

Sandy Bay Yacht Club Hurricane/Storm Policy

This Hurricane/Storm policy defines an approach to monitoring tropical cyclones and major storms, the communication of risk to club members, and preparation of the club to withstand the severe weather associated with tropical cyclones. The policy defines responsibilities for boat-owning club members, fleet captains, and club staff. The purpose of the policy is to promote safety and property protection in the following order of priority: first, to protect club property; second, to govern availability to club members of club resources for use of protecting club members' property. **THIS POLICY SERVES AS NOTICE TO ALL BOAT-OWNING CLUB MEMBERS OF SPECIFIC DESIGNATED TIMES WHEN CLUB RESOURCES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS SO THAT THOSE CLUB RESOURCES MAY BE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO PROTECT CLUB PROPERTY.** Further, this policy provides no guarantee regarding safety or property protection at any time.

Background

The National Hurricane Center defines the hurricane season in the Atlantic basin as lasting from June 1st through November 30th. This means that, with the exception of Memorial Day weekend, the *entire* SBYC sailing season occurs within hurricane season. In addition to hurricanes, Rockport experiences non-tropical storms that are capable of causing as much or more damage than tropical storms. Non-tropical storms are forecasted and tracked by the National Weather Service.

Definitions	
<i>Tropical Cyclone</i>	A storm originating over tropical or subtropical waters that gains and maintains its strength from the energy in warm ocean water.
<i>Tropical Depression</i>	A tropical cyclone with winds of 38 mph (33 kts) or less.
<i>Tropical Storm</i>	A tropical cyclone with winds of 39 mph (34 kts) to 73 mph (63 kts). Note that the tropical storm actually covers the gale force through storm force winds described in the familiar Beaufort Scale. The NWS only uses the term "tropical storm" to describe conditions associated with a tropical cyclone. In the absence of a tropical cyclone, "gale" or "storm" would be used to describe conditions instead.
<i>Hurricane</i>	A tropical cyclone with winds of 74 mph (65 kts) or greater. There are five categories of hurricane strength, but for the purpose of this policy there is no need to distinguish among the hurricane categories.
<i>Storm Committee</i>	Comprised of the Commodore, Club Manager, Race Committee Chairman, House Committee Chairman and Fleet Captain with the purpose of instituting the Hurricane/Storm Policy.

Tropical Cyclone Watches and Warnings	
<i>Tropical Storm Watch</i>	Tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally in the next 48 hours.
<i>Tropical Storm Warning</i>	Tropical storm conditions are expected within the watch area in the next 36 hours..
<i>Hurricane Watch</i>	Hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally in the next 48 hours.

<i>Hurricane Warning</i>	Hurricane conditions are expected within the watch area in the next 36 hours.
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SBYC Readiness Conditions	
<i>Club Closed</i>	Standard condition outside of hurricane and SBYC seasons, October 19 th through May 24 th .
<i>Club Lockdown Condition</i>	Temporary condition prior to, during and after a hurricane or storm when the club is closed to prepare for, or repair the club.
<i>All Clear</i>	Standard in-season condition, from the Sunday prior to Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Club is open and no storms are threatening. Heightened readiness status (Preparation, Danger, Lock Down), if in effect, has been called off.
<i>Preparation</i>	Elevated strike probability for Cape Ann issued by NHC or NWS (e.g., Tropical Storm Watch or similar conditions). Club preparations begin, members alerted, boat evacuation plans reviewed by fleet captains.
<i>Danger</i>	Tropical Storm Warning issued by NHC; or similar forecast conditions issued by NWS. Boat evacuation plans executed, club preparations completed.

Boat-Owning Member Responsibilities	
<i>Club Lockdown Condition</i>	None
<i>All Clear Condition</i>	At the start of the season, read and agree to abide by SBYC Hurricane/Storm Policy. Submit boat evacuation plan to their fleet captain, alert fleet captain if they will be away for five days or more.
<i>Preparation Condition</i>	Contact their fleet captain, confirm plans for their boat to be evacuated <i>immediately</i> if a Danger Condition is declared. Any and all haul-out plans on SBYC property must be coordinated with Club Manager. Due to the need to protect Club assets during an escalating weather situation, members' are strongly advised to remove their personal property including their boats during Preparation Condition.
<i>Danger Condition</i>	Execute their boat evacuation plan within 24 hours. Boat owners will expeditiously remove their boats from moorings and away from the Yacht Club and T-Wharf. When this condition is in effect, boat owners and crew will perform no maintenance (e.g., washing the bottom) when removing boats. Club Staff and resources will be dedicated to protecting Club property and assets and members' access to Club Staff and resources may be limited.

