POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NAME	BGA Algal Bloom Response
Date of last revision	June 2026
Committee Approval date	
Date of next review	May 2029
Responsibility	Sailing Captain

Our Commitment

GLYC Management is committed to ensuring the health and well-being of our members and to minimising risk of harm while engaged with, sailing at, volunteering for, or on the premises of the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club when an algal bloom is occurring.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to communicate to members, volunteers and guests the actions that will be taken by GLYC in the event of an Algal bloom arising on the lake.

Policy statement

GLYC strategies for management of Health & Safety risk will be openly communicated to all members and volunteers engaged in activities involving the identified risk of contact with algae. GLYC will take into account the information and advice offered by the relevant Victorian Government authority in relation to contact with algal affected waters.

This Policy will be posted on the Club website

Guidelines for Implementation

In the event of a declared Blue-Green Algal (BGA) bloom when advisory or warning signs have been placed in Paynesville:-

- The Club will communicate with all sailors and volunteers ensuring that they are aware of and have access to any government advice related to exposure to algae
- Sailing will continue as normal, subject to:
    - There being a sufficient number of volunteers available to put duty boats on the water
    - There being a minimum of 3 yachts signed on to sail
- Risk mitigation measures will be taken such as ensuring ample supplies of water to wash limbs of volunteers on duty boats should they be exposed to lake water while conducting their duties
- It will be the responsibility of each skipper and crew to decide whether or not they wish to sail and each duty boat volunteer as to whether or not they wish to be on the water.

When BGA are not present but the water quality is nevertheless visibly affected by the presence of algae the same measures shall apply.