



# Howth 17-Footer Association

## 2025 National Championships

### 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025



1898

#### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG

1. **RULES**

The event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Irish Sailing prescriptions, the Class Rules and the Sailing Regulations of Howth Yacht Club (where relevant).  
Topsails are not permitted for the Friday Race.

2. **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any changes to the SIs will be posted not later than 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first race on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 20.00 hrs. on the day before it will take effect, subject to the provisions of SI 6. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to ensure that they have apprised themselves of any such alterations.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

The Race Officer may communicate with competitors on VHF Channel 77. All boats will be deemed to have a functioning VHF radio aboard and to be maintaining a radio watch on Ch 77 each day from 5 mins prior to the scheduled time of the first gun until returning to the Harbour after the completion of racing.

4. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials.

5. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole beside the top of the HYC Marina bridge

5.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced by 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP

6. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

Races are scheduled as follows:

Date	First Warning Signal	High Water
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	18:55 – 1 race	11.51
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	10:25 – 3 races	12.31
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August – layday to allow completion, if required, of sufficient races to constitute the Championship.	10.25	13.11

A maximum of 4 races may be sailed on Saturday, subject to the total number of Championship races not exceeding four. The Race Officer may hold more than the scheduled number of races (3) on Saturday and this intent will be indicated by displaying International Code Flag E on the Committee Boat during the finish of the last scheduled race.

Races started from the Committee Vessel will be held back to back. For the second and subsequent race each day, the Committee Vessel may make repeated sound signals to signify an intent to display a Warning Signal.

Two races shall constitute the Championship. Should there be fewer than two races completed by Saturday evening there shall be racing on the Sunday, conditions permitting, to bring the total number of races completed up to at least two. One discard shall be allowed when four races have been completed.

7. **CLASS FLAG**

The Class Flag is International Code Flag C

8. **RACING AREA**

The race area will be in the usual racing waters for HYC club races.

9. **COURSES**

9.1 The race scheduled for Friday evening shall be a normal Club course selected from the current HYC Tuesday Pier Start course card, with an East Pier start and finish. (See Howth Yacht Club Sailing Regulations and current Course Card).

9.2 The Saturday races are scheduled to be sailed on either Windward /Leeward or Triangular/Olympic type courses with a Committee Vessel start and finish.

9.3 Windward/Leeward courses shall be Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 - 3 – Finish (2 rounds), unless shortened. The flying of International Code Flag W from the Committee Vessel will signal Windward/Leeward courses. See Addendum A.

9.4 Triangular/Olympic courses shall be Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish, unless shortened. The display of International Code Flag O from the Committee Vessel will signal Triangular/Olympic courses. See Addendum A

9.5 Races will be sailed ‘back to back’ with races subsequent to the first each day being started as soon as is feasible after conclusion of the preceding one.

9.6 The course for any race or races to be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> will be decided by the Race Officer. A course may be either a normal Club course with an East Pier start and finish or it may be a Windward/ Leeward or Triangular/Olympic course as described in SI 9.3 and SI 9.4. The Race Officer will post the information on the Official Notice Board not later than 90 minutes before the scheduled time of the first Warning Signal and may notify the fleet on VHF Channel 77.

9.7 Where any race is being sailed using a Pier Start course selected from the HYC Tuesday Pier Start course card, the start and finish lines shall be as per that Course Card unless a race is shortened at a mark of the course.

10. **MARKS (COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS)**

Black inflatable marks will be used for marks 1, 2 and 3, an Orange Dan buoy as the Outer Distance Mark for starting and a Red/Orange cherry buoy as the Outer Distance Mark for finishing.

11. **THE START (COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS)**

The Starting line will be between the red and white pole (or main mast) displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel and the Outer Distance Mark which shall be left to port when starting.

A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4, A5.1 and A5.2

12. **THE FINISH (FOR COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS)**

Except when a race is shortened at a mark of the course, the finishing line will be between the red and white pole (or main mast) on the Committee Vessel displaying a blue flag, (except where a race is being

shortened at a rounding mark when the S flag will replace the Blue), and the Outer Distance Mark. In the event of a RIB being used to finish a race, the line shall be from a vertical staff on the vessel marking one end of the line.

Note. The Start Outer Distance Mark for the next race may be laid at the time of the finish.