Fleet Captains' Responsibilities	
<i>Club Lockdown Condition</i>	None
<i>All Clear Condition</i>	At the start of the season, read and agree to abide by SBYC Hurricane/Storm Policy. Receive boat evacuation plans from fleet members, update fleet member contact information, create an evacuation plan for their own boat, ensure contingency plans in place for fleet members who are away from the area for five days or more.
<i>Preparation Condition</i>	Contact fleet members to confirm plans for their boat to be evacuated <i>immediately</i> if a Danger Condition is declared. Alert Club Fleet Captain & Club Manager if any fleet member cannot be reached.
<i>Danger Condition</i>	Execute the boat evacuation plan within 24 hours at most. Help arrange for assistance to fleet members who need help executing their plans.

Staff Responsibilities	
<i>Club Lockdown Condition</i>	Update readiness condition on club website home page. Communicate updates via e-mail to members.
<i>All Clear Condition</i>	Update readiness condition on club website home page. Following a heightened readiness condition (Preparation, Danger, Lockdown), announce All Clear via email to all Club Members. Monitor NHC reports of tropical cyclones formation and NWS forecasts for storm conditions. If forecasts indicate an elevated tropical cyclone strike probability or similar storm conditions for Cape Ann, advise Storm Committee who may then declare a Preparation Condition.
<i>Preparation Condition</i>	Announce Preparation Condition via email to all Club Members – include link to current Hurricane/Storm Policy. Post readiness conditions and updates on Club website. Club Manager and staff begin preparations to protect club property that have minimal impact on normal operations, alerts volunteers. Sailing Program Director alerts students and makes arrangements for evacuation of sailing program dinghies. If a tropical storm warning is issued by the NHC, or similar conditions are forecasted by NWS, advise Storm Committee who may then declare a Danger Condition.
<i>Danger Condition</i>	Announce Danger Condition via email to all Club Members. Post readiness conditions and updates on Club website. Club Manager contacts volunteers, evacuates club boats, and completes club preparations. Club Manager contacts the Rockport Police Department to advise of plans and request parking on T Wharf for boats/trailers in transition. Sailing Program Director oversees evacuation of sailing program dinghies. Advise Storm Committee upon completion of Club preparations. Storm Committee will declare a Lockdown Condition if/when necessary.

When the storm passes, the Club Manager performs a walkthrough of the club premises with the Commodore, House Committee Chairman, Race Committee Chairman, and the Club Fleet Captain to inspect premises, declare Club Lockdown Condition, and schedule All Clear declaration. Upon All Clear declaration by the Storm Committee, if racing fleets are expected to return, the Club Manager and fleet captains schedule staggered fleet times for returning boats.

Private Boats on the Dock

During a Danger Condition, the dock is reserved for the protection of club property only. Therefore, no members' boats, including dry-sailed boats, are allowed on the dock when a Danger Condition is in effect. Dry-sailing fleet captains are responsible for removing absentee fleet member's boats from the dock. Any dry-sailed boats left on the dock when a Danger Condition is in effect may be ineligible for dock space until after the next racing or storage season.

Execution of Policy

The five readiness conditions will be instituted by the Storm Committee. The panel will use information gathered from the National Weather Service to determine which readiness condition to enact during storms.

Once a Danger Condition has been instituted by the Committee, club members will have up to 24 hours to evacuate their boats via the Sandy Bay Yacht Club. After 24 hours has passed or when conditions become unsafe, whichever is sooner, the club will be in Locked Down condition for final preparations to club property only. Any time during these final 24 hours the club may be locked down due to unsafe conditions by the Storm Committee.

- ⇒ We strongly recommend removing property during the Preparation Condition to ensure the safety of your belongings.

Revision: 06 Revision date: Oct 17, 2019

Revision: 05 Revision date: May, 2018

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Revision: 03 Revision date: March 10, 2013

Revision: 02 Revision date: June 25, 2006

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