



**2024 WESTERN PORT CHALLENGE**  
**Trailable Yachts - Keel Boats - Multihulls**  
**10th of February 2024 Hosted by Cowes Yacht Club Inc.**  
**Resail if required: 24th of February 2024**

## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1. Rules:**

- 1.1 This race conducted by Cowes Yacht Club Inc. (CYC) will be governed by:  
The ***Racing Rules of Sailing*** (RRS), except as modified by the Sailing Instructions.  
Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS).  
These Sailing Instructions.  
The Handicapping Rules of Australian Sailing (AS), except as modified by these  
Sailing Instructions.  
Class Rules of the yachts racing.

- 1.2 The Organising Authority will be the Sailing Committee of CYC. The Race Committee shall be appointed by the Sailing Committee.

### **2. Entries**

All competitors shall have signed on with Cowes Race Control (Call sign VJ3CK) on the race radio communications VHF channel 73 at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time for the race. Entrants to state: Boat Name, Division (1, 2 or 3), Sail Number, Number of People on Board and Yacht Club.

### **3. Safety Regulations**

- 3.1 All boats competing in this race must comply with Category 6 AS Special Regulations Part 1 with the following inclusions: (Below is a heading summary only, refer to the full wording of the referenced Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1)

#### Reference

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 3.07.4    | Removable hatches to have locks and lanyards  |
| 3.24.3    | Engine, permanently installed or outboard   |
| 3.24.4    | Outboard motors for trailable boats, to be mounted at all times                                     |
| 3.24.5(a) | Engine to provide minimum speed into 12 knot headwind   |
| 3.24.5(c) | Sufficient fuel for motoring at minimum speed (3.24.5(a)) to a point of safety.                     |
| 3.25(b)   | Marine VHF transceiver installed as specified (Marine 27Mhz or Marine HF only are NOT permitted)    |
| 4.21.1(a) | Lifebuoy or other approved device with drogue (self igniting light for daylight races not required) |
| 4.23.1    | Heaving line accessible to the cockpit  |

3.2 The race radio communications VHF Channel 73 must remain functional from 1 hour prior to the notified start time and for the duration of the race.

3.3 A boat that retires from the race shall notify Cowes Race Control by radio as soon as it makes its decision to retire.

3.4 In the interests of safety, the Race Committee reserves the right to postpone or abandon the event at any time.

3.5 Racing for the day will be abandoned if a Gale Force or higher warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and current on the morning the race is scheduled.

3.6 All boats should report to Cowes Race Control any observed significant circumstances that may adversely affect the safety of any of the competitors in the race.

3.7 Boats shall report to Cowes Race Control all incidents that have resulted in injury or serious damage or are of an adverse nature that could affect the safety of the boat or crew while racing. Boats involved in the incident shall lodge with the CYC an Incident Declaration at the first reasonable opportunity.

3.8 Port Rule 62B for Victorian Proclaimed Ports, including the waters of Western Port and Port of Hastings, requires small vessels IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES to keep clear of Commercial Shipping. Boats found to have contravened this Rule will be subject to Disqualification.

#### **4. Notice to Competitors**

Notice to Competitors shall be posted on the Official Notice Board at least three hours before the advertised start time and may also be displayed on the CYC website as well as being announced before racing on the race radio communications channel.

#### **5. Changes in Sailing Instructions**

Any changes to the sailing instructions shall be posted on the Official Notice Board at least three hours before the advertised start time and may also be displayed on the CYC website as well as being announced before racing on the race radio communications channels.

#### **6. Committee Vessels**

All Committee Vessels shall fly the CYC Burgee

#### **7. Courses**

7.1 Courses are detailed in Appendix A.

7.2 The course number shall be displayed on the Committee Vessel on an A4 or larger size board and relayed on the race radio communications using VHF channel 73.

7.3 Courses include a beat to windward to round a Windward mark after crossing the Start line. The rounding side of this windward mark (a yellow laid inflatable mark) shall be declared by the raising of a Red (leave to Port) or Green (leave to Starboard) flag on the Committee boat masthead prior to the first warning signal.

