



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB

RICHMOND YACHT CLUB (Inc)

2016-17 GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



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The Organising Authority is Richmond Yacht Club (RYC)
Westhaven Seawall, P O Box 46-324, Herne Bay, Auckland 1147
Phone 376 4332, Fax 360 2379, info@richmondyc.org.nz, www.richmondyc.org.nz

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) Safety Regulations Part 2 as amended herein apply with the following race categories:

Cruising Series	Category 4+
Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1)	Category 4
Westhaven Triple	Category 4+
Flap Martinengo Memorial	Category 4
Harbour Races	Category 5
Wednesday Night Races	Category 5
Winter Races	Category 5
Friday Night Special	Category 5
- 1.3 In one-design divisions the relevant Class Rules shall apply.
- 1.4 If any damage is caused, however minor, to a Ports of Auckland red or green channel buoy or beacon, the boat shall immediately retire and the skipper shall inform the Race Officer or the Auckland Harbour Master (phone 09 366 0055) of the occurrence and the extent of the damage to the buoy or beacon. If contact is made with a mark of the race, rule 44.1 shall apply and the skipper shall inform the Race Officer.
- 1.5 Competitors shall keep clear of all ships of 500 tonnes net register and upwards. This particularly refers to, but is not limited to, ships in the main navigational channel. Competitors shall abide by current harbour regulations. This rule is not open to protest by other boats.
- 1.6 In the designated 'NO EXTRAS' divisions, no extras may be set. Extras are defined as sails other than a boat's working sails (i.e other than a sloop's mainsail and headsail). Extras include spinnakers, gennakers, and headsails not carried on a permanent, load bearing forestay (e.g. a 'Code 0' is an extra). In 'NO EXTRAS' races, headsails may be poled out using spinnaker poles, but shall only be carried on a permanent, load bearing forestay with only one headsail per forestay. In in doubt, please ask the Race Officer.
- 1.7 Should there be any conflict between the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.
- 1.8 In accordance with Rule 42.3(i) a boat racing may use its engine after grounding provided the boat does not gain an advantage in the race. In addition, a boat racing may use its engine to comply with harbour regulations to give way to a vessel under pilot provided the boat does not gain advantage in the race. Any use of engines during a race shall be notified to the Race Officer.
- 1.9 Where a boat is sailing shorthanded (2 people maximum) an autopilot self-steering system may only be used whilst tacking, gybing, reefing and changing sails. This modifies Rule 52.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Any Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board outside the Richmond Yacht Club not later than one hour before the start of the race it first affects, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1700 hours on the day before it will take effect. Notices will also be posted, as possible, online.

3.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official Notice Board by 1700 hours on the day before it will take effect. It is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that they are aware of any pertinent Notices prior to the start of racing.

4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the starting tower in use (Westhaven carpark tower or RYC tower).
- 4.2 When Flag Y is displayed, all crew of trailer yachts and sports boats must wear life jackets in accordance with Rule 40.

5.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1 The schedule of races is as described in the Notice of Race for each event.
- 5.2 The time of start signals will be as described in the Notice of Race for each event.

6.0 CLASS FLAGS AND DIVISIONS

- 6.1 Refer to individual Notices of Race for divisional classification and flag colours.
- 6.2 The warning signal will be the divisional flag.

6.3 Division pennants shall be flown in all events and shall be flown from the back stay or port shroud. A division flag shall be of a minimum size of 200mm x 300mm.

7.0 RACING AREAS

Racing areas are described in the Notices of Race for each event.

8.0 COURSES

The courses are as described in separate attachments or in the Notices of Race for each event.

9.0 MARKS

9.1 All laid marks (ie: those laid for that race) are either orange triangular or orange round.

9.2. Where permanent laid marks are used for racing, by default the intention is to use the yellow Auckland Harbour Racing Marks as opposed to any nearby navigation marks.

10.0 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

Unless otherwise specified the following are deemed to be obstructions or prohibited and shall be passed on the main navigation channel side only:

- Rangitoto Beacon
- Beacon on Orakei Sewer Outlet
- Cable beacons east of Devonport Wharf
- Red Buoys on eastern side of Motuihe channel
- Bean Rock Light and Doris Rock Beacon (approx 25 metres north of Bean Rock)
- Green Sandspit marker stake (SW of Torpedo Wharf)
- Boats shall only pass through the main navigation span of the Harbour Bridge when racing.
- All moored vessels and moorings in or adjacent to the designated Small Craft mooring areas as shown on Chart NZ 5322.
- The Okahu Bay wave break and all vessels and moorings in the Okahu Bay mooring area.
- The Westhaven Boat Harbour defined by the line representing an extension of the permanent wave breaks. Inside of a line between the seaward ends of any two adjacent wharves within the Auckland Commercial Harbour.
- Iliomama Rock Beacon
- Emu Rock Beacon
- Browns Island Beacon

11.0 THE START

11.1 Races will be started using Rule 26. Divisional starts will be at 5 minute intervals.

11.2 The starting lines are as defined below:

Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1): The start line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Committee Boat anchored in the vicinity of the Orakei Wharf, and Orakei Buoy. Signals will be made from the Committee Boat. If an inner distance mark is laid, yachts are prohibited from sailing between the inner distance mark and the committee boat.

