



Gulf Triangle

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

The Organising Authority is Richmond Yacht Club, Inc (RYC)

1.0 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 Authority strongly recommends that ALL yachts carry a dinghy (or life raft) to meet YNZ SR Cat 3 standards.
- 1.5 Singlehanded skippers are required [and two-handed crew are strongly recommended] to 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 singlehanded 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.
- 1.5 Competitors are required to wear lifejackets that meet New Zealand Standard 5823:2005 (inflatable type 401 150N) with a crotch strap whilst underway. Additionally skippers are recommended to be clipped into jackstays before leaving the safety of the cockpit.
- 1.6 The RRS will be changed in accordance with RRS Rule 86 as follows:
 - RRS Rule 51 is modified to allow boats with moveable/variable ballast systems and/or canting keels to compete given they comply with YNZ Safety Regulations 6.1(K) and 6.2(K).
 - RRS Rule 52 'Manual Power' shall not apply.
 - For the start at Westhaven, any boat running its motor in gear after its preparatory signal may proceed to the western side of the Harbour Bridge via the main navigation span, stop its engine and re-enter the starting area via the main navigation span under sail alone. This modifies RRS Rule 42.3(i). This does not apply for starts at Narrow Neck.
 - Where a boat is sailing singlehanded or two handed an autopilot self-steering system may be used. This modifies RRS Rule 52.
- 1.7 Between sunset and sunrise 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.

- 1.10 Competitors shall abide by harbour regulations, including the '500 ton rule', or risk disqualification. In accordance with RRS 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. Refer to these websites for shipping movements: <https://www.poal.co.nz/operations>
<https://northport.co.nz/inportpage/northportships>
- 1.11 Should there be any conflict between the NOR and these SI, the SI shall prevail.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Any Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official RYC website Notice Board page .

3.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SI will be posted on the official RYC website Notice Board page by 1700 hours on the day before it will take effect. It is the responsibility of the skipper to be aware of any notices prior to the start of racing.

4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed as follows:

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Location</u>
1	Westhaven carpark tower
2	No signals will be made
3	RYC Patrol Boat ("Murphy's Law")

5.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS/CLASS FLAGS

5.1 Legs and Start Times

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
1	6th March 2026	Westhaven OR Narrowneck to Marsden Cove (as per R66 SI)	As per R66 SI
2	7th March 2026	Marsden Cove to Great Barrier Island	12 hours after 80% of the fleet has finished but no earlier than 1030 hours.
3	8th March 2026	Great Barrier Island to Westhaven	At least 12 hours after 80% of the fleet finishes at Great Barrier Island

5.2 Divisions

<u>Division</u>	<u>Flag</u>
B1 SINGLE-HANDED OPEN	White
B2 TWO-HANDED OPEN	Yellow

5.3 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.

5.4 The warning signal will be the divisional flag.

5.5 There will be a briefing at RYC Clubs rooms at 1900 hours on Thursday 26 February 2026.

6.0 RACING AREA

The racing area is the Hauraki Gulf and from Bream Head to Cape Colville.

7.0 COURSES

7.1 In the case of adverse weather or light winds for legs 2 and 3, the race officer may choose courses 2a & 3a. A decision will be made by 0900 Saturday 7th March 2026 and competitors will be notified by text and email.

7.2

Leg	Course
1	As per R66 SI
2	Marsden Cove start, Sail Rock (P) to the finish at Port Abercrombie, Great Barrier Island
2a	Marsden Cove Start, Cape Rodney (S) Takatu Point (S) to finish between Accord Point, Bon Accord Harbour and the Patrol boat.
3	Great Barrier Island start, Little Barrier Island (S), McKenzie Buoy (S) to finish between Westhaven car park Tower and the Westhaven Buoy.
3a	From the start, outermost Whangaparaoa Yellow Buoy (P), McKenzie Buoy (S), to finish between Westhaven Car Park Tower and Westhaven Buoy.

8.0 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
- 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 1.10 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.