7.4 Course 5 start location may be relocated to an area that has more favorable conditions. In this case the Committee boat will fly Code Flag L with one sound signal as a 'follow this boat' to the new starting location. This change of start area will also be announced on VHF Channel 73.

## **8. Marks**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Start:         | Orange Inflatable buoy.  |
| Windward       | Yellow inflatable buoy.  |
| Leeward Mark   | Orange inflatable buoy.  |
| Finish:        | Purple Inflatable buoy (Courses 1,2,3,4 approx. 350m North of Cowes) Yacht Club. |
| Loelia Shoal   | Loelia Shoal BYB East Cardinal Mark  |
| B11, B13, etc: | Shipping Channel Buoys   |
| THB            | Tortoise Head YBY West Cardinal Mark   |
| Cowes:         | Orange Inflatable Buoy approx. 500m North of CYC                                 |
| Straightening  | Yellow Inflatable mark laid 500m West of CYC Finish mark                         |

Approximate mark positions are listed in Appendix B

## **9. The Start**

9.1 Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26.

9.2 All divisions will start together. The warning signal for all will be numeral pennant 1.

9.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel and the start mark. The start will be in the vicinity of Cowes Yacht Club, except for Course 5 where the start line may be relocated.

9.4 A crowding buoy may be laid off the transom of the Committee Vessel and shall be considered part of that vessel.

9.5 A boat that starts later than 15 minutes after her start time shall be scored did not start (DNS). This amends Rule 35, A4 & A5.

## **10. Recalls**

Recalls shall be signaled in accordance with Rule 29.1 or 29.2.

## **11. Shortening Course**

A shorten course will be signaled with code flag “S” flown from the host Committee Boat and on VHF Ch 73. The leading boat will then proceed directly to the finish at Cowes Yacht Club or a finish mark as notified by VHF radio. All other boats should follow the leading boat to the finish. This changes Rule 32.2.

## **12. The Finish**

12.1 The finish line for courses (1-4) will be between the CYC Race Control room and the finish mark. Course 5 finish as instructed by race control. Boats must comply with section 20 Parks Victoria 5 Knot zones.

12.2 Boats that cross the finish line after sailing the course shall be deemed to have signed off.

12.3 A boat that re-crosses the finishing line deliberately after she has finished racing may be disqualified (DSQ).

## **13. Penalties**

For all classes Rules 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required.

## **14. Time Limit**

14.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish is 6 Hours.

14.2 The time limit may be extended at the discretion of the OOD. If the time limit is to be extended, it will be announced with the course information on the race radio communications VHF channel 73.

14.3 Boats failing to finish within the time limit or within 90 minutes of the first boat in her division to finish, whichever is the later, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This amends Rules 35, A4 & A5.

## **15. Protests**

15.1 Protests shall be in writing and lodged at the CYC Office prior to 1900hrs on the day of the race. Protest forms are available at the CYC Office.

15.2 Arbitration will be considered an appropriate alternative precursor to a full protest hearing.

15.3 The notice of a protest hearing will be posted on the CYC Website prior to 1500 hrs on the first Wednesday after the race, and those involved will be contacted, informing

competitors of the date, time and location of the hearing to which they are parties or named as witnesses.

## **16. Scoring**

16.1 The Low Point Scoring System of the rules Appendix A shall apply to all races except as modified by these Sailing Instructions.

16.2 Overall Club Team Scoring: Each Club with a minimum of three finishers across all divisions will be considered for a place in the team results. To encourage greater participation a Club may enter more than the minimum number of boats and not be penalised. The calculation to determine the winning Yacht Club shall be the sum of the best three boat results across all divisions.

16.3 A division can only be eligible to be counted for the Club Team score providing 2 or more different Club affiliated boats are entered in that division.

16.4 Average points may be awarded at the discretion of the Race Committee to a competitor who has been disadvantaged through an act of sportsmanship.

## **17. Starters, Race Results, Trophies and Prizes**

17.1 Three starters in at least one division shall constitute a race.

17.2 Race Results shall be posted as soon as practicable on the CYC website and will be circulated to participating clubs. Results may also be announced in the Clubhouse.

