**MARS MID ARGYLL RADIO SAILING**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

Mid Argyll Radio Sailing wish to ensure that the club operates as safely as possible despite there being no legal requirement for us to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

**Committee responsibility for safety**

The committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the health and safety policy and ensuring that it is circulated to members of MARS. Committee members should ensure that the safety requirements of MARS are followed by club members when on site. In particular they should ensure buoyancy aids or lifejackets are worn by people using the rescue boat in accordance with Model Yachting Association (MYA) policy and additionally, that only competent rowers use the rescue boat. Committee members should be aware that the Model Yachting Association (MYA) policy advises that people using the rescue boat should wear buoyancy aids or lifejackets. Additionally, when using the rescue boat members should feel confident that they have the required skills.

The committee will also designate a member as having responsibility for health and safety. They will also identify a first aider for events.

**Responsibility of the health and safety club member**

To undertake the MARS general risk assessment and present it to the committee for approval.

To provide a generic event risk assessment form for use by members when planning an event.

To present the MARS health and safety policy to the committee for approval and for annual review.

**Responsibility of the first aider**

To be responsible for first aid and where possible attend training. Check the contents of the first aid bag and make it available on site as much as possible and always for events.

**Individual MARS member’s responsibility**

All MARS members should comply with the safety requirements of the club. Any visitors to the club are also expected to comply with the safety requirements.

Individuals should:

* Make sure they are familiar with and follow the club’s risk assessments and health and safety policy
* Make sure that they use the facilities in a safe manner and do not endanger the safety of other club members, visitors or members of the public.
* Assess risks to themselves and to any person they are responsible for and make decisions dependant on that about the safety of participating in any specific activity
* Fit eye protection to the end of any long transmitter aerial as recommended by the MYA.
* Only use the rescue boat if they are competent rowers or accompanied by a competent person
* Only use the rescue boat if they feel they have, or are accompanied by someone who has, the necessary skills
* Wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket when in the rescue boat
* Understand that the MYA recommends wearing a buoyancy aid or lifejacket when in the rescue boat
* Conform to the MYA recommendation to keep an available written note with an emergency contact number and any relevant medical information, so that it can be readily accessed in an emergency
* Be aware and check that the pontoon is safely anchored before using it
* Inform the committee of any new hazards that they come across
* Make sure their visitors know the club’s safety requirements
* Report any accidents or safety incidents to the committee
* Undertake all activities with respect for wildlife on and around the loch
* Ensure that no litter is left on site
* Offer advice and suggestions to the committee that they think may improve health and safety
* Members are additionally advised to exercise their own judgement with regards to health and safety issues when participating in club activities.

Signed on behalf of MARS Committee.……………………………………… Name …………………………… Date …………………………

Reviewed and amended November 2022