# Hobsons Bay Yacht Club

## Sailing Instructions

## Friday Night Dinghy Races - 2027

The Organising Authority for the 2026-2027 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 supplemental to the Notice of Race.**

1. **Changes to the Sailing Instructions**
    a. Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be published at least 90 minutes prior to the first warning signal on the day on which it will take effect.
    b. 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.
2. **Code of Conduct**
    a. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
    b. The penalty for failure to comply with the Code of Conduct is at the discretion of the Protest Committee.
        i. This changes Rule 60.5(c).
3. **Communication**
    a. Signals to be made ashore will be made using the flagpole at HBYC.
        i. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the Race Signal AP.
        ii. This changes the Race Signals Rule.
    b. Where a race is abandoned it will not be resailed.
4. **Replacement of Crew or Equipment**
    a. Substitution of competitors or 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 using the functionality of the official noticeboard.
    b. Where a boat sails a race with different crew that boat will be considered as new entry unless an exception is provided at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee.
5. **Courses**
    a. Courses will be announced at the Competitor briefings ahead of each race, along with marks and the number of laps for each class.
    b. Boats shall not sail through the starting or finishing line, except when starting or finishing. Boats doing so will be scored DSQ without a hearing.
        i. This changes Rule A5.1.
    c. It is a Harbour Master requirement that recreational boats keep clear of commercial shipping and do not impede their safe passage. The shipping channel (bounded by port channel marks 18, 20, 22 and 24) is designated as an obstruction, and any boat entering the shipping channel while racing will be scored DSQ, without a hearing.
        i. This changes Rule A5.1.
6. **Sign-on and Sign-off**
    a. 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 and within the Protest Time Limit.
        i. Competitors shall provide a contact mobile phone number on the entry system.
        ii. Competitors will receive a text message prior to the first race containing a link to the sign on system.
        iii. 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".
        iv. On returning to shore after racing, competitors shall click on the "Sign Off" link.
        v. Competitors are to register via the online system all crew substitution.
        vi. If for some reason the competitor is having issues with the sign on/off, contact the Race Officer for the day (with the help of the shore marshall at the club where they launch) who will manually sign them on/off.
    b. 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.
        i. This changes Rule A5.1.

c. Any boat leaving the course area without having finished shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
d. Any boat who does anything except finish the course is required to declare this to the Race Officer (with the help of the shore marshall at the club where they launch).

**7. The Start and Finish**

a. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed with one sound at least three minutes before the warning signal.
b. The direction of the course (the rounding of marks to port or to starboard), will be indicated by a red (for port) or green (for starboard) flag that will be displayed on the committee boat at or before the first warning signal.
c. The start sequence will be a three-minute sequence as follows

| Minutes before starting signal | Visual signal | Sound signal | Means |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Division flag | One | Warning signal |
| 2 | P, U or Black flag | One | Preparatory signal |
| 1 | Preparatory flag removed | One long | One-minute |
| 0 | Division flag removed | One | Starting signal |

   i. This changes Rule 26
d. The class flag used in the start sequence will be notified at the Competitor Briefing.
e. The minimum number of boats appearing in the starting area required for a race to be started is 3.
f. 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.
g. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
h. The finishing 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.

**8. Time limits**

a. A boat starting later than 6 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing.
   i. This changes Rule A5.1.
b. 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.
c. The target time for the first boat to complete the course will be 40 minutes.
d. The race time limit for the first boat to sail the course will be 60 minutes.
e. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat to finish will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing.
   i. This changes Rule A5.1.
f. 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 based on their position when the Time Limit expires at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee. Neither the allocation of a finish place nor the failure to allocate a finish place will be grounds for redress.
   i. This changes Rules 35, 61.4(b), Appendix A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
g. Failure to meet a time limit or target time will not be grounds for redress.
   i. This changes Rule 61.4(b).
h. Implementation of time limits in any particular race will be at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee.
   i. This changes Rule 35.

**9. Changing the course**

a. To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) without signaling to boats and then remove the original mark as soon as is practicable.
   i. This changes Rule 33.

**10. Outside help**

a. 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 significantly advance the boat's position in the race.
   i. This changes Rule 41.

**11. Protests and Requests for redress**

a. 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.

b. Protests should preferably be delivered to the Race Officer using the functionality of the official noticeboard.
c. 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.

**12. Further Information:**

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