



THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB **FLYING FIFTEEN RACE SERIES 2026**

Racing will consist of **2 Tuesday Evening Series, 2 Thursday Evening Series** and an **Autumn Sunday Morning Series**.

Tuesday Evenings: 21st April to 23rd June and 30th June to 1st September inclusive.

Thursday Evenings: 23rd April to 25th June and 2nd July to 3rd September inclusive.

Sunday Mornings: 6th September to 18th October inclusive.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules currently defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, and the appropriate Flying Fifteen class rules.
- 1.2 The current RYA Prescriptions to the Racing Rules will apply.
- 1.3 Racing Rule 29.1 will be changed in that a circular fluorescent shape will be used in place of International Code Flag 'X' for individual recalls.
- 1.4 Racing Rule 33 is changed by sailing instruction 8.3

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard outside the RMYC office

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted from 1400 on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2 Following any change, Code Flag L will be displayed for at least 1 hour before the start.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be made using signal halyards on the Race Deck of the RMYC.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Thursday Classes	Warning Signal	Start Time
Cornish Shrimpers	<i>18.10hrs</i>	18.15hrs
Class 2 & 3 Cruisers	<i>18.20hrs</i>	18.25hrs



THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB

FLYING FIFTEEN RACE SERIES 2026

Flying Fifteens	18.25hrs	18.30hrs
Sonata Class	18.30hrs	18.35hrs
Class 1	18.35hrs	18.40hrs

Sunday Mornings

Flying Fifteen	10:25hrs	10:30hrs
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Tuesday Evenings

Flying Fifteen	18:25hrs	18:30hrs
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6 CLASS FLAGS

Flying 15	Naval Numeral Pennant 6
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7 RACING AREAS

7.1 Racing will take place in Poole Harbour, the approaches to Poole Harbour and in Poole Bay.

8 COURSES

8.1 Courses will be listed in the Appendix to these sailing instructions (List of Flying 15 Courses No.2026.v2)

8.2 Courses listed will show the order in which marks are to be passed, the side on which each mark is to be passed and an approximate course length. **Ad hoc** courses may be given.

8.3 The course to be sailed will be broadcast on VHF Ch. 37 (Ch.M), or if blocked VHF Ch. 72, at approximately 10 minutes and 5 minutes prior to the Warning Signal.

8.4 Legs of the course will not be changed after the Preparatory Signal. This changes Rule 33.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks are listed in the Appendix to these instructions. All marks are rounding marks unless stated to the contrary in the Appendix.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 There are no specified areas of obstruction.

10.2 When courses in the Appendix specify **North Channel**, yachts shall pass all port hand marks from **NC 4** to **NC 12** inclusive on the channel side.



THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB

FLYING FIFTEEN RACE SERIES 2026

11 THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started by using Rule 26, with the Warning Signal made 5 minutes before the Starting Signal.
- 11.2 The Starting Marks will be a white flag staff flying an orange flag, situated on the RMYC race deck, and an Outer Distance Mark (ODM).
- 11.3 The **Starting Line** is between the white flag staff with orange flag, situated on the RMYC race deck and the inflatable buoy (ODM) on the north west side of the North Channel. If the ODM is not in position, then the port hand red channel mark NC2 will be used instead.
Note: The Inner Distance Mark (inflatable buoy) on the south east side of North Channel, does NOT apply to this class.
- 11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made should avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The **Finish Line** for all classes is between the white flag staff with orange flag, situated on the RMYC race deck, and an inflatable buoy (ODM) on the north-west side of the North Channel. If the ODM is not in position, then the port hand red channel mark NC2 will be used instead.
- 12.2 Competitors are requested to note their finishing times and, wherever possible, the identities of the boats finishing immediately ahead and astern. The Race Committee does NOT REQUIRE competitors to advise them of this information routinely, but may request it to clarify finishing positions.

13 TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 **Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Series:** The Time Limit for all Sunday morning and Tuesday Evening races will be **2½ hours** after the start of the race with no extensions.
- 13.2 **Thursday Evening Series:** The Time Limit for all Thursday Evening races is **2100 hrs**, except that if any yacht finishes within the time limit, such limit shall be extended until **2130 hrs** for all yachts in the class.
- 13.3 When no yacht finishes within the time limit, the race shall be abandoned and will not be re-sailed.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 Rule 44.1 and 44.2 to be replaced by ONE TURN PENALTY.



THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB

FLYING FIFTEEN RACE SERIES 2026

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protests shall be in writing. Protest forms should be used whenever possible and are available at the RMYC office.
- 15.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the RMYC office by 12 noon on the day following the race in question.
- 15.3 Parties to a protest will be informed of the date, time and location of the protest hearing.
- 15.4 Breaches of Sailing Instructions 11.4 and 17.4 will not be grounds for a protest.

16 SCORING

- 16.1 The Racing Rules of Sailing 'Low Points System' shall be used. Scoring will be as prescribed in RRS Appendix A9. The number of races to count shall be:

10 races	3 discards
6 to 9 races	2 discards
4 or 5 races	1 discard
3 or less races	All to count

- 16.2 The race results will be posted on the club website as soon as possible after each race.
- 16.3 **Novice crews** - Should any helm take out a novice crew, for the first time, they may be awarded their average series points for that particular race.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1 Adequate personal buoyancy for crew members shall be worn or carried on board at all times. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate buoyancy.
- 17.2 It is a requirement that a suitable anchor & 2 paddles are carried on board whilst racing.
- 17.3 On grounds of safety, in order to avoid risk of collision with any commercial shipping that is under way, a boat may use other means of propulsion until risk of danger has passed, without the need to retire. Such use must be reported to the Race Committee as soon as practicable.
- 17.4 Competitors are reminded that under Poole Harbour Bylaws, the Sandbanks Chain Ferry has right of way over all non-piloted vessels.
- 17.5 A yacht that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

18 EQUIPMENT CHECKS

- 18.1 A boat or its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Flying Fifteen Class Association and these Sailing Instructions.



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FLYING FIFTEEN RACE SERIES 2026

19 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states; “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew, their boat to such inherent risk while taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser, does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed, in date and is familiar to the crew.

20 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured against Third Party liability to a minimum cover of £2,000,000 throughout the series.

21 PHC YACHT RACING CRITERIA

The attention of all yacht skippers is drawn to the Poole Harbour Commissioners Yacht Racing Criteria, the latest version of which can be found at:

<https://www.phc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/SAIL-RACING-PROCEDURES-2025.pdf>

Yacht skippers must appraise themselves of the content of these guidelines and in particular the section entitled ‘*Guidance for Racing Yachts & Skippers*’.