



Notice to Skippers & Crew

On 20 November 2019, the RYC sailing committee posted amendments to Clause 10 of the RYC GSI's [General sailing instructions] 2019-20; AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

This amendment included [but was not limited to] the creation of a new obstruction as described below
South of a straight line drawn between the most northern point of Wynyard Point and the north western point of Fergusson Terminal

The purpose of this amendment is to align our GSIs with PCC and RNZYS.

For many years, clubs have had a very relaxed attitude to boats sailing into the area between Wynyard Point and Fergusson Terminal even though zones within this area have been deemed restricted areas and governed by bylaws prohibiting boats sailing into them.

However due to the developments within the Viaduct Harbour in recent years, along with further developments of the downtown ferry basin and the increase in commuter ferry traffic this area has become and will continue to become increasingly busy.

This has raised concerns by the Auckland Harbour Master that a potential hazard exists.

In order to avoid direct action from the Harbour Master the clubs have agreed to make this area an obstruction and/or a restricted area and the simplest line for clubs to describe to skippers is between the two points as described above.

To aid skippers with gauging their proximity to this line RNZYS approached Navionics to have the restriction/obstruction line added to the chart map. To get the Navionics app on a smartphone or tablet visit the app store and search "Navionics" if you have the app already update your charts to view this line. Skippers are entitled to protest boats that sail into this area and screen shots can be used as evidence should you protest or be protested.

As sailors ourselves, the sailing committee understands why skippers like to sail into this area especially in light winds and heavy tides however the time has come that we can no longer accept this practice, if skippers fail to comply with the new instructions we risk the Harbour Master restricting our activities in the inner harbour.

The sailing committee will continue to review our options for selecting courses and starting races aiming to provide for fair racing and good fun, as always, if you have suggestions please feel free to contact us.

Navionics screenshot supplied by RNZYS

