

IUSA Student Yachting Nationals

28th & 29th March 2026

Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG (HYC) in association with the Irish University Sailing Association (IUSA)

1. Rules

1.1. The races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing and the HYC J80 rules.

1.1 Appendix UF will apply. See Addendum UF to these SI.

1.2 RRS 61.4 (b)(1), (2) and (3) are deleted.

1.3 (NP) denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

2. Changes to Sailing Instructions

2.1 Changes to the SI will be posted before 0900 hrs on the day they take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hrs on the day before it will take effect.

2.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of SI 3.1, changes to the SI may be instructed orally on the water, including by VHF on the channel designated for the event. Such oral changes will be communicated to each boat before the Warning Signal of the race for which the change takes effect. This includes changes to the Race Schedule.

3. Communications with Competitors

3.1 The Official Notice Board is located beside the Marina Office on the ground floor.

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4. Code of Conduct

4.1 (DP) Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from the Race Officials

5. Signals Made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of the marina ramp

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore “one minute” is replaced with “not less than 45 minutes” in race signal AP. This changes Race Signals.

Boats are requested not to leave the harbour until flag AP is lowered. This changes Race Signals.

6. Schedule of Races

6.1 Five races are intended for each flight in the qualifying series. Eight races are intended for the final.

6.2 The flight list for the flights will be announced at the competitor briefing.

6.3 The top two teams from each flight in the qualifying series will progress to the final series.

6.4 The best third placed team out of both flights may progress to the final series.

6.5 Race scores of the qualifying teams will not be carried forward to the final series.

6.6 There will be a draw for boats to be used in the final series. There will be no boat changes in the final series.

6.7 In order to conclude the event, the Race Committee may change or terminate any part of the format at any reasonable time taking into account the entries, weather, time constraints and other relevant factors.

6.8 Refer to Addendum B for Schedule of Races.

6.9 The scheduled time for the warning signal of the first race is 1000 hrs on both days.

6.10 The Warning Signal of a race will not be made after 1600 hrs on Sunday 30th March except for postponements, general recalls and abandonment of a race where the first warning signal was made before 1600 hrs.

7. Class Flags

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7.1 The class flag will be Code Flag Q.

7.2 Before the Warning Signal the Race Committee will signal the sail combination to be used. The signals shall have the following meaning.

Flag 'A': Jib, full main and spinnaker

Flag 'B': Jib, reefed main and spinnaker

Flag 'C': Jib and reefed main only (no spinnaker)

This information may also be relayed by VHF radio

8. Racing Area

8.1 The race area will be North of Howth Harbour.

9. Courses

9.1 The diagram in Addendum A shows the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be passed. No later than the Warning Signal the Race Committee will indicate which course is to be sailed.

10. Marks

10.1 Rounding marks will be large orange buoys.

10.2 The starting/finishing mark will be a dan buoy.

10.3 To protect the integrity of the course, the Race Committee, at its sole discretion, may amend the position of the marks without signalling. This changes RRS.33.

11. Obstructions (DP, NP)

11.1 Fishing vessels and other powered craft have the right of way in the channels leading into and through Howth Harbour. Competitors shall keep clear of all such craft and in the event of any competitor breaching this requirement they may be excluded from the event or have such a lesser penalty imposed as deemed appropriate by the PC.

11.2 The attention of competitors is drawn to the existence of underwater hazards in the vicinity of Ireland's Eye, Howth Sound and the Spit Bank. Should they choose to sail amongst these hazards, they do so at their own risk. Howth Yacht Club CLG. The Race Management and Organising Committee accept no responsibility for the consequences of any such deviations from the set courses.

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12. The Start

- 12.1 The Warning Signal shall be given three minutes before the Starting Signal. The Preparatory Signal shall be given two minutes before the Starting Signal. The One Minute Signal shall be given one minute before the Starting Signal. This changes RRS26.
- 12.2 The starting line will be between a red and white pole on the RC vessel and the starting mark.
- 12.3 The Race Committee may broadcast individual and general recalls on VHF. Failure to make or receive a broadcast shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4 (b)(1).
- 12.4 A boat shall not start later than three minutes after her Starting Signal.

13. Not Used

14. The Finish

- 14.1 The finishing line shall be between the main mast of the Committee Vessel, displaying a blue flag, and the finishing mark.
- 14.2 Should the Race Officer wish to shorten a race to finish upwind or downwind at the finish line it will be signalled by displaying code flag "F" from a RC vessel adjacent to the preceding mark, accompanied by repeated sound signals. This changes RRS 32.1.

15. Penalty System

- 15.1 Racing will be umpired as described in Addendum UF of these sailing instructions.

16. Time Limit

- 16.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish shall be 45 minutes.
- 16.2 Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 16.3 After the first boat has sailed the course and finished, the Race Committee may offer a finishing position to the last placed boat still racing. The boat will be scored as if her position in the race at the moment the offer is made is her finishing place. A boat is not obliged to accept such an offer. A boat that accepts the place offered will immediately sail to the start/finish line and not continue in the race. The Race Committee may repeat this process with the next and subsequent boats. This changes RRS 35 and A4.