10.0 THE START

10.1 The race will be started using Rule 26.

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Start Location</u>
1	As per R66 SI
2	Passing Whangarei No. 9 Buoy, to Port
2a	Will be advised by the race officer the morning of the 7th March 2026
3	Will be advised by RYC Patrol Boat morning of the 8th March 2026
3a	Will be advised by RYC Patrol Boat morning of the 8rd March 2026

10.2 If any part of the boat's hull 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).

10.3 Abandonment or Postponement

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 15:00 on the day of the race start, the race will be abandoned.

11.0 THE FINISH

11.1

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Finish Location</u>
1	As per R66 SI
2	Between Home Point and RYC Patrol boat, Nagles Cove, Port Abercrombie, Great Barrier island
2a	Between Accord Point, Bon Accord Harbour and the Patrol boat
3	Between Westhaven car park tower and Westhaven Buoy
3a	Between Westhaven car park tower and Westhaven Buoy

If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, the skipper will make a fair effort to record the GPS time of crossing the line and report that time and her position in relation to nearby boats on the RYC Self Reporting Time Form on the RYC website or report your finish time to the RYC Committee Boat or any Race Officers present, at the first reasonable opportunity.

12.0 PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 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.

12.2 Rules 44.1 and 44.2 apply.

13.0 TIME LIMIT

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>
1	As per R66 SI
2	Nil
3	Nil

14.0 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1 Protest forms are available from the Committee Boat . Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the finishing Race Officer within the appropriate time limit.

- 14.2 The protest time limit is noon on Tuesday 10 March 2026.
- 14.3 Competitors involved in protests will be informed in person, by phone, or email of the time hearings will take place.
- 14.4 Breaches of instructions 1.10, 15, 17 and 18.6 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat under RRS 60.1(a). This changes RRS60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

15.0 EQUIPMENT CHECKS

It will be the skippers responsibility to ensure their boat is in compliance with the Route 66 / Gulf Triangle Sailing Instructions and the YNZ Safety Regulations.

16.0 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats may be marked as 'Richmond Patrol' and may fly a RYC club burgee or fly a OYC burgee only.

17.0 TRASH DISPOSAL

A boat shall not discharge trash into the water.

18.0 COMMUNICATIONS & SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 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.

18.2 VHF Channels to use:

<u>VHF Channel</u>	<u>Where to use</u>
17	For RYC race communications between Westhaven and North Head OR RYC Patrol Boat (either Taipan or Murphy's Law)
03	For race communications between North Head and Cape Rodney (Leg 1)
18	For race communications north of Cape Rodney (Leg 1)
77	For berthing assistance at Marsden Cove (Leg 1) For race communications in legs 2 & 3
11	For monitoring shipping movements at Northport (Leg 1 & 2)
60/64	Communications to Coastguard

18.3 Position Reporting (Scheds):

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Sched</u>
1	As per R66 SI
2	30 minutes from the finish, call RYC Race Control on Channel 77.
3	30 minutes from the finish call RYC Race Control on Channel 77

18.4 The Sched is complete when Race Control acknowledges your Sched. This is true for both VHF and phone communications.

18.5 **Listening watch on VHF: For the safety of all competitors, it is imperative that all boats, while racing, keep a listening watch on channel 77 as well as on VHF CHANNEL 16, where possible.**

18.6 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.

18.7 Race contact details:

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1 (START)	Andrew Burr (RYC)	0274 572 228 (available any time)
1 (FINISH)	Bryce Bindon (OYC)	021 519 589 (Also for phone scheds)
2 & 3	Kevin Murphy (RYC)	021 837 972

19.0 PRIZES

Prizegiving will be held at a time to be advised.

20.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All those taking part in the Gulf Triangle Race, do so at their own risk and responsibility, see RRS Rule 4 Decision to Race. Richmond Yacht Club (RYC) 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 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.

21.0 INSURANCE

- 21.1 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.
- 21.2 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

22.0 ADDITIONAL RACE INFORMATION

Please refer to the Route 66 SI for additional information, as well as the R66 Briefing Document. Other information may be provided at the Route 66 prizegiving (Saturday morning at Marsden Cove Marina) and on Saturday evening at Great Barrier Island.

23.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact: Richmond Yacht Club (Inc)
Phone: 09 376 4332
Email: info@richmondyc.org.nz
Web: www.richmondyc.org.nz

24.0 SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsor:

