



# Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club

## 2024-2025 Racing Season

### Inshore Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority is the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club Incorporated (RPNYC)  
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NB: The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation '[NP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

## 1 RULES

- 1.1 All racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 [DP][NP]The Wellington Regional Council Navigation and Safety Bylaws will apply.
  - (a) There shall be a moving prohibited zone extending to 100m astern and 100m to each side, and continuing at such width to 500m ahead, of every vessel larger than 500 GRT.
  - (b) A boat shall be disqualified without a hearing if a vessel larger than 500 GRT reports to the Organising Authority, to the harbour master, or to Maritime New Zealand, that the boat has either:
    - (i) entered her moving prohibition zone; or
    - (ii) impeded her navigation (including but not limited to requiring her to take avoiding action).
- 1.3 Spinnakers and multi-purpose sails shall not be used in rum races unless the Race Committee advises that such sails may be used. Lights will be illuminated approximately 15 minutes before the start time: green lights displayed on the start box indicate that spinnakers are permitted, whereas no lights illuminated will indicate that spinnakers are not permitted. A boat that uses a spinnaker or multi-purpose sail that breaches this instruction will be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 1.4 Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
  - (a) Appendix T1 (b) is amended to read as follows:  
A Post-Race Penalty is a 50% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in Rule 44.3 (c).  
However, rule 44.1 (a) applies.

## 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board [rpnyc.org.nz](http://rpnyc.org.nz) at least two hours before it taking effect on the day it takes effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 hours on the day before it takes effect.

### **3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1 Notices to competitors (NTCs) will be posted on the official notice board located at [rpnyc.org.nz](http://rpnyc.org.nz) and may also be posted on the notice board located in the RPNYC wardroom.
- 3.2 [NP] On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 62, or another VHF channel as advised by the Race Committee.
- 3.3 [NP] The following communications may be made by the Race Committee on VHF channel 62, or another VHF channel as advised by the Race Committee:
  - (a) Race area.
  - (b) Course to be sailed.
  - (c) Change of course.
  - (d) Shortening, postponing or abandonment.
  - (e) Recalls.
  - (f) Next start sequence.

These communications do not replace flag signals.

- 3.4 [NP] Boats shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 62, or another VHF channel as advised by the Race Committee. The failure to receive a radio message from the Race Committee will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 3.5 The Race Committee may make courtesy posts for the race or series on the Whatsapp group.

### **4 [DP] CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [NP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 4.3 Boats may be required to operate a smartphone-based tracking device at the boat's own cost. If so required, boats shall follow the operating instructions provided by the Race Committee.

### **5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RPNYC flagpole. The existence of signals having been made ashore may also be broadcast periodically on VHF channel 62.
- 5.2 The Race Committee may postpone a race before the starting signal by posting a notice on the RPNYC website. This changes RRS 27.3.

### **6 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1 The racing schedule is shown in the 2023-2024 chronology of races and events published on the RPNYC website.
- 6.2 A maximum of 4 races may be sailed per day.
- 6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange starting line flag may be displayed with one sound at least 5 minutes before a warning signal is made.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

| Class/Division      | Class Flag |
|---------------------|------------|
| Combined            | T          |
| Cruising/Gin Series | D          |

## 8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 All races will be held within Wellington harbour, and up to 10nm outside Wellington harbour, to the limits of Thoms Rock in the west and Turakirae Head in the east.

## 9 COURSES

- 9.1 The courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left are published on the RPNYC website in a document entitled 2023-2024 courses.
- 9.2 Courses will be identified by displaying the course number as follows:
- (a) For Point Jerningham starts, the course will be displayed under the start box windows.
  - (b) For RPNYC starts, the course will be displayed in or underneath the start box windows.
  - (c) For on the water starts, the course number will be displayed on the Race Committee boat.

Courses may also be advised by broadcasting on VHF channel 62. A failure to so advise will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1

- 9.3 When flag F is displayed, the course will be a special course and will be broadcast on VHF channel 62 approximately 15 minutes prior to the start time.

## 10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks are described as published on the RPNYC.
- 10.2 A Race Committee vessel signalling a change of a leg of the course is a mark, as provided in sailing instruction 13.2.
- 10.3 The Race Committee may advise boats of the approximate location of a laid mark on VHF channel 62. A failure to so advise will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.

## 11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 The following areas are designated as obstructions:
- (a) A line between the Mokopuna Island fairway mark and nearest point of land at Mokopuna Island. The Mokopuna Island fairway mark is a virtual mark at 41 14.900S 174 51.970E.
  - (b) A line between Point Jerningham light and the nearest point of land at Point Jerningham.
  - (c) A line between the Steeple Rock/Te Aroaro-o-Kupe light and Steeple Rock/ Te Aroaro-o-Kupe.

