



Marsden Cove Marina

Route 66

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

The Organising Authorities are
Richmond Yacht Club, Inc (RYC), Onerahi Yacht Club, Inc (OYC)

1. RULES

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations (YNZ SR) Part II Category 4 (Cat 4+) and Trailer Yacht Category A (Cat A+) shall apply, with additional requirements as specified below:
- 1.3. In addition to meeting Cat 4, all yachts must:
 - Carry lifebuoys that meet YNZ SR Cat 3.
 - Be fitted with lifelines (or equivalent) to meet YNZ SR Cat 3 standards.
 - Have securely fitted jackstays to YNZ SR Cat 3 standards
 - Carry a floating grab bag containing: a Cat 4 flare pack, a 406MHz EPIRB or PLB, a waterproof floating torch, a waterproof cell phone (or one in a waterproof case), or a waterproof handheld VHF (required if the boat is not fitted with a fixed VHF).
- 1.4. The Organising Authorities strongly recommend that ALL yachts carry a dinghy (or life raft) to meet YNZ SR Cat 3 standards.
- 1.5. Additional requirements for Single-handed skippers, Two Handed and CAT A+ Skippers and crew sailing without lifelines :
 - Single-handed Skippers, Two handed and CAT A+ Skippers and crew are required to wear an appropriate personal flotation device while racing. e.g. a New Zealand Standard 5823:2005 inflatable type 401 150N lifejacket with crotch strap
 - Single-handed skippers are required to [and we strongly recommend Two Handed crew also] carry, on their person during the race, the means to self-initiate a 3rd party rescue in the event that they become unable to sail single-handed or fall overboard. Appropriate equipment would include marine communications equipment such as a waterproof handheld VHF marine radio, a cell phone in a dry-container that can be operated while kept dry, or a registered 406 MHz marine EPIRB/PLB. A personal AIS transponder, whistle, light or signalling mirror may be carried but will not meet the requirement to be able to self-initiate a 3rd party rescue.
- 1.6. The Organising Authorities recommend that ALL competitors wear lifejackets that meet New Zealand Standard 5823:2005 (inflatable type 401 150N) with a crotch strap whilst underway. All crew are recommended to be clipped into jackstays before leaving the safety of the cockpit.
- 1.7. The RRS will be changed in accordance with RRS Rule 86 as follows:
 - RRS Rule 29.2 is changed so that in the event of a General Recall the recalled division will be restarted five minutes after the last scheduled start.
 - RRS Rule 51 is modified to allow boats with moveable/variable ballast systems and/or

canting keels to compete.

- RRS Rule 52 'Manual Power' shall not apply.
- Where a boat is sailing single-handed or two-handed, an autopilot self-steering system may be used. This modifies RRS Rule 52.
- Other changes to the RRS will be notified in the Sailing Instructions.

- 1.8. Control of the race will pass from RYC & KCC to OYC immediately following the start of the last division.
- 1.9. Between sunset (6th 1954 hours) and sunrise (7th 0714 hours) the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea will apply, replacing the relevant rules of the RRS. It is compulsory to display the appropriate navigation lights between sunset and sunrise.
- 1.10. Boats entering the race shall have current registration with YNZ and must display their correct registration numbers on sails in accordance with the RRS. Incorrect sail numbers must be declared.
- 1.11. If any damage is caused, however minor, to a Ports of Auckland or Port Whangarei, red or green, buoy or beacon, the boat shall immediately retire and the skipper shall inform the Race Officer or the Auckland Harbour Master Duty Officer (phone 09 362 0397) or NRC Hotline for Whangarei Harbour Master (phone 0800 504 639) of the occurrence and the extent of the damage to the buoy or beacon.
- 1.12. Competitors shall abide by harbour regulations, including the '500 ton rule' or risk disqualification. Refer to these websites for shipping movements: <https://www.poal.co.nz/operations>
<https://northport.co.nz/inportpage/northportships>.
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. In accordance with RRS 42.3(i) a boat racing may use its engine to avoid grounding, or to get clear after grounding, provided the boat does not gain an advantage in the race. Any use of engines during a race shall be notified to the Race Officer and recorded on the Finish Declaration Form.
- 1.13. Should there be any conflict between the NOR and the SI, the SI shall prevail.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Any Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board on the Richmond Yacht Club website.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SI's will be posted on the official Notice Board on the RYC website (www.richmondyc.org.nz) by 1700 on the day before it takes effect. It is the responsibility of the skipper to be aware of any notices prior to the start of racing.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Westhaven carpark tower

