



## Summer Dinghy Racing 2026

### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG, hereinafter referred to as the 'Club'.
- The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- The notation [DP] in a rule means that the penalty imposed by the Protest Committee for a breach of that rule will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee, as per RRS 64.
- There shall be no race for a Class unless two or more boats rank as starters by sailing in the vicinity of the starting area during the starting sequence.

#### 1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing ('RRS').
- 1.2 One-design boats shall be governed by the relevant Class Rules.
- 1.3 The Irish Sailing prescriptions will apply and can be found at:  
[www.sailing.ie/Library/racing#worldsailinglibrary](http://www.sailing.ie/Library/racing#worldsailinglibrary)

#### 2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1900 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to the schedule will be posted on the official Notice Board not less than two hours before the start time of the first race so affected. The change may be notified by email or text message to all sailors who have entered.

#### 3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board online at <https://www.hyc.ie/club-events>

#### 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 from the flag-pole at the top of the marina ramp.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes RRS 'Race Signals'. Boats are requested not to leave the harbour until flag AP is lowered.

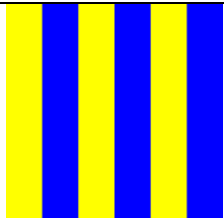
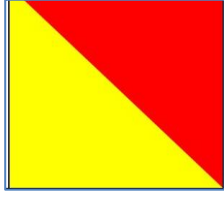

#### 6. SCHEDULE OF RACES & CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 Racing is scheduled to take place each Thursday starting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and finishing on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026. **There will be no racing on July 16<sup>th</sup>.**

---

FINAL	Sailing Instructions - 1	27.04.2026
-------	--------------------------	------------

6.2 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for the first race each day is 19.00, with subsequent starts from 19.10 at 3 min intervals. Where possible, it is proposed to sail up to three races for the PY fleet and two races for the other Classes each day depending on conditions. Races subsequent to the first race for each Class will be started as soon as practicable following the completion of the prior race (or expiry of its time limit).

Start Sequence	Class	Flag	
1	PY	Flag G	
2	Optimist	Flag O	
3	Scouts	Flag A	


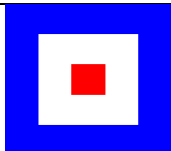

## 7. RACE AREA

The race area is west of Howth Harbour, south of Ireland's Eye and north of Claremont beach.

## 8. COURSES

8.1 Course type for each Class to be signalled by flag – T for all Triangles, W for Windward-Leeward and R for Olympic type (Triangle-Sausage mix). The flag indicating the course type shall be displayed not later than the Preparatory signal for the Class it applies to. This changes RRS 27.1.

8.2 The respective course layouts are indicated on the diagrams below.

	T: Triangle Course
	W: Windward – Leeward Course
	R: Olympic Course

8.3 The number of laps for each Class will be displayed on the Committee Vessel following its Warning Signal and shall be displayed for not less than 2 minutes before the start. This changes RRS 27.1.

8.4 All marks shall be left to Port.

8.5 Marks shall be rounded in the sequence below per lap for each course type – see the diagrams below for indicative mark locations. On completion of the required number of laps, boats shall proceed from the last mark to the finish

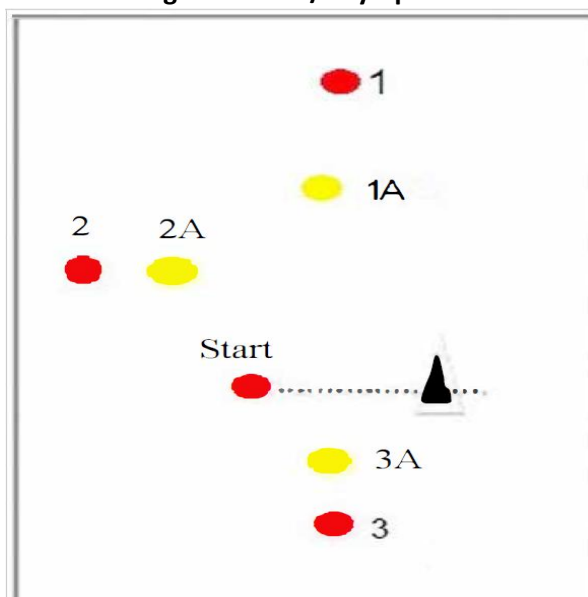
Triangle - T	Windward Leeward - W	Olympic - R
Start	Start	Start
Lap 1 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 1 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 1 : 1 - 2 - 3
Lap 2 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 2 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 2 : 1 - 3
Lap 3 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 3 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 3 : 1 - 2 - 3
Lap 4 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 4 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 4 : 1 - 3
Lap 5 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 5 : 1 - 2 - 3	Lap 5 : 1 - 2 - 3

All marks are to be left to port.