Wednesday Night Races, Winter Races, Harbour Races, Westhaven Triple Races 1 & 3, Flap Martinengo Memorial Race and Cruising Series: The start line will be between the mast of the Westhaven car park tower and Westhaven Buoy.

Singlehanded Series and Westhaven Triple Race 2 (Kawau Night Race): please refer to the NOR/SIs for the series.

Friday Night Special Series: The start line will be between the main mast of the RYC tower and Westhaven Buoy.

Cruising Series Alternate Start: The start line will be between Northern Leading Buoy and the RYC Committee Boat anchored in the vicinity of Northern Leading Buoy.

11.3 The starting areas are as defined below:

Wednesday Night Races, Winter Races, Friday Night Special Races, Harbour Races, Flap Martinengo Memorial, and the Cruising Series: The starting area is defined as an area bounded by a line 50m to the east and parallel to the starting line, 200m to the west and parallel to the starting line and 50m to the north of Westhaven Buoy.

All other races: a rectangular area parallel in part to the starting line, extending 50m to the course side of the starting line, 100m to the non-course side of the starting line, and 50m beyond the pin end of the line mark.

11.4 All boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

11.5 GENERAL RECALL: In the event of a General Recall the recalled division will be restarted five minutes after the last scheduled start. The "First Substitute" flag will be displayed for four minutes after the start signal for the recalled division(s). If more than one division is recalled these divisions will start at five minute intervals after the last scheduled start, in the sequence in which they were recalled. In the event that the last scheduled division to start is recalled and no other division has been recalled previously the new Warning signal will be given not less than 5 minutes after the previous starting signal. "First Substitute" will be lowered at the same time as the new Warning signal is flown. (This changes RRS 29.2) In all other cases "First Substitute" will be lowered at the same time as the preparatory signal is lowered 1 minute before the start of the next division. When possible VHF Channel 77 may be used to advise OCS starters - this does not absolve competitors of their responsibility to respond to the flag signals of the Race Committee.

12.0 THE FINISH

12.1 The finish lines are as described below:

Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1): The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a committee boat anchored in the vicinity of the Orakei Wharf, and Orakei Buoy.

Wednesday Night Races, Harbour Races, the Flap Martinengo Race, Westhaven Triple Races 1 & 3 and Winter Races: The finish line will be between the mast of the Westhaven carpark tower and Westhaven Buoy.

Westhaven Triple Race 2 (Kawau Night Race): The finish line will be between Momona Point, Kawau and a committee boat showing an orange strobe light where possible.

Friday Night Special Races: The finish line will be between the main mast of the RYC tower and Westhaven Buoy.

Cruising Series: please refer to the NOR

12.2 For all races, boats finishing after dark must ensure the Race Officer has identified their boat correctly as they cross the finish line by calling on the VHF channel in use for the race, check the NOR. Boats are asked to illuminate their sail numbers for night finishes.

12.3 If there is no one on station (e.g. no committee boat) at the finish line, boats shall take their own time and submit it to the Race Officer as soon as practicable.

12.4 Westhaven Finishing Safety: In the event that it may be unsafe to finish on the Westhaven finish line, e.g. whilst there is another race's start sequence underway, or recently completed, then a boat may finish outside Westhaven Buoy on a transit from the race tower through Westhaven Buoy, and then advise the Race Officer.

12.5 Shortened Course: When a course is shortened the following signals will apply:

If a Committee Boat displaying Flag S is stationed at a mark of the course, the finish line will be between the main mast of the Committee Boat and that mark. The main mast of the committee boat is defined as the point where Flag S is flying. The Committee Boat will endeavour to draw attention to the flag signals by way of sound signals.

If the race tower (the RYC Tower or the Westhaven carpark tower) is displaying Flag S. The finish line will be between the tower displaying Flag S and Westhaven Buoy.

12.6 After finishing, boats shall not deliberately re-cross or pass back through the finish line.

12.7 Competitors shall keep clear of other clubs' start/finish lines when they are being used.

13.0 PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 Rules 44.1 and 44.2 apply for all divisions in all Richmond Yacht Club races.

13.2 A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under Rule 44.1 shall inform the Race Officer within the protest time limit. This changes Rule 44.1.

14.0 TIME LIMITS

Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1)	2359 hours
Wednesday Night Races	2100 hours
Flap Martinengo Memorial	1630 hours
Westhaven Triple Race 1 & 3	1800 hours
Westhaven Triple Race 2	0400 hours (the day after the race start)
Cruising Series 1, 3 & 5	0800 hours (the day after the race start)
Cruising Series 2, 4 & 6	1800 hours
Friday Night Special	2030 hours
Harbour Races 1, 2 & 3	1630 hours
Winter Racing	1630 hours

15.0 PROTESTS

15.1 For protests where only a rule of Part 2 or Rule 31 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing may be offered prior to any formal hearing. Yachting New Zealand Appendix 4.5.5 will apply. This changes Rule 44.1, the scoring abbreviation for a penalty accepted at an arbitration hearing is ARB.