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS/CLASS FLAGS

- 4.1. This race will start on Friday, 6th March 2026.
- 4.2. Divisions and Start Times:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Alternate Start</u>
B1 OPEN SINGLE-HANDED	White	0900	1030
B2 OPEN TWO-HANDED	Yellow	0905	1035
A2 OPEN KEELER (~0.75-)	Light Blue	0910	1040
A1 OPEN KEELER (~0.75+)	Blue/Yellow	0915	1045
M MULTIHULLS	Green	0920	1050

- 4.3. Any changes to the Divisional Structure will be notified by Amendment at least 1 day prior to the race start. Division pennants shall be flown from the backstay or port shroud.
- 4.4. The warning signal will be the divisional flag.
- 4.5. Briefing: There will be a briefing held in the RYC club rooms on Thursday 26th February at 1900hrs. A pre-race briefing document will be provided to skippers and available from the RYC office and website no later than 1700 Wednesday 4th March 2026.

5. RACING AREA

The racing areas are:
The Hauraki Gulf and Bream Head to Cape Colville.

6. COURSE

- 6.1. From the Start to Kawau Island (P), Little Barrier Island (S), Sail Rock (S), to the Finish (Whangarei).
There are two start locations for the fleet and two finish locations possible, refer to Clause 10.0 and Clause 11.0.

7. MARKS

Yellow racing buoys will be used in Auckland Harbour and harbour and channel marks will be used in Whangarei Harbour.

<u>Race Mark</u>	<u>Approximate Location</u>	<u>Chart</u>
Westhaven Tower	Westhaven Seawall (36° 50.13S 174°44.82E)	NZ 5322
Westhaven ODM Buoy	0.25nm North of Westhaven Tower	NZ 5322
Narrow Neck Buoy	Rangitoto Channel (36°47.83S 174°48.51E)	NZ 5322
Whangarei No 4 Buoy	0.8nm SSE of Busby Head (35°52.507S 174°32.073E)	NZ 5214
Whangarei No 9 Buoy	NW of Home Point (35°50.83S 174°31.43E)	NZ 5214

8. 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
- Bean Rock Light and Doris Rock Beacon (approx 25 metres N of Bean Rock)
- Green Sandspit marker stake (SW of Torpedo Wharf)
- 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 mooring area, defined by extending the permanent wave break line.
- A straight line drawn between the most northern point of Wynyard Point and the north western point of the Fergusson Terminal.
- The Defence Area marked on the Chart NZ 5322 around the Naval Dock, Calliope Wharves, Devonport.
- Whangarei No. 7 Buoy (SW of Home Point, 35°51.17S 174°31.36E)

In addition the following restrictions also apply while racing:

- Your attention is drawn to Clause 1.12 of the SI in respect of large vessels (Competitors shall keep clear of all ships of 500 tonnes net register and above). Please refer to Clause 54, Page 26 of the [Auckland Council Navigational Bylaw 2021](#) for full details.

9. THE START

9.1. The race will be started using Rule 26.

9.2. To account for adverse tide and wind conditions, there are two START locations.

	<u>Start</u>	<u>Location</u>
1	Westhaven	Between Westhaven Tower and Westhaven Buoy (W to E)
2	Narrow Neck (alternate)	Between Committee Boat and Narrow Neck Buoy (S to N)

9.3. The START will be notified by a numbered board placed on the Westhaven Tower by 08:00 on the morning of the race. If '1' is displayed, start at Westhaven. If '2' is displayed please proceed directly to the vicinity of Narrow Neck Buoy for the alternate start at 10:30.

9.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

9.5. If any part of the boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line at the start signal, the race committee may attempt to broadcast her name and/or sail number on RYC VHF Channel 17. Failure to make a broadcast will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

9.6. 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.

9.7. Abandonment or Postponement:

9.8. A decision will be made by 08:00 on the day of the race if the race will be abandoned or postponed. If the race cannot be started by 13:00 on the day of the race start, the race will be abandoned.

10. THE FINISH

10.1. To account for adverse tide and wind conditions, there are two FINISH locations:

<u>Finish</u>	<u>Location</u>
No. 9 Buoy	Between OYC Patrol Boat (S) and Whangarei No 9. Buoy (P)
No. 4 Buoy	Between OYC Patrol Boat (P) and Whangarei No 4. Buoy (S)

10.2. The finish (No. 9 or No 4 Buoy) will be notified during Scheds after rounding Cape Rodney. It is required that all boats complete their Scheds, for more information see Clause 18 below.

10.3. For a **finish at No. 9 buoy**, the Onerahi Patrol boat will be anchored approximately 30 metres East of the No. 9 Buoy. **Finish in a northerly direction, leaving the No. 9 Buoy to port and the finish boat to starboard.** Even though Whangarei No 9 buoy is a green starboard marker, it must be left to port when finishing. There is sufficient water depth to finish, but boats of very deep draft (>2.5m) should finish close to the channel side of the finish line. All boats should tend to port after finishing and head back into the channel to avoid grounding on Calliope Bank. Please refer to Chart NZ 5214.