17.3 All race results shall be considered provisional until the Trophies and Prizes are presented.

## **18. Propulsion**

A boat observed by a member of the Race Committee to have broken Rule 42 shall be Disqualified (DSQ) without a hearing.

## **19. Handicaps**

19.1 The handicap calculations will be based on the CBH system, but using the CBH ratings from previous years races. This is because Australian Sailing has published a revised set of CBH ratings, however many of the competing boats do not have a CBH assigned yet under the new system, which covers only Monohull Trailable yachts.

19.2 In the case where a published handicap does not exist for a boat or class the CYC Sailing Committee will assign a handicap.

19.3 In the case where a published handicap does exist but the boat does not comply with class rules or has been modified then CYC will assign a handicap.

19.4 The CYC Sailing Committee wish to promote fair racing and will endeavour to be impartial in assigning a handicap. Any decision by the CYC Sailing Committee decision on handicaps is final.

## **20. Parks Victoria 5 Knot zones.**

All boats must comply with the Parks Victoria 5 knot speed limits. Please refer to the Parks Victoria website (<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/-/media/project/pv/main/parks/documents/plans-and-projects/boating-zone-review/boating-swimming-zones-brochure.pdf?la=en&hash=1B3C9080A84902F8155D7C3D9FD802B5AD7F6E97>) for details of the restricted zones and signage. All racing marks are outside these zones.

## Appendix A - COURSES

All courses include a beat to windward after starting to round a Windward mark. After which boats sail the course as listed. The rounding side of this windward mark (a yellow laid inflatable mark) shall be declared by the raising of a Red (round to Port) or Green (round to Starboard) flag on the Committee boat masthead prior to the first warning signal.

**Course 1 (All rounding marks to Starboard, except for the Windward mark to be rounded as signaled by the Committee boat. The finish line will be crossed from West to East) Length approx. 13nm**

Start  
Windward  
Cowes  
B11  
B13  
THB  
Cowes  
B13  
Cowes  
B13  
Finish

**Course 2 (Rounding marks to Port, except for the Windward mark to be rounded as signaled by the Committee boat. The finish line will be crossed from East to West.) Length approx. 16.4nm**

Start  
Windward  
Loelia Shoal East Cardinal Mark  
THB  
Finish

**Course 3 (All rounding marks to Port, except for the Windward mark to be rounded as signaled by the Committee boat) Length approx. 14.7nm**

Start  
Windward  
THB  
B13  
Cowes  
THB  
Cowes  
THB  
B13  
B11  
Finish

**Course 4 (All rounding marks to Starboard, except for the Windward mark to be rounded as signaled by the Committee boat. The finish line will be crossed from West to East.) Length approx. 14nm**

Start  
Windward  
B11  
B13  
Cowes  
B13  
Cowes  
B11  
B13  
Finish

**Course 5 - The rounding side of all Windward and all Leeward marks shall be declared by the raising of a Red (round to Port) or Green (round to Starboard) flag on the Committee boat masthead prior to the first warning signal. Rounding side of Straightening mark if used will be specified by Cowes Race Control.  
Length approx. 11nm**

Start  
Windward  
Leeward  
Windward  
Leeward  
Windward  
Straightening (if required)  
Finish



## Appendix B – Approximate Mark locations

| Mark                                   | Approximate Location                                      |
|--|---|
| Start                                  | Orange inflatable laid mark.                              |
| Windward                               | Yellow inflatable laid mark to Windward of the start line |
| Leeward                                | Orange inflatable laid mark.                              |
| Ch Buoy 11                             | S38 26.714 E145 11.530                                    |
| Ch Buoy 13                             | S38 26.001 E145 13.347                                    |
| Tortoise Head West Cardinal Mark (THB) | S38 25.588 E145 15.146                                    |
| Loelia Shoal East Cardinal             | S38 28.210 E145 23.146                                    |
| Cowes Buoy                             | Orange inflatable laid approx. 500m North of CYC          |
| Finish mark (Courses 1,2,3 & 4)        | Purple inflatable laid approx. 350m North of CYC          |
| Finish Mark for Course 5               | Purple inflatable laid mark                               |
| Straightening                          | Yellow Inflatable mark to be laid if necessary.           |