

APPENDIX 5 – NSW RMS YACHT PERSON'S BRIEF

1. **Be Safe!**

2. Observe NSW Collision regulations and in particular Rule 1 (b) and Rule 2 (a) (b) ie:

Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any vessel, or the owner, master or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of the neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case.

In complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers if navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.

What this means is that if you're about to be involved in a collision, having stood on or given way in accordance with the Rule; every party involved is responsible in taking avoiding action to prevent a collision.

3. Local Rules require sail craft to keep out of the way of ferries displaying the orange diamond. When necessary (after hearing 5 short blasts) give priority to the ferry. Pass the ferry at least 200m ahead and 30m on either side and astern.
4. Be mindful of larger ships' bow flare. When closing any vessel, to prevent being overrun ensure you remain within sight of the officer of the watch on the vessel's bridge. Beware of overhanging bows and other parts of ship that might obstruct this line of sight. This means that your vessel may disappear from sight inside 200-400m from the bows of very large ships.
5. When not racing keep at least 200m clear of any ferries displaying the Orange Diamond.
6. **Shipping Sound Signal meanings:**
One short blast – I am altering course to starboard (right)
Two short blasts – I am altering course to port (left)
Three short blasts – I am operating engines astern (stopping)
Five (or more) short blasts – I'm unsure of your intentions and I doubt whether you are taking enough avoiding action to avoid collision.