10.4. For the **alternate finish** at No 4 Buoy, the Onerahi Patrol boat will be anchored approximately 30 metres West of the Whangarei No 4. **Finish in a northwesterly direction leaving the No 4 Buoy to starboard and the finish boat to port.**

- 10.5. The Onerahi Patrol Boat may be marked with a flashing yellow light to signal its position.
- 10.6. Boats shall not re-cross the finish line after finishing.
- 10.7. Boats finishing after dark should illuminate their sail number on crossing the finish and must ensure the patrol boat has correctly identified their yacht. VHF CHANNEL 18 can be used to notify your finish just after crossing. If the Onerahi Patrol boat is absent when you finish, the skipper will make a fair effort to record their finish time using GPS time.
- 10.8. After reaching Marsden Cove Marina please submit the online FINISH DECLARATION form with your boat name, sail number and finish time plus, if possible, names of boats in front of and behind you. This will be used to cross check the information recorded by the finish boat. This form can be found on the Route 66 webpage: <https://www.richmondyc.org.nz/route66/> Alternatively, a paper form will be available at the finish race office, which will be upstairs next to the marina office.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1. A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 31 or RRS 44.1 shall inform the finishing race office within the protest time limit.
- 11.2. Rules 44.1 and 44.2 apply.

12. TIME LIMIT

The time limit will be 0700 on Saturday, 7th March 2026.

13. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1. Protest forms are available from the RYC website or the finish race office (Marsden Cove Marina users lounge). Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to a RYC, or OYC race officer or to racing@richmondyc.org.nz within 90 minutes of completing the race
- 13.2. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after completing the race.
- 13.3. Competitors involved in protests will be informed in person, by phone, text message, or email of the time hearings will take place.
- 13.4. Breaches of instructions 1.11, 15, 17 and 18.6 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat under RRS 60.1(a). This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

14. EQUIPMENT CHECKS

It will be the Skipper's responsibility to ensure their boat complies to all safety regulations and the crew have the appropriate level of knowledge of safety systems and emergency protocols. YNZ Safety regulations can be found at this website address: <https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/resources/yachting-new-zealand-safety-regulations-2021-24>

15. OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats may be marked as 'Richmond Patrol' or 'Onerahi Patrol' and may fly the corresponding club burgee.

16. TRASH DISPOSAL

A boat shall not discharge trash into the water.

17. COMMUNICATIONS & SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1. Except in an emergency a boat that is racing shall not make or receive a voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 17.2. VHF Channels to use:

<u>VHF Channel</u>	<u>Where to use</u>
17	For RYC race communications between Westhaven and North Head and or RYC Patrol boat [Tiapan]
03	For race communications between North Head and Cape Rodney

18	For race communications north of Cape Rodney
77	For berthing assistance at Marsden Cove
11	For monitoring shipping movements at Northport

17.3. Position Reporting (Scheds):

The following Scheds are mandatory:

- **Soon after rounding Cape Rodney**
- **Approximately 3nm from finish**

Scheds should be to ; 'Route 66'; or 'Onerahi Patrol' on VHF CHANNEL 18, or text/phone to OYC Finish Race Officer Bryce Bindon (021 519 589) and should include your **boat name, sail number, and your reported Sched position** as above.

17.4. The Sched is complete when Race Control acknowledges your Sched and advises the finish location (See Clause 11 above). This is true for both VHF and phone communications.

17.5. Listening watch on VHF: For the safety of all competitors, it is imperative that all boats, while racing, keep a listening watch on the appropriate channel for their location as well as on VHF CHANNEL 16, where possible.

17.6. All boats retiring from racing shall notify a Race Officer by VHF, txt, or phone call. Failure to do so may result in rescue authorities being notified and ineligibility for spot prizes.

17.7. Race contact details:

Start Race Officer (RYC):	Andrew Burr	021 276 4332 or 0274 572228
Finish Race Officer (OYC):	Bryce Bindon	021 519 589

18. PRIZES

Prizegiving will be held at 09:30 on Saturday, 7th March 2026 at Marsden Cove Fishing Club,, within the commercial complex, next to the cafe. Prizegiving will be open to all skippers and crew. Handicap prizes not claimed at the prizegiving will be held at the RYC Office and forfeited if not collected within two months.

19. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All those taking part in the Marsden Cove Route 66 Race do so at their own risk and responsibility, see RRS Rule 3 Decision to Race. Richmond Yacht Club (RYC), and Onerahi Yacht Club (OYC) have no liability for any damage, loss or penalty suffered by any boat, crew or any other person taking part. This includes costs associated with rescue efforts that might be initiated by the organisers. RYC, and OYC are 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.

