

THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB
THURSDAY
YACHT RACE SERIES 2026

Racing will consist of 2 Thursday Evening Series:

Spring Series - 23rd April to 25th June; **Summer Series** - 2nd July to 3rd Sept. inclusive

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules currently defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The current RYA Prescriptions to the Racing Rules will apply.
- 1.3 I.R.C. Rule 22.4 (Crew Number/Weight Rule) shall not apply.
- 1.4 **RRS Rule 29.1** is changed in that a circular fluorescent shape will be used in place of International Code Flag 'X' for individual recalls.
- 1.5 **RRS Rule 32.1** is changed by the addition of sub-paragraph (e): *for any reason deemed necessary by the Race Committee.*

- 1.6 **RRS Rule 35** is changed by Sailing Inst. 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3
- 1.7 **RRS Race Signals** are changed by Sailing Inst. 12.1

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard outside the RMYC office. Notices may also be communicated by e-mail.

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 Class	Warning Signal	Start Time
Cornish Shrimpers	18.10hrs	18.15hrs
Class 2 /3 yachts	18.20hrs	18.25hrs
Flying Fifteens	18.25hrs	18.30hrs
SONATA yachts	18.30hrs	18.35hrs
Class 1	18.35hrs	18.40hrs

6 CLASS FLAGS must be flown off the backstay

Class 1 yachts	Numeral Pennant 1
Class 2 yachts	Numeral Pennant 2
Class 3 yachts	Numeral pennant 3
SONATA Yachts	Code flag F Foxtrot
Flying Fifteen	Naval Numeral Pennant 6
Cornish Shrimpers	Code Flag 'Q'

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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 instructions (*List of yacht Courses No.26/2026*) and 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 and broadcast on VHF.

8.2 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.

8.3 Legs of the course will not be changed after the Preparatory Signal.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks are shown on the accompanying Appendix to these instructions, plus laminated chart.

9.2 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.

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 default **Starting Line for Class 1 Class 2 Class3 and Sonata yachts** (RM Brownsea Line) is between the white flag staff with orange flag situated on the RMYC race deck, and the seaward side of No. 16 port hand buoy on the west side of the Middle Ship Channel. The line is limited by Bell Race Mark as the Inner Distance Mark on the south east side of the Middle Ship Channel which may NOT be exactly on the line.

11.4 The alternative **Starting Line for Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 and SONATA yachts** (the RM 'Club 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. The line is limited by an Inner Distance Mark (inflatable buoy) on the south east side of North Channel, which may NOT be exactly on the line. (**For use only when announced on VHF Ch 37 (Ch M for Classes 1 / 2 / 3 and SONATA)**)

11.5 If any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line before her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to broadcast her sail number on VHF Ch.37. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress under RRS 62.1(a)

11.6 Boats whose warning signal has not been made must avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races. (**Attention is drawn to RRS 24.1 - If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing.**)

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12 THE FINISH

12.1 The **Finish Line** for all classes is between the white flag staff with the **orange** flag, situated on the RMYC race deck, and an inflatable buoy (ODM) on the north-west side of the North Channel. The Finish Line is limited by the inflatable buoy and an Inner Distance Mark on the south-east side of the North Channel, which may not be exactly on the line.

12.2 Yachts finishing are required to take their own finishing time along with where visible the identity and as accurately as may be possible the finishing time of the yacht 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 The **Time Limit** for all 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. When no yacht finishes within the time limit, the race shall be abandoned and will not be re-sailed. This changes RRS 35.

13.2 After the first boat in any class has finished, any yacht still racing may be scored by the Race Officer at her position on the race course. ('Stragglers rule') This shall **only** be at the discretion of the Race Officer. When so scored she shall be awarded a place after all boats that have sailed the course and finished, irrespective of IRC or VPRS rating. This changes RRS 28.1 and RRS 35. Whilst any boat may seek to invoke the stragglers rule by VHF, this remains solely at the discretion of the Race Officer.

13.3 In addition, if owing to lack of wind, strong tidal conditions, or the onset of darkness, the Race Officer decides to close down the Race signal position, he will instruct by VHF that the remaining competitors shall self-record their finishing times. Such times should then be forwarded by text or email to the RO/RMYC office for inclusion in the results.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 For **Class 1, Class 2 Class 3 and SONATA**: rules 44.1 and 44.2 will NOT apply. The two turns penalty is replaced by the one turn penalty

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 14:00 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 12.2 and 17.7 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 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

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16.2 The race results will be posted on the RMYC Notice Board and/or on the Club website as soon as possible after the finish.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 All yachts in **Class 1, Class 2 Class 3 and SONATA** shall comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regs Appendix 'B' inshore racing

17.3 Any yacht with an **adjustable keel** must race with the keel fully extended. During a race adjustment of the keel is not permitted.

17.4 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.

17.5 On grounds of safety, in order to avoid risk of collision with any commercial shipping that is under way, a boat may use her engine or 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.

17.6 Competitors are reminded that under Poole Harbour Bylaws, the Sandbanks Chain Ferry has right of way over all non-piloted vessels.

17.7 A yacht that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

17.8 Yacht skippers must comply with the PHC Yacht Racing Criteria (See Sailing Instruction 21)

18 EQUIPMENT CHECKS

18.1 A boat or its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and these Sailing Instructions.

19 RADIO COMMUNICATION

19.1 Communication shall be on VHF Ch. 37 (Ch.'M') or if blocked, VHF Ch. 72 shall be used. **A listening watch shall be maintained by all competitors on the above VHF frequency until either having finished racing or no longer competing.**

20 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 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,

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experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed, in date and is familiar to the crew, and;

h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims.

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 guide

**THERE WILL BE A PRE SEASON SAILORS SUPPER AT THE
RMYC ON THURSDAY THE 16TH APRIL AT 7PM**

**THERE WILL BE A MID SEASON SAILORS SUPPER ON
THURSDAY THE 25TH JUNE AFTER RACING**

16/02/26