

Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

Friday Night Dinghy Races - 2026



The Organising Authority for the 2025-2026 Season is the Hobsons Bay Yacht Club (HBYC), with races to be run in conjunction with Williamstown Sailing Club (WSC) and Royal Yacht Club of Victoria (RYCV)

The following sections are required to be included in Sailing Instructions by rule J2 and are unchanged from the Notice of Race.

Schedule:

- Fridays between 30th January 2026 and 27th March 2026 (excluding 6th March).
- Times:
 - 5.15pm – Competitor briefings
 - 5.45pm – First warning signal
 - No warning signal will be made after 6.30pm

Place:

- Racing will be conducted in the waters between Williamstown and the Yarra River shipping channel.
- Competitor briefings will be held in the training room of HBYC.

Rules:

The Event will be governed by:

- the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS)
 - Rule 90.3(e) will apply.
 - RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two – Turns Penalty is replaced by a One – Turn Penalty.
 - *Note that additional rules have been changed in the supplemental instructions below – specifically the Race Signals and rules 26, 33, 41 and 61.1(a).*
- the prescriptions and special regulations of Australian Sailing;
- the rules of the appropriate boat class association (Class Rules);
- the yardsticks to be used for individual classes published by Australian Sailing; and
- any applicable rules and regulations as required by the Ports Victoria Melbourne (PVM).

Communication:

- All race documents and results will be published on the HBYC website and will be distributed by email to registered competitors.

Scoring:

- The Low Point Scoring system in RRS Appendix A will apply.
 - When 4 or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.
- Boats shall score points equal to the average of all races sailed in the series when their skipper volunteers for race management duties.
- 8 races are scheduled.
- A minimum of 2 races must be scored to constitute a series.
- Rule A5.3 will apply.

Equipment

- Each competitor shall always wear a compliant personal flotation device when afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.

The following sections are supplemental to the Notice of Race

Changes to the Sailing Instructions

- Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be published as per the Communication section at least 90 minutes prior to the first warning signal of the day it will take effect.

- Oral changes to the Sailing Instructions may be given on the water in accordance with rule 90.2(c). A rescue boat will communicate the changes to each boat racing.

Code of Conduct

- Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- The penalty for failure to comply with the Code of Conduct is at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

Communication

- Signals to be made ashore will be made using the flagpole at HBYC.
 - When flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the Race Signal AP. This changes the Race Signals rule.
- The Race Officer for the day will be notified at the Competitor Briefing. The mobile phone number for any declarations other than finishing the race will also be notified at the Competitor Briefing.
- Where a race is postponed or abandoned it will not be resailed.

Replacement of Crew or Equipment

- Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorised by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- Where a boat sails a race with different crew that boat may be considered as new entry at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee.

Courses

- Courses will be announced at the Competitor briefings ahead of each race, along with marks and the number of laps for each class.
- The finishing line will be designated as an Obstruction.
- It is a Harbour Master requirement that recreational boats keep clear of commercial shipping and not to impede their safe passage. Any boat entering the shipping channel while racing will be scored DSQ.

Sign-on and Sign-off

- All boats must "sign-on" before leaving the shore and "sign-off" as soon as practicable after returning to shore at the completion of the session's racing.
 - Competitors shall provide a contact mobile phone number on the entry system.
 - Competitors will receive a text message prior to the first race containing a link to the sign on system.
 - Prior to leaving the shore, competitors shall click on the link, select the "Sign on/off" link in the menu and select either "Sign on" or "Not Sailing Today".
 - On returning to shore after racing, competitors shall click on the "Sign Off" link.
 - Competitors are to register via the online system all crew substitution.
 - If for some reason the competitor is having issues with the sign on/off, contact the regatta office or shore marshal who will manually sign you on/off.
- Signing on and off the water is an important safety procedure. To reinforce this, failure to sign-on or sign-off will result in Disqualification (DSQ) without a hearing.
- Any boat retiring is required to notify a rescue boat or the committee boat.
- Any boat who does anything except finish the course is required to declare this to the Race Officer by text message.

The Start and Finish

- To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least three minutes before a warning signal is made.
- The direction of the course (the rounding of marks to port or to starboard), will be indicated by a red or green flag that will be displayed on the committee boat at least one minute before the first warning signal.
- The start sequence will be a three-minute sequence
 - This changes rule 26
- The class flag used in the start sequence will be notified at the Competitor Briefing.
- The minimum number of boats appearing in the starting area required for a race to be started is 3.

- The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat (or on Ferguson Street Pier or on the starting box at RYCV) and the course side of the starting mark.
- Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat (or on Ferguson Street Pier or on the starting box at RYCV) and the course side of the finishing mark.

Time limits

- A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS.
- The mark 1 time limit is 20 minutes. If no boat has passed the first mark within the time limit, the race will be abandoned.
- The target time for the first boat to complete the course will be 40 minutes.
- The race time limit for the first boat to sail the course will be 60 minutes.
- Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat to finish will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing.
- Boats deemed still racing by the Race Committee but failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat to finish may be scored an Allocated Place at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee.
- Failure to meet a time limit or target time will not be grounds for redress.
 - This changes rule 61.1(a).
- Implementation of time limits in any particular race will be at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee.

Changing the course

- To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and then remove the original mark as soon as is practicable.
 - This changes rule 33.

Outside help

- A boat may receive assistance from a rescue craft in the event of a capsize, or for a safety matter, and then continue to compete in the race, provided that such assistance does not advance the boat's position in the race.
 - This changes rule 41.

Protests and Requests for redress

- The time limit for any protest or request for redress is within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing the race or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- Protests shall be delivered to the Race Officer by text message within the time limit.
- Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the Protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the training room, located at the Hobsons Bay Yacht Club, beginning at the time posted.

Further Information:

For further information contact the HBYC Sailing Administrator
Stephen Cheney via email: racing@hbyc.org.au