20. INSURANCE

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

20.2. Proof of insurance must be provided to Marsden Cove Marina for berthing. Contact Marsden Cove Marina for more details on their policies. Phone 09 432 7740, Email: info@marsdencovemarina.co.nz

21. SPECIAL RULES

21.1. PredictWind TRACKER

For safety reasons, increased interest in online viewing of the race and developing race organisation practice, each entrant is required to use the PredictWind GPS tracking service. To

use the service you will need two smartphones (one as a backup) that use either iOS9 and above or Android 5 and above operating system. The PredictWind GPS tracking service is being made available at no cost to each competitor.

Full instructions on how to install and use the app are found at <http://www.predictwind.com/tracker>; Select yacht club: 'RYC'; Race: '2026 Route 66'. Select your division and manually enter your boat name. It is recommended that all competitors test the tracking functionality before the event and view the data at <http://forecast.predictwind.com/tracking/race/ryc> to ensure that the service is working on their phone. Any technical enquiries or issues, please email PredictWind at support@predictwind.com.

It is the crews' responsibility to test that the system works on their phones prior to the race. Each competitor is expected to check their tracker is turned on and check battery levels are satisfactory at the start and each radio schedule. Only one phone should be used to send tracking data per boat at any time. Failure to use the tracker will render an entry ineligible for the PW spot prize.

22. ADDITIONAL RACE INFORMATION

22.1. *Unmarked buoys when approaching Marsden Cove*

Note that when approaching Whangarei Harbour, there are up to two wave rider buoys situated on the starboard side of the channel midway between the Fairway Buoy and No.1 buoy. A special pillar buoy shown on chart NZ 5214 is centred to the north of these buoys as a guard buoy. All of these buoys are lit with a yellow flashing light. Vessels are advised to avoid this area.

22.2. *Navigational Hazards at Marsden Point*

Be aware of navigational hazards at Marsden Point at the race finish, these include: shallows of Mair Bank and Calliope Bank and a reef and dangerous rocks extending from Home Point inside Whangarei No. 7 Buoy. Strong tidal conditions may exist in the channel near the finish and should be taken into consideration. In addition, Whangarei is a commercial harbour and shipping movements should be taken into consideration. The channel into Marsden Cove Marina is well marked but must be carefully navigated, especially at low tide. Other navigational hazards exist. All skippers should review relevant charts for the race, especially NZ 5214. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the skipper and crew to identify these hazards and avoid running afoul of them.

22.3. *Berthing at Marsden Cove Marina*

Competitors are requested to communicate with the docking crew on VHF CHANNEL 77 after finishing the race and on entering the marina. All boats must be prepared and equipped to raft up off the visitors pier D. Due to berthing limitations, a maximum of **six (6)** multihulls can be accommodated within the marina. Any boats wanting a private berth must contact the MCM office (phone 09 432 7740) at least one day prior to make arrangements.

23. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact:

Richmond Yacht Club (Inc)

Phone: 09 376 4332

Email: info@richmondyc.org.nz

Web: www.richmondyc.org.nz

25.0 SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors:



Route 66's title sponsor is **Marsden Cove Marina**, a world-class 230-berth marina just inside the entrance to Whangarei Harbour. www.marsdencovemarina.co.nz

	<p>Sponsor of 1st prizes for all divisions is Burnsco Westhaven. Burnsco is the biggest seller of marine, RV and motorhome accessories in New Zealand. www.burnsco.co.nz</p>
	<p>Sponsor of 2nd prizes for all divisions, Safety At Sea (a division of Kiwi Yachting) specialises in offering the world's leading marine safety products and aviation survival equipment. www.safetyatsea.co.nz</p>
	<p>Sponsor of 3rd prizes for all divisions, Sailutions supplies and services a complete range of superior quality yacht rigging fittings and marine hardware from top Swedish sailing brands Seldén, Rutgeron, and Furlex. www.sailutions.co.nz</p>
	<p>Skipper prizes are sponsored by: PredictWind, the world leader in wind forecasting. www.predictwind.com</p>
  	<p>Spot prizes are sponsored by: Mariner Insurance, the boat insurance specialists who will help you get the protection you need while you are out on the water, so you can enjoy your boating with peace of mind. www.marinermarine.co.nz A-Z Marine Services is a maintenance and management business – “as little or as much as the owner requires” – and has been the NZ dealer for Ropeye since 2013. Floating Dock Services, the quick and easy way to haul out your boat at Westhaven Marina. www.floatingdockservices.co.nz</p>
	<p>Rum is sponsored by: Mount Gay, the product of over 300 years of knowledge, experience and refinement applied to the process of making rum. www.mountgayrum.com</p>