

## **OLYMPIA YACHT CLUB SAFETY STANDARDS – LIGHTED SHIPS PARADE**

### **SAFETY:**

Safety and common sense must prevail. It is the individual skipper's responsibility to make sure all the required safety equipment on-board is in good working order. A safety briefing and location of the PFD's for everyone on-board as well as someone else on-board capable of operating the boat safety if the skipper becomes ill or incapacitated is strongly recommended. A few lights on the stern of your boat will enable the boat following you to follow at the appropriate distance. Try to avoid a large number of bright lights on the bow of the boat that might restrict your vision in the dark.

### **RADIO:**

Boats will monitor and communicate on VHF CHANNEL 68. You should use low power for the ship-to-ship communications. Use VHF CHANNEL 16 for emergencies. We will use only these channels for parade or event information. In an emergency occurs, please clear the channel. The Olympia Harbor Patrol will monitor VHF 16 and 68.

### **SPEED:**

Maintain a speed of 6 knots. Keep a distance of 100 feet between boats. It is important to maintain a steady speed. Sudden increases or decreases in speed will compound the even spacing of the boats and allow for large gaps in the parade. If it is necessary to pass the boat ahead of you, please announce to the others in the parade to avoid creating confusion.

### **COURSE:**

The Parade Marshall will lead the event. It is important to follow the lead boat and not cut short the turn. The lead boat will determine the course of the parade. He may extend the route if the conditions are favorable. He may also shorten or alter the course for safety reasons. All changes will be announced on VHF 68.

### **CONTROL:**

Maintain your position in the parade line-up. If a boat has difficulty in navigation, keeping up with the parade, or decides to withdraw from the parade FOR ANY REASON, notify the lead boat on VHF 68 of your intentions, course of action, or direction of departure. Navigate in a manner to create minimal confusion to the other boats in the parade. The lead boat and the last boat will have radar. If you have radar, please use it.

### **EMERGENCIES:**

If an emergency occurs, declare a MAYDAY and the type of situation on VHF 16 and 68. The working channel will be VHF 16. Identify your location by flashing your decoration lights, a red distress flare, or some other means necessary to identify your location. The Olympia Harbor Patrol will respond and take control of the situation. Keep in mind your own boat, crew, guests, and your own ability to respond in a safe manner. If an emergency or weather condition occurs, the protection of life and property will dictate the response to the situation. Your skill level and ability to respond is the individual skipper's decisions and responsibility.

### **WEATHER:**

In the event of fog or reduced visibility, shorten the following distance to the boat ahead of you so as to maintain visibility or boats may become isolated. In the event that this should occur, group with another boat or boats if possible. Declare your position on VHF 68 and MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION. A radar-equipped boat will lead you back to Percival Landing in a safe manner. It is important not to exceed your boat equipment capabilities and your own individual skill level.

**IN ALL CASES ----SAFETY MUST PREVAIL**