

Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club

2018 - 2019 Offshore Racing Season

Offshore Series Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority is the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club Incorporated (RPNYC)
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1 Rules

- 1.1 All racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) along with the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws, the Marlborough District Council Navigation Bylaw 2009, the Nelson City Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2012, Hawke's Bay Regional Council Navigation and Safety Bylaws, and the Canterbury Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016 and Controls.
- 1.2 All yachts shall comply with Part II of the Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) Safety Regulations, Category 3 modified as follows:
 - (a) Yachts must start the race with at least 2.5 litres of fresh water per person for each 100 nautical miles (or part thereof) of the course to be sailed.
 - (b) Yachts must carry a liferaft in accordance with safety regulation 17.11.
 - (c) Yachts must carry an additional lifebuoy and equipment in accordance with safety regulation 17.13(b).
 - (d) Yachts must carry a storm jib in accordance with safety regulation 15.15(b).
 - (e) Yachts must carry at least LWL(m) / 0.2 litres of engine fuel.
 - (f) Yachts must carry fire extinguishers in accordance with safety regulation 17.01.
 - (g) Yachts must store a copy of the Communications Instructions near their VHF radio.
- 1.3 Safety checks of any yacht in any division may be made at any time.
- 1.4 Crew shall wear lifejackets or be tethered to the yacht at all times, unless the person in charge of the yacht considers that conditions are such that there is no significant increase in the risk to safety to any person through not wearing a lifejacket or being tethered to the yacht, and expressly gives permission for lifejackets or tethers not to be worn.
- 1.5 Yachts shall report the following incidents which occur while racing to the Race Committee as soon as possible:
 - (a) man overboard; or
 - (b) an injury requiring treatment from a doctor, nurse, ambulance, or in a hospital; or
 - (c) contact with another yacht during a race causing serious damage; or
 - (d) loss of a keel, rudder or mast, or damage which materially adversely affects the seaworthiness of the yacht; or
 - (e) an inrush of water into the yacht.
- 1.6 PHRF certificate compliance measurement may be conducted at any time.

- 1.7 Racing rules will be changed as follows:
- (a) Yachts with lifting keels shall have keels locked in the down position and not moved whilst racing. This changes RRS 52.
 - (b) Yachts with movable ballast, in the form of a canting keel or water ballast, may move that ballast to increase or decrease weight, or to change trim or stability. This changes RRS 51.
 - (c) RRS 52 shall not apply to the adjustment of a canting keel or water ballast.
 - (d) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea shall apply. This changes the rules of Part 2.
 - (e) For protests where only a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing may be offered prior to any formal protest hearing.
 - (f) Unless excused by the Race Committee, any yacht that does not have a representative attend pre-race briefings will be scored Did Not Compete (DNC) without a hearing in that race. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.
 - (g) Yachts may receive and use any information freely available to all yachts, and any publicly offered internet or broadcast weather information from sources available to all competitors (whether on a subscription or free basis). Permitted sources of information must provide the same information to all competitors who seek it, and must not provide yacht-specific weather routing information. Competitors may use any means to retrieve information. This changes RRS 41.
 - (h) RRS 78.2 will not apply.

2 Notices to Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the RPNYC website.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the RPNYC website at least one hour prior to 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.
- 3.2 For any event, the Race Committee may issue a separate set of Sailing Instructions that may replace, modify or supplement these Sailing Instructions.

4 Signals made Ashore

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RPNYC flag pole. The existence of signals having been made ashore may also be broadcast periodically on VHF channel 62.
- 4.2 The Race Committee may abandon a race prior to the starting signal by posting a notice on the RPNYC website. This changes RRS 27.3.

5 Classes and Class Flags

- 5.1 The class flag will be flag 'T'.

6 Racing Areas

- 6.1 The races will be held in Wellington Harbour, Cook Strait, Queen Charlotte Sound, Tasman Bay, the North Island coast including Baring Head, Cape Palliser, Castlepoint and Napier.

7 The Courses

- 7.1 All courses will be listed in the Race Appendix made available at or prior to the race briefing.

8 Marks

- 8.1 Unless otherwise specified, all marks are geographic features or navigational marks, buoys, lighthouses and the like.

9 Areas that are Obstructions

- 9.1 The following areas are obstructions:

- (a) a line between the Mokopuna Island fairway mark and nearest point of land at Mokopuna Island;
- (b) a line between Point Jerningham light and the nearest point of land at Point Jerningham;
- (c) a line between the Steeple Rock Light and Steeple Rock; and
- (d) a line between Thoms Rock and the nearest point of land.

10 Starts

- 10.1 Any race in which fewer than three yachts start will be deemed to have been abandoned.
- 10.2 The location of the starting line for each is 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 The Race Committee may alter the start location by broadcasting the new 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.
- 10.5 During daylight hours, races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 10.6 In darkness or reduced visibility (as assessed by the Race Committee), Race Signals shall be amended to become:
- (a) Warning signal: One Green light
 - (b) Preparatory signal: Two Green lights
 - (c) One minute signal: One Green light extinguished
 - (d) Start: Second Green light extinguished
 - (e) Individual recall: One Red light
 - (f) General recall: Two Red lights

11 The Finish

- 11.1 The finishing line and finish arrangements will be described in the Race Appendix made available at or prior to the race briefing.

12 Radio Schedule

- 12.1 Refer to the Race Appendix and the Communication Instructions that will be made available at or prior to the race briefing for the timing of radio schedules and procedures.
- 12.2 A yacht that fails to report will either:
- (a) incur a 1% elapsed time penalty (without a hearing) for every missed report; or
 - (b) be protested by the Race Committee.
- 12.3 This changes RRS 63.1.
- 12.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the penalty in instruction 13.2(a) does not bind a Protest Committee.

