

RICHMOND YACHT CLUB (Inc)

2025-2026 GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority is Richmond Yacht Club (RYC)
Westhaven Seawall, P O Box 46-324, Herne Bay, Auckland 1147
Phone 09 376 4332 | info@richmondyc.org.nz | www.richmondyc.org.nz

1.0 RULES

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

Passage Races (with a dinghy)	Cat 4	Harbour Short-handed Race	Cat 5
Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1)	Cat 4	Wednesday Night Races	Cat 5
Closing Day Regatta	Cat 4	Winter Races 1-6 & 9	Cat 5
3 x 3 Summer Blast	Cat 4	Winter Races 7 & 8	Cat 4
Single-handed Series	Cat 4	Friday Night Special	Cat 5

The YNZ Safety Regulations Part 5 Category B shall apply to trailer yachts in any event. The YNZ Safety Regulations Part 6 Category B shall apply to sports boats in any event.

- 1.3 Auckland Transport Harbour Rules & Regulations apply. Particular note shall be paid to "Auckland Harbour Restricted Areas". Refer:
<https://at.govt.nz/about-us/harbourmaster/harbour-rules-regulations/>
- 1.4 If any damage is caused 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 Harbourmaster (phone 09 362 0397) of the occurrence and the extent of the damage to the buoy or beacon.
- 1.5 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. If in doubt, please ask the Race Officer.
- 1.6 Should there be any conflict between the Notice of Race (NoR) and the General Sailing Instructions (GSI), the GSI shall prevail.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 Where a boat is sailing Short-handed (max. 2 people) an autopilot self-steering system may only be used whilst tacking, gybing, reefing and changing sails. This modifies RRS Rule 52.

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 GSI will be posted on the official RYC website Notice Board page by 1700 hours on the day before it will take effect. Skippers will be informed by email or text message of any change to the schedule of races by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect. Amendments will also be posted to the relevant event's webpage. 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

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the tower in use (Westhaven Carpark Tower or the RYC Tower).

5.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

6.0 CLASS FLAGS AND DIVISIONS

- 6.1 Refer to individual NoR 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 as described in the NoR for each event.

8.0 COURSES

The courses are as described in separate attachments or in the NoR 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)
- 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/Hobson Bay mooring area.
- 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.
- Iliomama Rock Beacon
- Emu Rock Beacon
- Browns Island Beacon

In addition the following restrictions also apply while racing

- Boats shall only pass through the main navigation span of the Harbour Bridge when racing.
- 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 Safety Bylaw 2021 for full details.

11.0 THE START

11.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.

11.2 The starting lines are as defined below:

- Westhaven: The start line will be between the main mast of the Westhaven Carpark Tower, displaying the RYC burgee, and the Westhaven Buoy.
Races: Wednesday Night, Friday Night Special, Harbour Short-handed, Single-handed, Passage, 3 x 3 Summer Blast, Closing Day Regatta & Winter Races.
- RYC Committee Boat: The start line will be between the staff on the RYC Committee Boat, displaying an orange flag, and a yellow racing buoy or an orange laid buoy. If an inner distance mark is laid, yachts are prohibited from sailing between the inner distance mark and the RYC Committee Boat.

Races: Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1) [Northern Leading Buoy]

Wednesday/Winter Races Alternate start [Resolution Buoy or Orakei Buoy (port) and the RYC Committee Boat (Starboard)]

Passage Races Alternate Start [Northern Leading Buoy]

11.3 The Starting areas are defined as below.

- Westhaven: A rectangular area parallel in part between the Westhaven tower and 50m north of the Westhaven Buoy extending 50m to the course side of the start line [east] and 200m to the non-course side of the start line [west].
- RYC Committee Boat: A rectangular area parallel in part to the start line extending 50m to the course side of the start line, 100m to the non-course side of the start line, and 50m beyond the pin end of the start line.

11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other divisions. "Stay OUT of the box!"

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 4 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 Rule 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.

11.6 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 VHF channel 17. Failure to make broadcast will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS Rule 61.4(b)(1).



12.0 THE FINISH

12.1 The finish lines are as described below:

- Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1): The finish line will be between the RYC Committee Boat flying a blue flag (P)(anchored in the vicinity of the Orakei Wharf) and Orakei Buoy (S).
- Wednesday Night, Friday Night Special, Harbour Short-handed, 3 x 3 Summer Blast, Closing Day Regatta and Winter Races: The finish line will be between the mast of the Westhaven Carpark Tower flying the RYC burgee and Westhaven Buoy.
- Wednesday Night Races and Winter Races **Alternative Finish**: The finish line will be between the RYC Committee Boat flying a blue flag (P) and Resolution Buoy (S).
- Passage Races and Single-handed 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 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.

