



Western Port Challenge & Younger Set Western Port Challenge
for "Off the Beach" Boats
Organised by Cowes Yacht Club to be held at
Cowes Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2** The Australian Yachting Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the Beach Boats, the rules of the respective classes, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions
- 1.3** The racing rules will be modified in accordance with rule 86 as follows.
- RRS 35 Time Limits will be changed so that all boats finishing outside time limits will be scored DNF.
 - RRS 44.1 Taking a Penalty. 720° will be changed to 360° for multi-hulls.
 - RRS A4.1 Scoring. A boat starting 15 minutes later than her starting signal will be scored as DNS.
 - RRS 61.1(a). The red flag exemption applies to all boats.
 - RRS 66. The time allowed for a request to reopen a hearing is reduced to 30 minutes.
- 1.4** Appendix T Arbitration shall apply.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board(s) located on the lower level of the club house.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not less than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the Warning Signal for the first start.
- 3.2** An information session will be held on the day of the race 1 hour before the scheduled start time.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole on the tower of the club house.
- 4.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in the race signal AP.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 The warning signal for the first start will be at **13:00** on **13th January 2024**.
Re-sail (if necessary): 21st January 2024, First Warning Signal at **13:00**.

5.2 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 five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6 DIVISIONS

The race will be conducted in Divisions. The Divisions and their respective flags are:

Division	Hull Type	Yardstick	Numeral Pennant
Division 1	Multihulls	Less than 88	One
Division 2	Multihulls	88 and above	Two
Division 3	Monohulls	Less than 119	Three
Division 4	Monohulls	119 to less than 131	Four
Division 5	Monohulls	131 and above	Five

7 RACING AREAS

7.1 The racing area will be on the waters of Western Port in the vicinity of the Cowes Yacht Club.

7.2 The racing area lies within the proclaimed commercial shipping zone of Western Port and small vessels IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES are required to keep clear of Commercial Shipping. Boats found to have contravened this Rule will be subject to disqualification.

7.3 Yachts must not exceed 5 knots within the Parks Victoria 5 knot inshore regulated zones. The zone boundaries are marked by Parks Victoria 5 knot yellow buoys. This restriction includes while racing and all boats transiting to and from the Cowes shore. Boats found to have contravened this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The course is triangular. The diagrams in Attachment A show the course, including: the approximate angles between legs; the order in which marks are to be passed

8.2 Courses may be shortened, in which case Flag S will be displayed by an Official boat in the vicinity of a rounding mark. The flag for each Division for which the course is shortened will be displayed before the leading boat of that Division rounds or passes the mark, accompanied by two sound signals. Sound signals will be made for each group of boats approaching the mark. Boats of that Division will complete the course as shortened for the leading boat by rounding or passing that mark and then proceeding to the finish line in accordance with instruction SI13. An Flag "S" displayed with no Division flags will mean that the course has been shortened for all divisions. This changes RRS 32.2

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks 1, 2 and 3 will be either orange or yellow inflatable buoys according to the course to be sailed. An orange cone shaped inflatable buoy will be used where it is closest to shore to enable distinction between Victorian Parks yellow 5 knot buoys 200 meters from shore. The remaining course marks will be yellow cylindrical inflatable buoys.

9.2 The starting mark will be buoy 3.

9.3 The finishing mark will be mainly white (& black cheques) buoy with a "purple hen" logo.

10 TIDES

Tide times for Cowes are:-

Saturday 13th January 2024

Low Water: 08:38; High Water: 14:23

Sunday 21st January 2024

High Water: 08:38; Low Water: 14:45

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26, except that the warning signal is given 3 minutes before the first starting signal, and the preparatory signal at two minutes before the starting signal. Each start will be the warning signal for the next start. This changes RRS 26

11.2 Races will be started in the order of divisions 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1.

11.3 In the interest of timely racing, some divisions may be combined into one start.

11.4 The starting line will be near mark 3 and be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end, and buoy 3 at the port end. The race committee boat may stream a barging buoy, which will be considered an extension of the race committee boat.

11.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other divisions.

11.6 A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS A5.1.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 No changes to the course will be made after the preparatory signal of the first division starting. This changes RRS 33.

13 THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing mark (Mark F) will be as described in SI 9.3. The finishing line will be in the vicinity of Mark 3 and will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Start Boat, and Mark F.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1** For the Multi Hulls RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 15.1** The time limit for a division is three (3) hours after the start of that division, or 60 minutes after the first boat in that division finishes, whichever is later. All boats finishing outside these time limits will be scored "Did Not Finish". This changes RRS 35 and RRS A5.1.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1** Protest forms are available at the race office, located at the race office of Cowes Yacht Club. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 16.2** The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the last boat has finished.
- 16.3** 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. These notices will also be communicated on that day for posting on the notice boards of participating clubs whose members are named in the protest. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the race office of Cowes Yacht Club, beginning at the time posted. Competitors and witnesses named may participate by phone.
- 16.4** Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 16.5** Breaches of instructions SI11.5, SI17, SI18, SI20 and SI21 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.
- 16.6** A request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes RRS 66.