13 GPS Tracking Service

- 13.1 Each yacht must use the GPS Tracking service specified in the Communication Instructions.
- 13.2 Prior to the start, each yacht must:
- (a) test that the GPS Tracking service is operating;
 - (b) check that the battery level is sufficient; and
 - (c) contact the Race Committee on VHF channel 62 to confirm that tracking signals are being received.
- 13.3 A yacht that fails to use the GPS Tracking service will be protested by the Race Committee.
- 13.4 A yacht whose tracker fails during the race may, at the Race Committee's discretion:
- (a) be warned;
 - (b) incur a 1% elapsed time penalty (without a hearing); or
 - (c) be protested by the Race Committee.

This changes RRS 63.1.

- 13.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the penalty in instruction 14.4(b) does not bind a Protest Committee.
- 13.6 The exercise of the Race Committee's discretion under instruction 14.4 is not grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

14 Declaration Form

- 14.1 Each yacht shall submit a finish declaration online or by email.

15 Time Limits

- 15.1 There is no time limit.

16 Protests and Requests for Redress

- 16.1 For protests where only a rule of Part 2 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing will be offered prior to any formal hearing. YNZ regulation 4.5.5 will apply. This changes RRS 44.1.
- 16.2 Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to a race official within the protest time limit.
- 16.3 The protest time limit is 48 hours after the last yacht has finished the race. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the Race Committee and Protest Committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.
- 16.4 Protest hearings will be held as soon as possible after the conclusion of racing. Protests will normally 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.
- 16.5 The Protest Committee may apply an alternative penalty to that of disqualification as provided for in RRS 64.1(a).
- 16.6 Breaches of instructions 1.2, 1.4–1.6, 1.7(f-h), 13, 14, 18 and 23 shall not be grounds for protest by a yacht. Further restrictions on the grounds for protest by a yacht may be imposed in the Race Appendices. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 16.7 The Race Committee may protest a yacht for a breach of the instructions listed in instruction 16.5, or for any matter related to safety, on the basis of a report from an interested party. This changes RRS 60.2(a).

17 Scoring

- 17.1 Races will be scored using Line, Fleet Offshore, and PHRF Passage handicaps.
- 17.2 Any race in which fewer than three yachts start will be deemed to have been abandoned.
- 17.3 Three races will be required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.4 When fewer than seven races have been completed, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 17.5 When seven races have been completed, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 17.6 The Fleet Offshore handicap will be a formula-derived performance handicap that adjusts after each race based on the performances for that race and the four preceding races.

18 Safety Regulations

- 18.1 At the start of each race, yachts shall carry sufficient food and water appropriate for the race.
- 18.2 Any yacht withdrawing from the race for any reason must advise Maritime Radio as soon as possible by the best means available.
- 18.3 Each yacht shall, no less than 15 minutes prior to its warning signal, contact Port Nicholson Sports on VHF channel 62 advising of her intention to race and the number of people on board.
- 18.4 Radio watch:
 - a) Prior to the start, yachts shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 62.
 - b) After the start and while racing, yachts shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16.
- 18.5 Boats that have withdrawn from racing or finished racing shall be responsible for their own safety management including trip plan and radio schedule.
- 18.6 Boats are reminded of their obligations under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) and that between a boat that is racing and one that is not, the IRPCAS takes precedence over the RRS.
- 18.9 Boats are reminded of their obligations to give way to vessels over 500 tonnes, and are instructed to keep a safe distance away from these vessels.
- 18.10 Boats must keep well clear of shipping transiting Tory Channel and inside the Marlborough Harbour Limits as defined by a line between Perano Head and Jordy Rocks.
- 18.11 While transiting Tory Channel boats may start and run engines in neutral, and may use engine drive if necessary to take avoiding action. Boats using engine drive under this clause shall report the circumstances to the Race Committee on the finishing boat *Marconi* immediately after finishing. Abuse of this provision is liable to protest.
- 18.12 The Race Committee has the authority to require a boat to start its engine and take avoiding action without penalty or protest.

19 Equipment and Measurement Checks

- 19.1 Any yacht or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with safety requirements, class rules, rating certificates and/or the Sailing Instructions.
- 19.2 A yacht required by the Race Committee to conduct compliance checks on another yacht is deemed to be a Race Committee measurer.
- 19.3 If required by a Race Committee measurer, a yacht must:
 - (a) proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection; and
 - (b) leave all equipment including sails, sheets and lifelines in the configuration in which it completed the race.

- 19.4 The Race Committee may require a yacht to undertake a conduct compliance check on itself. If so required, the yacht will complete the compliance check form and return it to the Race Committee by the time specified.
- 19.5 A yacht 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.

20 Advertising

- 20.1 Yachts may be required to display advertising supplied by the Organising Authority

21 Disposal of Trash

- 21.1 Yachts shall not put trash in the water.

22 Prizes

- 22.1 The Organising Authority may award trophies for the winners of specific races, series or divisions or sections within a race or series. The Organising Authority will issue a schedule of trophies prior to the end-of-season prize-giving.
- 22.2 RPNYC trophies may only be awarded to yachts entered as RPNYC yachts. If, but for this instruction, a trophy would have been awarded to a visiting yacht, then the trophy will instead be awarded to the highest placed RPNYC yacht.
- 22.3 Only yachts that comply with their class rules are eligible for class trophies.

23 Insurance

- 23.1 Each yacht that races shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$3,000,000 per incident, or the equivalent thereof. Evidence of insurance shall be provided by 1700 hours on the day before the race briefing for the first race the yacht intends to compete in.

24 Disclaimer of Liability

- 24.1 Competitors participate in races entirely at their own risk. Refer to RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with any organised race, including but not limited to the time prior to, during or after the race.