## 12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting lines are:

- (a) RPNYC: a line between the start box flagpole and the starting mark laid to the north of the clubhouse. If no mark is laid, the line is an extension of the line between the start box flagpole and the light on the outer end of the boat harbour entrance.
  - (b) Point Jerningham: a line between the main start box flagpole and the starting mark laid to the east of the start box. If no starting mark is laid, or the starting mark has been removed, the line is an extension of the line between the white and black pole on the hill behind the start box and the main start box flagpole, bearing 75° – 255° M.
  - (c) On the water.
    - (i) a line between an orange staff on the Race Committee boat at the starboard end and the start mark at the port end.  
or
    - (ii) by sailing on starboard tack and passing to the stern of the designated 'Rabbit Boat' sailing close-hauled on port tack.
- 12.2 An inner distance mark may be laid at any starting line at which a starting mark has been laid. When the inner distance mark is laid to starboard of the starting mark, it shall be passed to starboard either when approaching the starting line to start or after having started. When the inner distance mark is laid to port of the starting mark, it shall be passed to port either when approaching the starting line or after having started.
- 12.3 The Race Committee may alter the start location by broadcasting the new start location on VHF channel 62 not less than 45 minutes prior to the warning signal. The Race Committee may postpone racing in order to maintain the 45-minute notice required.
- 12.4 [DP][NP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of another race.
- 12.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at the start signal, and she is identified, the Race Committee may attempt to broadcast her name and/or sail number on VHF channel 62. Failure to make a broadcast, or failure of her to hear such a broadcast, or the order in which boats are broadcast, will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.6 Mark Foy / pursuit starts:
- (a) Start times will be posted on the RPNYC website, and may be posted on the notice board, not later than 1700 hours on the day before the race.
  - (b) For boats starting after the limit boat, a preparatory signal consisting of flag P accompanied by one sound signal will be displayed one minute before each boat's starting time. Each start will be indicated by the lowering of flag P accompanied by one sound signal. This changes RRS 26.
  - (c) The Race Committee may broadcast details of boats due to start on VHF channel 62
- 12.7 A boat that did not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.8 If fewer than two (2) boats start within 10 minutes of their starting signal, the race shall be abandoned.

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

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original mark, or the finishing line, to a new position.

- 13.2 The Race Committee may announce a change of the position of the next mark on VHF channel 62. Such an announcement will include the approximate position of the new mark, or the approximate distance and approximate bearing from the previous mark. This changes RRS 33.
- 13.3 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the Race Committee vessel signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the Race Committee vessel to starboard. This changes RRS 28.

#### 14 MISSING MARK

- 14.1 If a mark is missing or out of position, the Race Committee may replace it and announce the new mark's description and approximate position on VHF channel 62. The new mark may or may not display flag M. This changes RRS 34.

#### 15 SHORTENING THE COURSE

- 15.1 A race may be shortened by an announcement on VHF channel 62 or by displaying flag 'S' over numeral pennant 'One' at a mark, directing boats to round a specified mark of the course and proceed directly to and cross the course finishing line for that race. In this case, RRS 32.2 will not apply.

#### 16 THE FINISH

- 16.1 The Finishing lines are:
- (a) RPNYC: a line between the start box flagpole and the finishing mark laid to the north of the clubhouse. If no mark is laid, the line is an extension of the line between the start box flagpole and the light on the outer end of the boat harbour entrance.
  - (b) Point Jerningham: a line between the main start box flagpole and the finishing mark laid to the east of the start box. If no mark is laid, or the finishing mark has been removed, the line is an extension of the line between the white and black pole on the hill behind the start box and the main start box flagpole, bearing 75° – 255° M.
  - (c) On the water: the line between a staff displaying a blue flag on a Race Committee boat at the port end and the yellow cylindrical finishing mark with a black band on the starboard end.
- 16.2 An inner distance mark may be laid at any finishing line at which a finishing mark has been laid. When the inner distance mark is laid to starboard of the finishing mark, it shall be passed to starboard either when approaching the finishing line to finish, or after having finished. When the inner distance mark is laid to port of the finishing mark, it shall be passed to port either when approaching the finishing line or after having finished.