17 SCORING

- 17.1** The course for each division is a specified number of laps of the triangular course.
- 17.2** Each boat's Yardstick Corrected Time will then be corrected to 4 laps.
- 17.3** A Multi-Hull Correction Factor will be calculated using the fastest 5 monohulls and 5 multi-hulls.
- 17.4** The Scoring for each boat entered will be as follows:
DNC will not be included as an entrant.
DNS, OCS, DNF, RET, DSQ, BFD, UFD and NSC will be allocated a corrected time equal to the last boat overall.

- 17.5** Each club's score will be average of its Yardstick Corrected Times excluding times of
1 boat for every 3 boats after 7, then exclude 1 boat for every 2 boats after 28 starters.
e.g. 6 (0 drop), 7-9 (1 drop), 10-12 (2 drops), 13-15 (3 drops), 16-18 (4 drops), 19-21 (5 drops), 22-24 (6 drops), 25-27 (7 drops), 28-29 (8 drops), 30-31 (drops), 32-33 (10 drops), 34-35 (11 drops), cont...
- 17.7** Entrants of clubs that cannot field a team of sufficient numbers to qualify for a team score, may nominate another club for their scores to contribute to as a joint result. This must be indicated on individual entries.
- 17.8** The Club or joint club team with six (6) or more entrants and the lowest average time is the winner. A club that has less than six (6) boats rank as entrants will not qualify as a Club entry, but the boats will be eligible for individual prizes.
- 17.9** For those also entered in the Younger Set Western Port Challenge the Yardstick Corrected Times will be calculated as in SI17.1, SI17.2, SI17.3 and SI17.4.
- 17.10** For the Younger Set Western Port Challenge, each club's score will be the average of its Yardstick Corrected Times excluding times discarded as follows:-
- | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Entrants | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11+ |
| Drops | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | all over 6 |
- 17.11** The Club with 3 or more entrants and the lowest average time is the winner. If less than three (3) boats rank as starting for a Club, that Club will not qualify for the Younger Set Challenge.
- 18 SAFETY REGULATIONS**
- 18.1** Each club will assign a "Home Race Officer" (HRO).
- 18.2** The HRO will ensure any boats sailing to the host club have signed at their club before sailing to the host club for the race. Also the HRO will ensure that all boats who signed on have returned and signed off. The HRO will inform the host Club Race Officer that all boats have returned and signed off.
- 18.3** Sign on ashore at the host club or at their home club is required for all entrants.
- 18.4** All Boats, including those that retire, are required to sign off at the end of the race, by:
a) signing the Sign Off sheet at the Cowes Yacht Club within 30 minutes of the last boat to finish; or
b) making a verbal declaration to an Official Boat flying a blue flag lying to windward of the finishing mark. This must be done by sailing close to and hailing the Official Boat and ensuring that a clear acknowledgement is received back from that boat. The acknowledgement will comprise the sail number of the boat signing off being repeated and the raising of code flag 'C'.

This alternative does not apply to any protesting boat, or a boat subject to protest. These boats must proceed ashore and Sign Off.

18.5 A boat which fails to sign on or sign off in accordance with this SI18 may be scored DNF at the discretion of the Host Club Race Officer

18.6 Before the race, the Host Club Race Officer will check that all entered boats from each club have signed on. After the race the Host Club Race Officer will remain on duty until each club confirms that all competitors from that club have returned.

19 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will fly the Cowes Yacht Club Burgee.

20 RUBBISH DISPOSAL

Rubbish may be placed aboard official boats.

21 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

22 PRIZES

Prizes will be presented at the next AGM of Cowes Yacht Club as follows:

22.1 The Western Port Challenge perpetual shield to the winning club.

22.2 The Younger Set Western Port Challenge Perpetual Trophy to the winning club of the Younger Set race.

22.3 The Rod Johnson Memorial Trophy. This will be awarded to the club with the best all junior crew. Requires a minimum of three boats and all crew members must be under 16 years.

22.4 The overall winner of divisions 1 and 2 will be awarded the Western Port Challenge Multi-hull perpetual shield.

22.5 The overall winner of divisions 3, 4 and 5 will be awarded the Western Port Challenge Mono-hull perpetual shield.

22.6 For each division, in both the Western Port Challenge and the Western Port Younger Set Challenge, individual prizes will be awarded to each of the crew in a boat, subject to the number of boats in a division as follows:

a) if there are 5 boats or more -first, second and third;

b) if there are 4 boats -first and second;

c) if there are 3 boats-first only.

There will be no individual prize if there are less than three boats in a division

22.7 Individual prizes will be awarded to each of the crew of the leading boat with a lady skipper, and each of the crew of the leading boat with a junior skipper (under 16 on the day of the race).

23 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

23.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

23.2 Each competitor should note the indemnity that is granted to the Host Yacht Club and the Organizing Authority on completing the Entry Form.

24 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

ATTACHMENT A

Course

Division 1 Start-123-123-123-123-F(Finish)

Division 2 Start-123-123-123-F (Finish)

Division 3 Start-123-123-123-F (Finish)

Division 4 Start-123-123-F (Finish)

Division 5 Start-123-F (Finish)

Marks 1, 2, 3 will be kept to port. Mark F will be kept to starboard. For the avoidance of doubt, Mark F will not be a mark of the course until the finish.