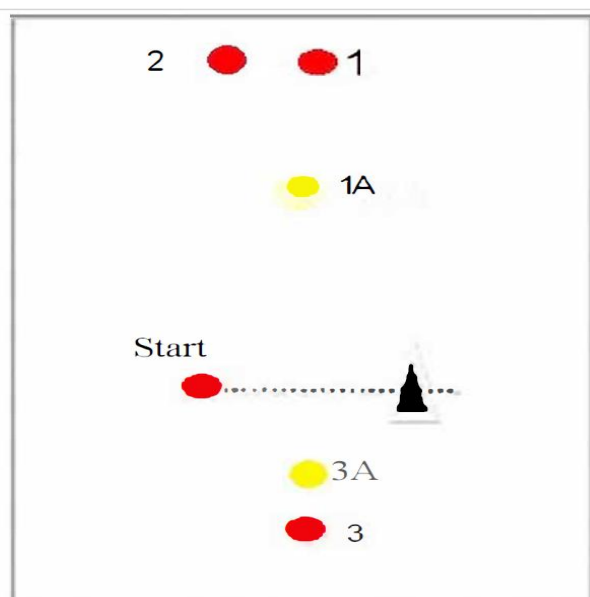
Finish after number of laps indicated at the Committee Vessel.

- **PY Class to use Marks 1, 2 and 3.**
- **Note: a leeward Gate maybe laid as 3(1) and 3(2) in lieu of 3. If laid, boats shall pass through the gate before proceeding to mark 1.**
- **Optimist and Scouts Classes to use Marks 1A, 2A and 3A.**

Triangle Course / Olympic Course



Windward-Leeward Course



## 9. MARKS

Marks will normally be red/orange buoys for the PY fleet and yellow buoys for the Optimist fleet. Start and finish marks will be common to both fleets.

## 10. OBSTRUCTIONS

[NP] [DP] Howth Harbour and the Sound are deemed to be “confined channel’s” and trawlers, commercial vessels, yachts and similar craft constrained in their ability to manoeuvre shall be kept clear of by sailing boats. Accordingly:

- When entering and leaving the harbour, boats competing in Club racing shall pass other vessels PORT-TO-PORT.

(ii) Boats shall not impede trawlers, commercial vessels or other large yachts or powered craft that are constrained in their ability to manoeuvre whilst in Howth Sound, the Harbour Entrance and the Fairways to the Trawler Dock and the HYC Marina areas.

## 11. THE START

- 11.1 There shall be no race unless two or more boats rank as starters by sailing in the vicinity of the starting area between their Warning and Starting signals.
- 11.2 The starting line shall be between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel and an Outer Distance Mark, an orange buoy, which shall be left to port when starting.
- 11.3 Starting Sequence: Warning Signal as per Sailing Instruction 6.2 Races will be started using the 3-2-1-0 starting sequence. This changes RRS rule 26.
- 11.4 Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their Warning Signal.
- 11.5 Boats having started shall keep clear of the starting line while other starts are in progress.
- 11.6 A boat that does not start within ten minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 11.7 The Race Committee may, at its discretion, amalgamate starts to expedite racing. This shall be signalled by the simultaneous display of the Class flags of those Classes that are to start together.
- 11.8 Where the Race Committee designates specific designs of boats competing as part of the PY Class to be 'Slow PY' (e.g. RS Feva) and advises them of their designation prior to racing, they shall sail one lap less than the PY course signalled, which shall be for the 'Fast PY' boats (e.g. Melges, RS800, RS Aero, etc.). The corrected times for the 'Slow' boats will be adjusted subsequently to reflect the shorter distance sailed by them.

## 12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

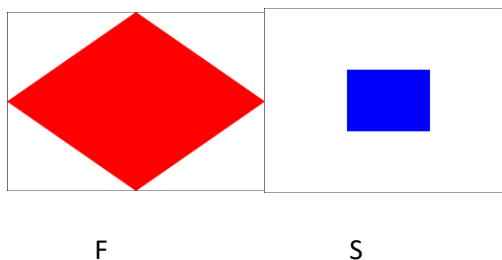
To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position without the procedures set out in RRS 33. This changes RRS 33.

## 13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line shall be a line between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel displaying a blue flag - and an orange Finish Mark.
- 13.2 Boats, having finished, shall not re-cross their own finishing line in the opposite direction.