12.4 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.
- If 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 sail clear of the area and avoid deliberately re-crossing or passing back through the finish line. This keeps the finish line clear of obstructions for subsequent finishers and makes it easier for the tower to identify finishers.

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

13.0 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 RRS Rules 44.1 and 44.2 apply for all divisions in all RYC races.
- 13.2 A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS Rule 44.1 shall inform the Race Officer within the protest time limit. This changes RRS Rule 44.1.

14.0 TIME LIMITS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1) | 2100 hours |
| • Wednesday Night Series | 2100 hours |
| • Passage Race 1 | 1600 hours |
| • Passage Races 2, 3 & 4 | 0800 hours (the day after the race start) |
| • Friday Night Special | 2030 hours |
| • 3 x 3 Summer Blast | Refer to the SSI |
| • Harbour Short-handed Race | 1630 hours |
| • Closing Day Regatta | 1700 hours |
| • Winter Series | 1630 hours |

15.0 PROTESTS

- 15.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Office or the Committee Boat. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit (including by email to racing@richmondyc.org.nz).
- 15.2 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. |
- 15.3 Competitors involved in protests will be informed by phone, email or text message of the time hearings will take place.
- 15.4 Breaches of instructions 11.4, 18.0, 19.0 and 22.0 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat under RRS Rule 60.1. This changes RRS Rule 60.1. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

16.0 SCORING

The RRS low point system applies to all races. The NoR 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 TopYacht software 'exponential system'. For more information please visit www.topyacht.com.au. RYC reserves the right to manually adjust handicaps as the Sailing Committee deems necessary.
- 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 or by email to

racings@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 A boat retiring from racing shall inform the Race Committee before leaving the racing area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the Race Officer as soon as possible after returning to shore.
- 18.2 Spring Regatta (Gold Cup 1): At 1800 hours on the day of the race all boats that have not yet finished or retired must notify the Race Officer by VHF, phone or text message of their position. RYC mobile phone 021 276 4332
- 18.3 For safety reasons, boats are asked to keep a listening watch on VHF 16.

19.0 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS.

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

20.0 OFFICIAL BOATS

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

21.0 COMMUNICATIONS

- 21.1 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 21.2 In general, the following VHF channels will be used for race communications:
 - VHF 17 In and near the Waitematā Harbour
 - VHF 03 North of Whangaparāoa
 - VHF 62 East of Motuihe Island (to the Firth of Thames)
 - VHF 60 East of Ruthe Passage (in the Firth of Thames)

22.0 TRASH DISPOSAL A boat shall not discharge trash into the water.

23.0 PRIZES

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

24.0 RISK STATEMENT

- 24.1 Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.
- 24.2 The skipper is legally responsible for the safety and wellbeing of crew onboard.
- 24.3 YNZ Safety Regs are updated on a regular basis and it is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that the boat and her safety equipment remain in compliance:
<https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/racing/safety-regulations>
- 24.4 The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after participation.

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

Westhaven restarts: 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 may restart by proceeding to the western side of the harbour bridge via the main navigation span, then cross back into the start area under sail alone. The start line must be crossed in the usual way, taking care to avoid impeding a subsequent start.

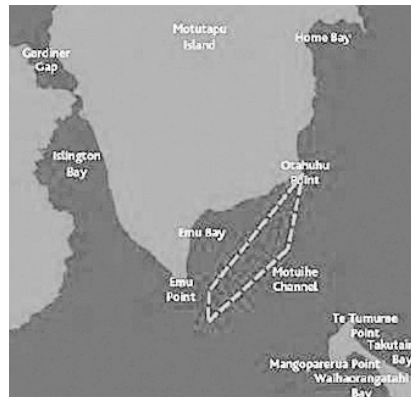
27.0 ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION

27.1 Motuihe Channel passenger ferry lane:

The person in charge of a vessel within the Motuihe Channel passenger ferry lane must ensure their vessel or any person on their vessel does not:

- fish, set or lay any fishing apparatus
- anchor
- impede the passage of a passenger ferry.

Please refer to Clause 60(1)(a) and Map 9 of the Auckland Council Navigational Bylaw Control 2021.



27.2 Harbour Bridge precautionary area:

The person in charge of a vessel within the Auckland Harbour Bridge precautionary area must ensure their vessel or any person on their vessel does not:

- impede the passage of a warship
- impede the passage of a passenger ferry
- impede the passage of a large vessel
- moor or anchor
- engage in fishing, set or lay any fishing apparatus

Please refer to Clause 60(1)(a) and Map 10n of the Auckland Council Navigational Bylaw Control 2021.

