



Sailability Shorncliffe

Queensland Australia

Sling and Hoist Basics

Purpose

This document provides guidance on how to use the sling and hoist to allow less mobile clients access to sailboats.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Sailability Shorncliffe policies and procedures.

Refer website – <http://www.sailabilityshorncliffe.org.au/information/risk-management/>

Document Information

| Version | Date | Person/s | Comments |
|---------|-----------|---|----------|
| 1 | 19 Nov 24 | Owner/Approval: Lyn Bow Writer: Donna Wenham | |
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Preparation

- Hoists (2) (trailer) - transfer to pontoon via dolly and installed on cleats each end of pontoon.
- Slings (trailer) -



Photo 1: Inside of sling



Photo 2: Outside of sling

Fitting

- For clients in wheelchairs the sling is fitted by the carer with guidance and assistance from the volunteer supporting the Life Jacket area. For clients not in wheelchairs but requiring hoist assistance to enter the sailboats, the sling is fitted at the pontoon with the use of a chair.
- Place the sling on chair with inside up. Ensure the sling is symmetrical on the chair so that the sling's centre marker/label is in the midline of the chair back. Drape the backrest of the sling partially over the back of the chair. Cross the leg sections on the base of the chair. Refer Photo 3.
- The client sits on the sling. Ensure the straps do not cause a trip hazard to them or anyone else. Refer Photo 4.



Photo 3



Photo 4

At Pontoon – in sailboat

- Carer to position the client next to the hoist.
- A minimum of three (3) Pontoon Supporters to assist the client into the sailboat.
- A Pontoon Supporter must always maintain a firm grip on the metal bracket when the winch is operated to stop the bracket hitting the client.
- The winch is lowered so that the bracket is just in front of the client.
- The sling back blue straps are attached to the bracket on each side. *Refer Photo 5.*
- The sling leg sections are brought up between the client's legs and crossed by the carer. Then the blue straps on the leg sections go over the top of the back blue straps on each side of the bracket. *Refer Photo 6.*
- Wind the winch to lift the client out of the seat. The client is moved above and then lowered into the sailboat by the winch.
- Once the client is in position the straps are removed from the bracket and winched up.
- The sling remains under the client in the sailboat.
- The carer is asked to remove the wheelchair from the pontoon area.



Photo 5



Photo 6

At Pontoon – from sailboat

- Carer to position the wheelchair next to the hoist.
- A minimum of three (3) Pontoon Supporters to assist the client into the sailboat.
- A Pontoon Supporter must always maintain a firm grip on the metal bracket when the winch is operated to stop the bracket hitting the client.
- The winch is lowered so that the bracket is just in front of the client.
- The sling back blue straps are attached to the bracket on each side. Then the blue straps on the leg sections go over the top of the back blue straps on each side of the bracket.
- Wind the winch to lift the client from the sailboat. The client is moved above and then lowered in the wheelchair by the winch.
- Once the client is in the chair the straps are removed from the bracket and winched up.

Removal

- Once on land the carer removes the sling.
- The sling to be handed to the volunteer supporting the Life Jacket area.
- The volunteer will clean and store the sling on the trailer.

Maintenance

- The hoists and slings are checked every maintenance day for wear and tear, and then repaired/replaced accordingly.
- Slings are machine washed at the end of each school term.