

Manual Inflatable PFD1 Lifejackets

For the National Championships in Perth last January, RSAWA purchased two PFD1 lifejackets. Subsequently, the lifejackets were offered for sale, and there were a number of radio sailing clubs which expressed an interest in purchasing them.

The committee decided that we would purchase one of these lifejackets for each radio sailing club in WA. The following is a brief instruction on their use and maintenance

Using the PFD:



The lifejacket is manually inflatable by pulling the toggle on the lower right side of the jacket. This action punctures a CO2 cylinder inside the jacket inflating it. They are suitable for anyone over 40kg in body weight.

The red horseshoe passes over the head like a collar.

The strap around the middle should be clipped together but not too tight. You need to allow for the inflation of the jacket.

As a rough guide, adjust the strap so that a clenched fist can fit between the strap and the body. The fist should lay flat against the body – not lengthways.

Once the gas cylinder has been punctured, you will need to purchase a replacement. These cost about \$25 to \$30.

Maintaining the PFD:

The gas cylinder weighs 133 grams when charged. The weight is less when discharged. On an annual basis, remove the cylinder and weigh it. If it still weighs 133 grams, it still contains the correct amount of CO2 gas. In the event that the weight is less, replace the cylinder.

Check the cylinder for any signs of corrosion around the neck, where the cylinder screws into the lifejacket, as well as any signs of squashing or other damage.

You can manually blow up the life jacket and check that there are no leaks in the seams, by placing the jacket into a pool or bath. Dry and re-pack the jacket for further use.

We hope you never need these jackets, but please ensure that anyone using rescue dinghy wears the PFD.

Glenn Dawson
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