17. 17 Hearing Requests

- 17.1 See Addendum UF 5 to these SI.

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18. Scoring

- 18.1 The Low Points scoring system RRS Appendix A will apply.
- 18.2 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores in each series. The final series will be a stand alone series. No scores shall be excluded.
- 18.3 If it is not possible to sail the final series, the winner and runner up may be determined on the basis of the best scoring crews from the qualifying series.

19. Safety Regulations (NP)

- 19.1 Personal Floatation Devices shall be worn at all times by competitors whilst afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal floatation devices. ICF 'Y' will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40.
- 19.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

20. Replacement of Crew or Equipment

- 20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is only permitted due to injury or illness and is only permitted with prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 20.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee or Bosun. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

21. Not used

22. Supplied Boats

- 22.1 Boats will be supplied by the OA. See SI Addendum C.

23 – 28 Not used

29. Prizes

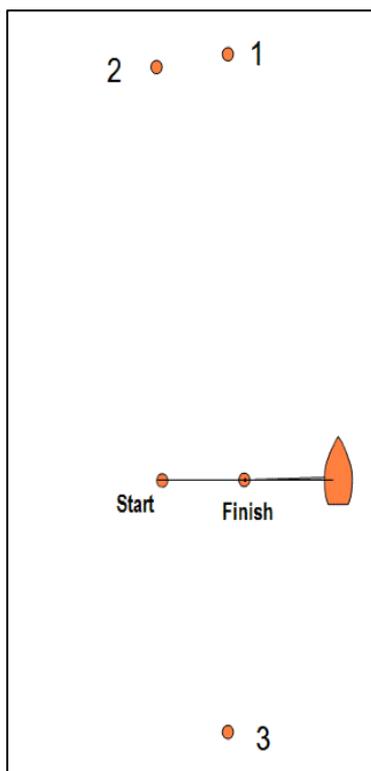
- 29.1 Prizes will be awarded to the first three teams.
- 29.2 Irish Sailing medals will be awarded to the first three teams.

30. Risk Statement

- 30.1 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."
- 30.2 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 to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race."

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Addendum A: COURSES



All rounding marks to be left to port.

- One lap course - Code Flag 1 displayed

Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish

- Two lap course - Code Flag 2 displayed

Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish

- Three lap course - Code Flag 3 displayed

Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish

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Addendum B: SCHEDULE OF RACES

Flight numbers will be drawn at Competitors' Briefing.

Rankings will be decided prior to the event by the IUSA Committee

Qualifying Series

Flight 1	Flight 2
Team 1	Team 2
Team 3	Team 4
Team 5	Team 6
Team 7	Team 8
Team 9	Team 10

Final Series

Final
Winner Flight 1
Winner Flight 2
Runner Up Flight 1
Runner Up Flight 2
Lowest Scoring 3 rd Placed Boat

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Addendum C: BOATS SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANISING AUTHORITY

Breaches of these rules will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification.

C.1 Boats shall not be modified or caused to be modified in any way.

The following are NOT PERMITTED:

(a) No changes shall be made to any standing rigging (e.g. rig settings, forestay length or spreaders)

(b) Cross-winchng of foresail sheets.

(c) Sheeting foresails directly to a winch.

(d) Control of the boom using anything other than the mainsheet or kicking strap.

(e) Marking of the hull, deck, sails or equipment.

(f) Perforating any sail.

(g) Cleaning of hulls, keels and rudders.

(h) Electronic compasses, TackTicks or sailing aids of any type. Boats are to be sailed “as supplied”.

C.2 Only equipment and sails provided with the boat may be used.

C.3 Bowsprits: To extend the bowsprit, a boat shall be in the process of either a continuous hoist, flying or a continuous retrieval of the gennaker. At all other times the bowsprit shall be retracted

C.4 Reefing: All boats shall reef mainsails when the race committee display signals as per the SI. Reefs shall remain in place until the end of the race.

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C.5 Holding out the jib with feet is permitted. Shrouds cannot be held above bottlescrews while holding jib out with feet.

C.6 Competitors shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the OA's representative or protest committee immediately after the race where the damage occurred. The penalty for breaking this SI may be disqualification from the race(s) in question, unless the protest committee or OA is satisfied that the competitor made a determined effort to comply.

C.7 Contact between boats is prohibited.

C.8 The boats shall be properly derigged and left in a tidy condition, as per the provided laminated instruction sheet on each boat.

C.9 Rubbish should be removed and disposed of/recycled in the recycling centre at the top of the marina bridge. The Protest Committee may apply a Discretionary Penalty to the team which last used the boat if this rule is broken.

C1.10 Class rules requiring competitors to be members of the class association do not apply.