#### 17 TIME LIMITS AND CUT-OFF TIME

- 17.1 For Inshore Championship, Two Handed, Winter Two Handed and Twilight races, the Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), Target Time and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below. *Note that Time Limit and Finishing Window Times apply to the first monohull to sail the course and finish the race.*

| Race type            | Target Time | Time limit  | Finishing Window |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Inshore Championship |             |             |                  |
| Sprint               | 25-35 mins  | 60 minutes  | 25 minutes       |
| Laid-course          | 45-60 mins  | 120 minutes | 45 mins          |

|                   |                   |             |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Harbour course    | 120 – 180 mins    | 240 minutes | 120 mins    |
| Other             |                   |             |             |
| Two Handed        | 90-120 minutes    | 180 minutes | 60 minutes  |
| Winter Two Handed | 120 - 240 minutes | 300 minutes | 120 minutes |
| Twilight          | 20-25 minutes     | 45 minutes  | 15 minutes  |

- 17.2 For the Race Types specified in the table above, any boats failing to finish within the Finish Window after the first boat starts, sails the course and finishes within the race time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2. *The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes.*
- 17.3 All other races will have a default finishing window of 120 minutes unless advised otherwise by the Race Committee. Any variation to Time Limits or Finishing Window will be advised to competitors prior to the scheduled warning signal. This changes SI 2 Changes to Sailing Instructions.
- 17.4 Any boat that finishes after the **cut-off times** of 2100 hours for rum and twilight races, 17:00 for winter series races, or 1800 hours for all other races will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 17.5 Boats may be requested to record their own finish time if finishing within 60 minutes of the **cut-off times** specified in SI 17.4, or if requested by the Race Committee, and shall communicate their finish time to the Race Committee via the appropriate WhatsApp channel within 60 minutes of finishing the course. The request to record finishing times will be communicated to the fleet as per SI 3.2. Any boat failing to record and report their finish time within the stated time will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

## 18 HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1 The protest time limit for a protest by a boat is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. This changes RRS 61.3 and RRS 62.2.
- 18.2 Hearing request forms are available from the race office at [rpnyc.org.nz](http://rpnyc.org.nz). Hearing requests shall be submitted to the Race Committee in person or via [protest@rpnyc.org.nz](mailto:protest@rpnyc.org.nz) within the appropriate time limit. This changes RRS 61.3 and RRS 62.2.
- 18.3 The protest time limit for a protest by the Race Committee or protest committee (known as the extended protest time limit) is 48 hours after the end of the protest time limit. This changes RRS 61.3.
- 18.4 If the Race Committee or protest committee intends to protest a boat, it shall inform her within 24 hours of the end of the extended protest time limit. This changes RRS 61.1(b).
- 18.5 For protests where only a rule of RRS part 2 or RRS 31 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing may be offered prior to any formal hearing.
- 18.6 Protests will be held in the Noel Manthel Boardroom at the RPNYC clubhouse at 1800 hours on the first Tuesday after the race unless otherwise notified. If the hearing is to be held at an alternative time and place, the parties will be advised of the changes as early as possible.
- 18.7 The protest committee may apply an alternative penalty to that of disqualification as provided for RRS 64.1(a). The alternative penalty may be a warning, a scoring penalty or an elapsed time penalty. The protest committee shall determine the quantum of a scoring penalty or elapsed time penalty. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under this instruction will be DPI. This changes RRS A10.

18.8 The Race Committee may protest a boat for a breach of SI 20 or for any matter related to safety based on a report from an interested party. This changes RRS 60.2(a).

18.9 Reopening a hearing:

- (a) On the last scheduled day of racing for a series, a request for reopening a hearing must be delivered:
  - (i) within the protest time limit when the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous race day; or
  - (ii) no later than 30 minutes after the party reopening was informed of the decision on that day.

This changes RRS 66.

## **19 [NP] SAFETY REGULATIONS**

19.1 A boat that withdraws or retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

19.2 All boats shall check in via VHF as determined by SI 3.3:

- (a) Boats shall radio in stating their intention to race and number of persons on board prior to the race start.
- (b) Boats failing to radio in prior to the race start may be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

19.3 Boats shall report the following incidents that occur while racing to the Race Committee as soon as possible:

- (a) Man overboard.
- (b) An injury requiring treatment from a doctor, nurse, ambulance, or in a hospital.
- (c) Contact with another boat during a race causing serious damage.
- (d) Loss of a keel, rudder or mast, or damage which materially adversely affects the seaworthiness of the boat.
- (e) An inrush of water into the boat.

## **20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with safety requirements, class rules, notice of race, or the Sailing Instructions.

20.2 A boat required by the Race Committee to conduct compliance checks on another boat is deemed to be a Race Committee measurer.

20.3 If required by a Race Committee measurer, a boat must:

- (a) Proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- (b) Leave all equipment including sails, sheets and lifelines in the configuration in which it completed the race.

20.4 The Race Committee may require a boat to undertake a compliance check on itself. If so required, the boat will complete the compliance check form and return it to the Race Committee by the time specified.

20.5 A boat that is racing in a measurement configuration that is at variance to the issued PHRF certificate or these Sailing Instructions may be subject to protest.

## **21 FURTHER INFORMATION**

21.1 For further information, please contact [sailing@rpnyc.org.nz](mailto:sailing@rpnyc.org.nz) or visit [www.rpnyc.org.nz](http://www.rpnyc.org.nz).