree to notify the Boat Storage Officer if I am not planning to sail for a period and I am in a higher demand location (Level 1(Ground) or Level 2). I undertake to consider a temporary location swap with another member who is actively sailing.
 - If allocated a storage space, I accept that storage of my boat, spars, sails, foils, fittings & other personal possessions on the Club's premises is entirely at my own risk. I acknowledge that the Club's insurance policies do not cover these items and that MHASC takes no liability for any boat/gear that is missing, lost, stolen, misplaced or damaged.
 - I undertake to;
 - Keep my boat & dolly in the allocated storage locations.
 - Ensure that my boat and dolly (plus any other gear - spars, sails etc.) are clearly marked with my regular sail number.
 - Not leave my boat or any gear on the Clubhouse floor/access areas without express permission.
 - Keep my allocated storage space tidy and not interfering with other boat storage spaces or access.
 - Not borrow other members equipment or gear without the permission of the owner.
 - I understand that for safety reasons that 'stackable dollies' are not to be stored inside the Clubhouse without express permission.
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- If requested, I agree to remove my boat from the Club premises if I am not a financial member of the Club, or if I am not sailing regularly.
 - I accept that if I fail to pay my fees for one or more years, the Club has the right to sell my boat if stored at the Club, to recover unpaid fees.

Club Key & Security

- In return for being provided with a Club Key (which operates all locks at the Club) I agree to abide by the following security rules;
 - The Club key is for my use only, and it is not to be given or lent to any other users without express permission.
 - When I leave the Clubhouse for a sail, any other reason, and when leaving for the day I will ensure that the Club is left locked and secure and that padlocks are left locked.
 - Before leaving the Club, I will check that the lights are turned off, that appliances are off and disconnected.
 - If last to leave the Club I will ensure that the dinghy ramp and car park chains are in place and locked.
- I agree to notify the Commodore if the key is misplaced or lost and to return the key upon expiry of my membership.
- I will not operate the davit crane unless I am an 'Approved Crane Operator'.

General

- I agree that my email address will be used for communication on Club and sailing matters and may be available to other members for these purposes.
- I will not use or disclose the email address of other Club members for communication on other matters without the agreement of that member.

Privacy Policy

Any personal information you provide to MHASC will only be used for the purposes of operating a sailing Club, including the release of details to the State and National Yachting Authorities and Class Associations. If you have any queries or concerns about your personal information, please contact the Secretary.