15.2 Protest forms are available from the Race Office, the RYC Committee Boat, or on the club's website. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered there within the protest time limit, Rule 61.3 shall apply.

15.3 Protest Time Limits

Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1)	1200 hours on the Sunday of the same weekend.
Wednesday Night Racing	60 minutes after the last boat in the protesting boat's division has finished or 2120 hours, whichever is soonest.
All Other Races	60 minutes after the last boat in the protesting boat's division has finished

15.4 Competitors involved in protests will be informed by phone, email or fax of the time hearings will take place.

15.5 Breaches of instructions 1.5, 4.2, 18.0, 19.0 and 21.0 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat under rule 60.1(a). This changes Rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

16.0 SCORING

The Notice of Race shall have information on the number of races to constitute a series, and how many will count for scoring results.

17.0 HANDICAP POLICY

17.1 Performance-based handicapping is used for all club racing.

17.2 Other handicap systems (e.g. PHRF, IRC) may also be used or reported as specified in race documents.

17.3 Handicaps for standalone races and initial series handicaps are manually set by the Sailing Committee using all reasonably available information on boat performance.

17.4 By default, series handicaps are updated each race using the Top Yacht software 'exponential system'. For more information please visit www.topyachtsoftware.com. RYC reserves the right to manually adjust handicaps as the Sailing Committee sees fit.

17.5 A boat's elapsed time is multiplied by her handicap to give her corrected time.

17.6 A boat's skipper, as per the entry form, may request a handicap review for their boat. A review request must be in writing and be submitted to the office in person, by fax, or by email to info@richmondyc.org.nz. The burden is on skippers to provide significant evidence in the request that a review should be conducted.

18.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 Any boat that retires from racing must inform the Race Officer as soon as possible, by either using VHF Channel 77 (or any other channel advised for a particular race), or by phone to one of the numbers detailed in the Notice of Race.

18.2 Spring Regatta – Gold Cup. At 2000 hours on the day of the race all boats that have not yet finished or retired must notify the Race Officer on VHF of their position.

19.0 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS.

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Sailing Instructions and the Safety Regulations.

20.0 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats may be marked as Richmond Patrol, RYC Committee boat and/or may fly the club burgee.

21.0 TRASH DISPOSAL

A boat shall not discharge trash into the water.

22.0 COMMUNICATIONS

22.1 A boat shall neither make race-related communications whilst racing nor receive race related communications not available to all boats. This restriction applies to communications made by VHF (radio), mobile telephones, satellite systems and any other equivalent means.

22.2 In general, the following VHF channels will be used for race communications:

VHF 77	In the Waitemata Harbour
VHF 03	North of North Head
VHF 62	East of North Head

22.3 For safety reasons, boats are asked to keep a listening watch on VHF 16.

23.0 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of RYC. The number of prizes awarded will be stated in the Notice of Race; additional prizes may be awarded if deemed appropriate by RYC.

24.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All those taking part in Richmond Yacht Club (RYC) races or any other sailing events controlled by RYC, do so at their own risk and responsibility and RYC has no liability for any damage, loss or penalty suffered by any boat, crew or any other person taking part in such races or events. RYC is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted and/or the sufficiency and/or adequacy of its equipment or the competence of its skipper or crew. RYC reserves the right in its sole discretion to refuse any entry.

25.0 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$5,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

26.0 SPECIAL RULES

For any race starting at either the Westhaven carpark tower or the RYC tower any boat running its motor in gear after its preparatory signal shall proceed to the western side of the harbour bridge via the main navigation span, before starting the race under sail alone.

27.0 ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION

- 27.1 Motuihe Channel: As a result of the crowding created by boats fishing in the Motuihe Channel the harbour master has identified an area starting at Emu Point through to Otahuhu Point and 400m wide in which it is illegal to anchor, fish or impede the passage of a fast passenger ferry. When a ferry is passing through the area a recreational craft must not impede the passage of the ferry, however the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions as Sea will always take precedence.
- 27.2 Harbour Bridge: The Harbour Master has issued a direction relating to the area through the centre span of the harbour bridge. The main concern is that on days when a large fleet of yachts are assembled waiting to start a race, commercial vessels are required to take an avoiding course which might eventuate in them hitting the structure of the bridge. The restrictions in this case are the same as those for the Motuihe Channel and also include not impeding a vessel under the guidance of a pilot, a warship, a passenger ferry or a vessel over UMS gross 500.
- 27.3 Starting Area: The start area for races starting between Westhaven Buoy and Westhaven carpark tower or RYC tower includes the area bounded by lines 50m to the east, 200m to the west and 50m to the north of Westhaven Buoy, as per this diagram. Boats may only enter the start area after their division's warning signal has sounded.
- 27.4 Finishing at Westhaven: When a race finishes at Westhaven Buoy, boats should sail clear of the area and avoid recrossing the finish line. This keeps the finish line clear of obstructions for subsequent finishers and makes it easier for the tower to identify finishers.