



Gulf Triangle 2026

6-8 March 2026

Notice of race

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

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 shall apply, with additional requirements as specified below (Cat 4+):
- 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 406 MHz 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).
 - Carry enough fuel to motor a minimum of 60 nm
- 1.4. The Organising Authorities strongly recommended that ALL yachts carry a dinghy (or life raft) to meet YNZ SR Cat 3 standards.
- 1.5. Additional requirements for Singlehanded skippers, Two Handed and CAT A+ Skippers and crew sailing without lifelines:
 - Singlehanded 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
 - Singlehanded 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 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.
- 1.6. The Organising Authority recommends 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 Singlehanded 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.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1. The race is open to all yachts (keelboats and multihulls) that meet the requirements of Section 1 of this NOR.
- 2.2. Eligible boats, including RYC Sail Pass entries, may enter by completing the online registration form on the website richmondyc.org.nz. Entries will be accepted up to 2359 hours Wednesday, 4 March 2026. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA. Entry to this event will also include entry to the Route 66. Please note, due to berthing limitations at Marsden Cove Marina, acceptance of an entry will be limited to the first sixty (60) boats
- 2.3. To be eligible to compete in this event the skipper must be a financial member of a club recognised by YNZ.

3. FEES

Holders of the RYC Sail Pass	\$90
All other entrants	\$180

4. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 4.1. Skippers agree to make their boats available for inspections prior to and/or just after finishing to ensure they meet Cat 4+ Safety Requirements as detailed above.
- 4.2. 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..
- 4.3. Leg 2 start time and start/finish lines will be advised at the Route 66 prizegiving. Leg 3 start time and start/finish lines will be advised on the morning of Sunday, 8 March 2026.
- 4.4. Race Schedule:

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Auckland to Whangarei (Route 66)	Friday, 6 March 2026
2	Whangarei to Great Barrier Island	Saturday, 7 March 2026
3	Great Barrier Island to Auckland	Sunday, 8 March 2026

- 4.5. Divisions

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

- 4.6. If there is a need to postpone or abandon the race a decision will be made by 0800 on the day of the race.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The 2026 Marsden Cove Route 66 Sailing Instructions will apply for Leg One; other Legs will be covered by the Gulf Triangle Sailing Instructions. The SIs will be available from the RYC office and website no later than 1700 Wednesday, 4th March 2026.

6. VENUE

The racing area is the Hauraki Gulf, Bream Head to Cape Colville and includes Great Barrier Island.

7. COURSE

<u>Leg</u>	<u>Course</u>
1	From the Start (Westhaven) to Kawau Island (P), Little Barrier Island (S), Sail Rock (S), to the Finish (Whangarei)
2	From the Start, Sail Rock (P), to Finish (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	From the Start, to Finish (Westhaven).
3a	From the start, outermost Whangaparaoa Yellow Buoy (P), McKenzie Buoy (S), to Finish (Westhaven).

- 7.1. The Starts and Finishes for Legs 2, 2a & 3, 3a will be fully defined in the Sailing Instructions.
- 7.2. In the case of adverse weather or light wind conditions short course options 2a & 3a may be used. Amendments will be issued and posted on the Gulf Triangle web page before each leg.
- 7.3. A Whatsapp group is used for communications between competitors. Contact RYC to find out how to join this group.

8. SCORING

- 8.1. Rule A5.3 will apply.
- 8.2. A boat's series score will be the total of all her race scores. This changes rule A2.1.

9. PRIZES

- 9.1. Overall prizes will be awarded on a date to be advised.

10. RISK STATEMENT

- 10.1. Competitors participate in the race 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.
- 10.2. The skipper is legally responsible for the safety and wellbeing of crew onboard.
- 10.3. 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>
- 10.4. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the series.

11. INSURANCE

- 11.1. 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.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Richmond Yacht Club (Inc)

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