



Board Sponsorship of Members Program Policy

Approved By:	Royal Geelong Yacht Club Board
Date of Approval:	12/7/2024
Date for Review:	2026 Governance

Statement

The application process involves several steps but it is in itself a demonstration by the applicant that they are serious about their endeavours and the support they are seeking.

Applicants are encouraged to engage with a member of the Sailing and Boating Committee or the RGYC staff about their application. Younger Members will benefit from reflecting on the reasons they are pursuing their higher goals and how it can be of assistance to others.

The RGYC Board is accountable to all Members for the expenditure of their funds and requires a clear and open process for this to be possible.

All RGYC Members will know that there is an opportunity for them to apply and know that the selection process is fair. The Sailing and Boating Committee will call for applications and consider applications before making recommendations to the RGYC Board for approval.

The Goals of the Sponsorship Program

The goals are to:

1. Foster the sport of sailing and boating at RGYC.
2. Support Members in the pursuit of excellence in their chosen field of yachting and boating.
3. Support the development of the Club through Members' higher-level experiences.
4. Promote RGYC via Member participation in State, National and International and other championships, and events.

Funding

The program will be funded having regard to the following:

1. The RGYC Board will allocate 1% of annual Membership Fees to a cumulative fund for the Sponsorship Program.

2. The Board or the Sailing and Boating Committee may not support an application and are not required to provide reasons for this decision but may elect to do so.
3. The Board or the Sailing and Boating Committee may decide to support an application in part or in full.
4. The Board will retain at least 30% of the Sponsorship Fund until December each year.
5. The funds granted will be for an event or closing date for an event that occurs within the current budget year I.e. July 1 to June 30th. The Board may vary this in exceptional circumstances.
6. The Board will not fund accommodation or meals expenses, or any request submitted after an event or a closing date for any event. It will not pay for late application fees. The Board will not fund the whole costs of participation in any event.

Eligibility

A Member may apply for an allocation from the Sponsorship fund if they demonstrate the following:

- a. The Member is a current financial Member of RGYC. The members aboard vessel must be on the vessel register.
- b. The Member will be a RGYC Member for a minimum of two continuous years.
- c. The Member has been an active participant in the life of the Club.
- d. The Member will provide an outline budget for their costs of participation in the event. Appropriate official documentation will be required. The Member will nominate the eligible part(s) of their budget for which they are seeking funding support.
- e. A Member will be eligible for funding support only once in every 2 years unless the Board advertises that there is an open opportunity for all eligible Members to apply even if they have been successful within the previous two years.

Types of events the Board may consider as appropriate for a successful application:

1. National or International (World) Championships, Commonwealth Games or Olympic Games in any recognised type of sailing or boating, particularly classes sailed at RGYC. Applicants will need to have performed at a very high level as demonstrated by competitive selection or finishing near the top of the yacht class in events supported or recognised by RGYC.
2. Training courses offered by or endorsed by the Australian Institute of Sport, Victorian Institute of Sport, or Sailing Australia for high performance sailors.
3. State, national or international conferences, seminars or other events that are aimed at the development of sailing and boating and are directly relevant to the RGYC Strategic Plan or major events held at RGYC.

The Application

1. Applicants will use the application form available from the RGYC Office or from rgyc.com.au.
2. Applicants should take note of the information provided in this document describing the Sponsorship Fund, its goals, and other elements that the Sailing and Boating Committee and Board will consider.
3. Applicants will provide all the relevant documentation required by the application document. Failure to do so may mean that the application is not considered.
4. Applicants will support their application with a written recommendation from two unrelated current Members.
5. Applicants will provide an explanation of how their participation in the event will enhance their sailing and boating skills or the activities of the Club.
6. Applicants will provide an explanation of how they will share the benefits of their experiences at the event with other RGYC Members.
7. Applications may be made at any time, but they may arrive outside the time when previous applications have been granted funding and the fund may have been fully expended.
8. An applicant should be prepared to participate in an interview with the Sailing and Boating Committee should it be requested.
9. An application will be considered by the Sailing and Boating Committee. Their recommendation will be presented to the RGYC Board for approval. Note: Applicants should be aware that the Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month except December and January when it does not meet. Allow at least 6 weeks for the process to take place.

An application, if successful, will be notified to RGYC Members via RGYC publications. The successful applicant has a responsibility to share outcomes and /or learnings from the event with the clubs wider membership, though presentation at an agree forum and / or written report(s).

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Next Review date: 2026