

Sailability Mackay

Dinghy skipper procedures

These procedures are for our Access 303 dinghies.

Before launching

Skippers should be familiar with the Hansa 303 Owner's Manual which includes instructions on how to rig an Access 303. Then you may proceed to prepare your dinghy.

Caution: never use two hands to furl or unfurl your sails and never unhook the mainsail furling line as either practice may cause the furling line to come off the furling spool.

Check you are wearing a life jacket and check life jackets are corrected fitted for your sailor client and that he or she is comfortable. Check that sunscreen has been applied.

Check with carer or guardian about any special requirements or issues for your sailor, such as supporting cushions or a change of medication.

Ask about any other particular requirements.

Carry a VHF radio tuned to channel 72.

Client boarding and departure from dock

Board the dinghy first and ensure the joystick, paddle and sheets are clear. Particularly keep watch for any hands or feet between the dinghy and the dock.

Prepare your sails for sailing and reef if conditions warrant or instructed to by the Officer of the Day (OOD) or Support Boat skipper.

Check for traffic and advise the deck crew when you are ready to depart. Deck crew should place your painter under your jib sheets.

Sailing

At all times your sailing style will be subject to the requirements of your sailor client.

Your sailing area will be in the marina and subject to any directions from the OOD or support boat skipper. Watch for traffic especially for craft entering the marina or leaving the fingers.

If you require assistance call the support boat using your VHF or if malfunctioning signal with your paddle raised.

Be prepared to reef sails if conditions suggest it is unsafe to maintain full sail (or on instructions from the OOD or support boat skipper).

Try to return to dock on time. You will be told if you should come back earlier or have more time.

Safety

Avoid accidents by never standing in a dinghy except with care to board or disembark.

Use a keel lifter or crane to lift or lower centreboards, these can weigh up to 35kgs or so.

Stay well clear of shallows and rock walls and beware of your mast and boom when sailing close to fingers.

Should your sailor client become agitated it may be appropriate to hold the collar of their life jacket. When combined with the seat angle and low centre of gravity this is an effective way of maintaining control without causing discomfort.

In the unlikely event of a Man Overboard (MOB) incident follow our MOB procedures and use your general seamanship skills.