## 14. Shortening Course / Abandonment / Postponement

- 14.1 If the race is to be shortened at the Start/Finish line, Flag F shall be displayed with repetitive sounds at a Mark on the Course. Having rounded this mark, boats shall proceed directly to the Finish Line. This changes RRS 32.2.
- 14.2 A race may also be shortened at a course mark from a patrol vessel or Committee Vessel, which will display Flag S flag and two sound signals. The finishing line shall be between the S flag and the relevant mark.
- 14.3 Flag S displayed alone signals that all races not finished shall be shortened, Flag S displayed superior to Class flags signals that races for the relevant Classes are shortened.



## 15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 The time limit is 55 minutes per race for all Classes.
- 15.2 After the first boat has finished, the Race Officer may offer a finishing position to the boat still racing in last place. The finishing position offered will be the total of the number of boats finished and still racing (including the offeree). Where a boat is racing in the PY Class, the offer will be of a finishing time reflecting the boat's position at the time with reference to other boats in the PY Class. A boat is not obliged to accept such an offer unless it is the last boat still racing. The Race Officer is not obliged to make such an offer. A boat that accepts such an offer will immediately cease racing, and the Race Officer may repeat this process with the next boat. The offer may be made via patrol boat or support boat personnel. This changes RRS 35 and A4.
- 15.3 A boat failing to finish within 10 minutes of the first boat in her Class will be scored the place of the last boat finishing within the time limit, plus one point. For the PY Class, when boats are assigned to Fast and Slow groups within the Class, the time cut-off shall be measured from the first finisher in a boat's group. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.1.

## 16. SCORING ENQUIRIES AND HEARING REQUESTS (PROTEST AND REDRESS)

- 16.1. **Scoring enquiries** shall be submitted via the online portal at: -  
[https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/scoring\\_inquiries/new?event\\_id=13559](https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/scoring_inquiries/new?event_id=13559)
- 16.2. **Protests and Redress requests** shall be submitted via the online portal at: -  
[https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests/new?event\\_id=13559](https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests/new?event_id=13559)
- 16.3. Unless otherwise specified for a particular race, the Protest Time Limit for an incident relating to a race is 20:00 on the day after the race was started or the Race Committee signalled no more racing.
- 16.4. Protests for dinghy Classes will normally be heard in the Clubhouse on Friday evening in the week after the race concerned, the time to be advised. Where this is not possible, an alternative arrangement will be notified to the parties.

## 17. SCORING

- 17.1 The scoring system shall be as per RRS Appendix A – Low Point System. Rule A5.3 will apply.
- 17.2 One discard is allowed for every three races completed.

## 18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 [NP] Competitors will be required to comply with a tally system to record boats going afloat to race and returning ashore later. Each helm will be allocated a number and shall take the tally for that number off a board, bring it afloat and return it on coming ashore. Any boat failing to comply with the requirement will incur a three-point addition to its score for each of the races completed while it is in breach, subject to their total score in any race as a result of the points addition not exceeding the score for a boat that 'Did Not Finish'. This changes Appendix A4.1 and A5.
- 18.2 Competitors participate in the series entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. Neither Howth Yacht Club CLG, the Race Committee, nor the Organising Committee, including those individuals who comprise them, are liable for loss of or damage to boats or equipment, or for death or injury to competitors.
- 18.3 Competitors shall wear lifejackets or suitable personal flotation devices at all times. Wet suits and dry suits are not suitable personal flotation devices. RRS 40.1 will therefore apply in accordance with 40.2(c).
- 18.4 The attention of all competitors is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1. 'Helping Those in Danger'.
- 18.5 Boats shall keep clear of Race Committee vessels manoeuvring (committee boat, mark laying boats, patrol boats).

- 18.6 All boats shall have a painter, with minimum diameter of 6 mm and at least 3 metres in length, made fast to the bow and readily accessible to persons rendering assistance from another boat.
- 18.7 Competitors shall co-operate with patrol boat crew and should accept their advice.
- 18.8 A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee of its retirement as soon as possible.

**19. SAIL NUMBERS**

Sails shall have the correct sail number clearly displayed on both sides in accordance with Class Rules. Permission from the race committee shall be requested in writing before each day's racing should a competitor wishes to sail under a different number from that under which he / she is entered.

**20. PRIZES**

See Notice of Race 13.

**21. RISK STATEMENT**

- 21.1 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.'
- 21.2 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."

**22. INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate, valid, third-party liability insurance cover inclusive of a racing risks extension.