13. **CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

The Race Committee may relocate marks during a race without signalling a change in course. This changes RRS 33.

14. **SHORTENING COURSE (Committee Vessel Starts)**

The course may be shortened for any reason at the discretion of the Race Officer in accordance with RRS 32.2. If a race is to be shortened to finish at the start/finish line, rather than at a mark of the course, it will be signalled by displaying International Code Flag 'F' from a RIB stationed close to a mark on the course, accompanied by repeated sound signals. When the 'F' signal is made in the vicinity of Marks 1 and 2, then Mark 2 shall be the last mark rounded. After rounding the mark at which the F signal is displayed, boats shall sail directly from the mark to the start/finish line and cross it from the direction of the last mark rounded. This changes the RRS Race Signals.

15. **PENALTY SYSTEM**

RRS 44.1 (Taking a penalty) is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by a One-Turn Penalty

16. **TIME LIMITS**

The Race Time Limit (see RRS 35) and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below

Date	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	20:45	20 minutes
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Not applicable	20 minutes
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Not applicable	20 minutes

The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing.

A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

17. **HEARING REQUESTS**

- 17.1 In addition to the obligations in RRS 60, protesting boats shall, immediately after finishing, inform the Race Committee member on the Finishing Boat of the sail number(s) of boats protested against.
- 17.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 17.3 Hearing request forms are available in the Marina Office
- 17.4 Notices will be posted on the Marina Notice Board within 30 minutes of the expiry of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Boyd Room.

18. **SCORING**

The scoring system shall be as per RRS Appendix A4.1- Low Point System except that A5.2 is replaced by the following wording:

*A boat that came to the starting area but did not sail the course, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area.  
A boat that did not come to the starting area shall score one point more than the number of boats entered for the Championship.*

See also SI 16 re scoring for TLE results.

When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

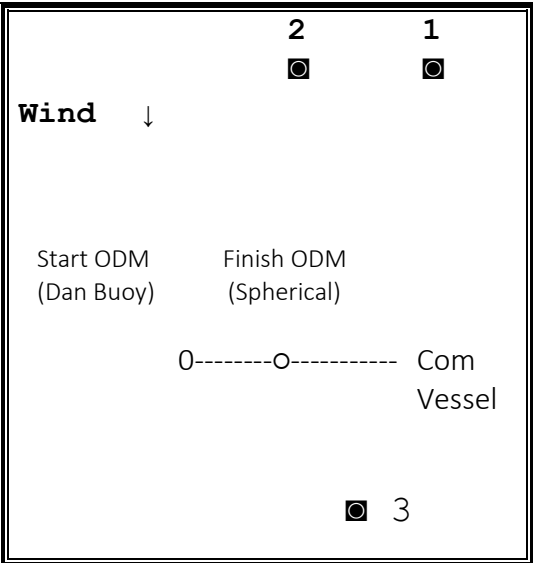
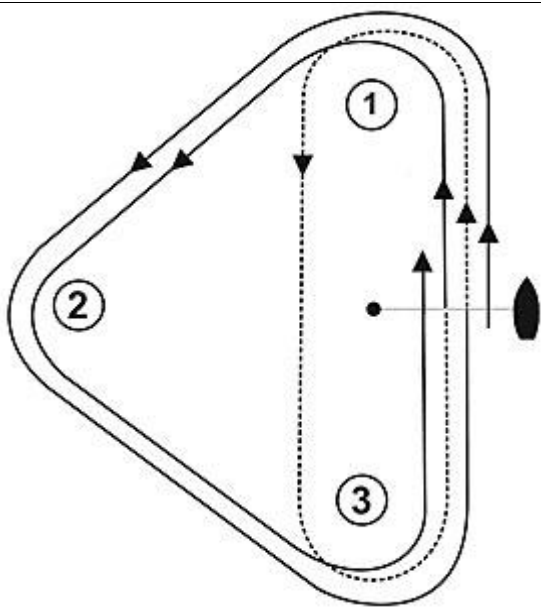
When four races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst excludable score.

19. **PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded per Notice of Race Cl 24.

**ADDENDUM A**

**All marks shall be left to port. Diagrams are indicative and not to scale.**

Windward / Leeward Course	Triangular/Olympic Course
	
Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish (2 rounds)	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish