

Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club

2020-2021 Racing Season

Offshore Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority is the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club Incorporated (RPNYC)
103 Oriental Parade Wellington | PO Box 9674, Wellington | sailing@rpnyc.org.nz

1 Rules

- 1.1 All racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 All yachts shall comply with part II of the Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) safety regulations as specified, and amended as follows:
 - (a) Fitzroy Bay and Island Bay races for keel boats are category 5 amended to include a VHF transceiver, bosun's chair, and Wellington harbour chart NZ 4633.
 - (b) Brothers Island, Kapiti-Chetwodes-Ship Cove, Ship Cove, Cook Strait Classic, Catherine Cove to Wellington, and Two-handed Brothers Island races are category 3.
 - (c) Nelson race is category 3 modified such that yachts must carry:
 - (i) a liferaft in accordance with safety regulation 17.11;
 - (ii) a storm jib in accordance with safety regulation 15.15(b); and
 - (iii) fire extinguishers in accordance with safety regulation 17.01.
- 1.3 All yachts shall carry sufficient paper charts and associated publications to ensure they can continue to navigate satisfactorily in the event of the failure of electronic navigation aids. Each yacht is responsible for its own safety and should consider additional charts for inshore navigation and ports of refuge.
- 1.4 Navigation charts shall also be stored electronically and shall be stored on at least two (2) separate chart plotting devices, one of which must be able to be powered separately from the yacht's main power source and be able to be recharged independently of the main engine and operate for an extended period of time. These devices must not be reliant on cellular coverage to function.
- 1.5 The Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws, the Marlborough District Council Navigation Bylaw 2009, the Nelson City Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2012, and the Canterbury Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016 and Controls 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 relevant 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).
- 1.6 RRS appendix T will apply.
- 1.7 RRS 78.2 will not apply.

1.8 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) Movement of sails not in use while racing is allowed. However, sails not being flown must remain within the boat's lifelines. This modifies RRS 51 only inasmuch as it pertains to the movement of sails.
- (d) RRS 52 shall not apply to the adjustment of a canting keel or water ballast.
- (e) Two-handed yachts may use an autopilot or other self-steering device. This changes RRS 52.
- (f) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea shall apply. This changes RRS part 2.
- (g) RRS 41 and RRS 47.1 are changed as follows pertaining to the suspension of racing:
 - (i) a yacht may suspend racing for safety and seamanship reasons (e.g. to make repairs) provided she marks her position where the suspension commences and informs the organising authority at the first reasonable opportunity of the racing suspension time and location. Suspension of racing shall not be used to gain a tactical advantage (e.g. to get out of adverse tide etc.);
 - (ii) a yacht that has suspended racing may use a propulsion engine, haul out, or make fast, until she resumes racing;
 - (iii) a yacht that has suspended racing, may, before resuming racing, remove garbage, use any equipment or receive help to effect repairs but shall not take on food or other provisions, or replace equipment, without the prior permission of the organising authority; and
 - (iv) before resuming racing, a yacht shall return to the position where she suspended racing and inform the organising authority at her first reasonable opportunity of the time and location at which she has resumed racing.
- (h) RRS 41 is changed as follows pertaining to outside assistance:
 - (i) whilst racing, boats may utilise weather information that is routinely available throughout the year to the general public and whose availability is publicly indexed (e.g. searchable by Google). Boats shall not arrange for weather routers or meteorologists or other individuals to provide them with advice, customised data, compilations, or screen shots of public data during the race regardless of how that information may be communicated;
 - (ii) boats may receive regularly scheduled weather broadcasts, GRIB data, weather fax transmissions, or other internet based forecast information including weather routing functions within an application, whether subscription-based or free of charge (e.g. Metservice or PredictWind); and
 - (iii) prior to the warning signal for a leg, there are no limitations on private services or other sources of data or consulting.
- (i) Unless excused by the race committee, any yacht that does not have a representative attend the race briefings will be scored Did Not Compete (DNC) without a hearing in that race. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

- 1.9 Safety checks of any yacht may be made at any time.
- 1.10 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 the safety of any person through not wearing a lifejacket or being tethered to the yacht, and expressly gives permission for lifejackets and tethers not to be worn.
- 1.11 Yachts shall report the following incidents which 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 yacht during a race causing serious damage.
 - (d) Loss of a keel, rudder or mast, or damage which materially adversely affects the seaworthiness of the yacht.
 - (e) An inrush of water into the yacht.

2 Notices to competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the RPNYC website and may be posted on the official notice board located in the RPNYC clubhouse.

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.

4 Signals made ashore

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

5 Schedule of races

- 5.1 A representative of each yacht must attend the race briefing for each race entered. All race briefings will be held at the RPNYC clubhouse.
- 5.2 Briefings and warning signals are as follows:

Race	Briefing	Warning signal	Approximate distance
Brothers Island	2 Oct 2020 1830 hours	3 Oct 2020 0455 hours	67 nm
Fitzroy Bay	Season briefing	17 Oct 2020 0955 hours	25 nm
Kapiti-Chetwodes-Ship Cove	3 Dec 2020 1830 hours	4 Dec 2020 1825 hours	110 nm
Ship Cove	3 Dec 2020 1830 hours	5 Dec 2020 0725 hours	40 nm

Cook Strait Classic	18 Dec 2020 1830 hours	19 Dec 2020 0725 hours	34 nm
Nelson	21 Jan 2021 0830 hours	22 Jan 2021 1055 hours	117 nm
Catherine Cove to Wellington	1 Feb 2021 0830 hours	6 Feb 2021 0555 hours	64 nm
Two-handed Brothers Island	1 Mar 2021 1900 hours	3 Mar 2021 0655 hours	67 nm
Island Bay	Season briefing	27 Mar 2021 0955 hours	18 nm

6 Classes and class flags

6.1 The class flag will be flag T.

7 Racing area

7.1 The races will be held in Wellington harbour, Cook Strait, Queen Charlotte Sound, Tasman Bay, and the east coast of the South Island.

8 Courses

8.1 The course options for each race will be specified in the race appendix.

9 Marks

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

10 Areas that are obstructions

10.1 The following areas are obstructions:

- (a) A line between Point Jerningham light and the nearest point of land at Point Jerningham.
- (b) A line between the Steeple Rock light and Steeple Rock.
- (c) A line between Thoms Rock and the nearest point of land.

11 Starts

11.1 The starting line shall be an extension of the line between the RPNYC clubhouse start box flagpole and the orange staff mounted at the outer end of the Clyde Quay Boat Harbour entrance, bearing 170° – 350°T.

11.2 During daylight hours, races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26.

11.3 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.

11.4 If any part of a yacht's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line at the start signal, the race committee may attempt to broadcast her name or sail number on VHF channel 62. Failure to make a broadcast will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

12 Race postponements

- 12.1 The race officer may postpone by any amount of time as they see fit.
- 12.2 The race officer may also make a postponement whereby the start will not take place before a certain time.
- 12.3 Postponements will be notified on VHF Channel 62 or ashore on the RPNYC official notice board or on the RPNYC website.

13 The finish

- 13.1 The finish line for each race will be specified in the race appendix.

14 Radio instructions

- 14.1 Refer to the race appendix for the timing of the radio schedule and the radio schedule procedures.
- 14.2 A yacht that fails to report may either:
 - (a) Incur a 1% elapsed time penalty (without a hearing) for every missed report.
 - (b) Be protested by the race committee.This changes RRS 63.1.
- 14.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the penalty in sailing instruction 14.2(a) does not bind a protest committee.
- 14.4 Each yacht shall, no less than 15 minutes prior to its warning signal, contact Port Nicholson Sports Radio on VHF channel 62 advising of her intention to race and the number of people on board.
- 14.5 Prior to the start, yachts shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 62.
- 14.6 After the start and while racing, yachts shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16.
- 14.7 If a yacht is unable to contact the race officer by VHF or cell phone, they should attempt to pass their message to the race officer via Maritime Operations.
- 14.8 If a yacht is unable to contact Maritime Operations by VHF, cell phone or any other means, then the yacht shall attempt to contact other vessels (either other race yachts or third parties) to relay a message to Maritime Operations.
- 14.9 If a yacht overhears a failed attempt by another yacht to contact the race officer or Maritime Operations, that yacht shall attempt to relay the message on the other yacht's behalf.

15 GPS tracking service

- 15.1 Each yacht is expected use the GPS tracking service specified in the race appendix.
- 15.2 Prior to the start, each yacht shall:
 - (a) Test that the GPS tracking service is operating.

- (b) Check that the battery level is sufficient to power the tracking device for the duration of the race.
- (c) Contact the race committee on VHF channel 62 to confirm that tracking signals are being received by the race committee.

16 Declaration form

16.1 Leg start declaration:

- (a) Competitors are required to submit a declaration form signed by skippers at the briefing prior to each leg, as provided in the entry pack supplied at or prior to the race briefing.
- (b) The declaration shall cover details of the following items:
 - (i) the yacht complies in all respects with its current safety certificate; and
 - (ii) the yacht complies in all respects with the safety requirements of the notice of race and the sailing instructions, that the crew are physically fit, healthy and are able to complete the race, and any further amendments that may be posted by the organising authority.

16.2 Leg finish declaration:

- (a) Skippers are required to submit a declaration form at the end of each race, as provided at the race briefing or by emailing sailing@rpnyc.org.nz within 48 hours of finishing the race.
- (b) The declaration shall include the time the finish line is crossed using local GPS time.
- (c) The declaration shall cover details of any of the following events:
 - (i) suspension of racing for any reason;
 - (ii) breach of the racing rules of sailing and any penalty already taken;
 - (iii) breach of the notice of race;
 - (iv) breach of the sailing instructions;
 - (v) breach of harbour bylaws;
 - (vi) use of the engine for propulsion for any reason; or
 - (vii) any missed position reports;
- (d) The declaration should include a full account of the circumstances surrounding the breach and impact, if any, on the yachts progress towards the finish of the race.
- (e) Failure to submit a declaration to the race committee within 48 hours of finishing shall result in the yacht being protested by the race committee.

17 Time limits

17.1 There are no race time limits.

18 Protests and requests for redress

18.1 For protests where only a rule of part 2 or RRS 31 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing may be offered prior to any formal hearing. YNZ regulation 4.5.5 will apply. This changes RRS 44.1.

18.2 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 regarding incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This changes RRS 61.3 and RRS 62.2.

- 18.3 Protests and requests for redress or requests for the reopening of a protest shall be submitted to the race office in person or via protest@rpnyc.org.nz within the appropriate time limit. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.
- 18.4 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.
- 18.5 The protest committee may apply an alternative penalty to that of disqualification as provided for in RRS 64.1(a). The alternative penalty may be a warning, a scoring penalty or an elapsed time penalty. The quantum of a scoring penalty or elapsed time penalty shall be determined by the protest committee. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under this instruction will be DPI. This changes RRS A11.
- 18.6 Breaches of instructions 1.2, 1.8(h), 1.8(i), 1.10, 1.11, 16, 19 and 25 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).

19 Safety regulations

- 19.1 At the start of each race, yachts shall carry sufficient food and water appropriate for the race.
- 19.2 Any yacht withdrawing from the race for any reason must advise Maritime Radio as soon as possible by any means available.
- 19.3 The race committee has the authority to require a boat to start its engine and take avoiding action without penalty or protest.

20 Equipment and measurement checks

- 20.1 Any yacht or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with safety requirements, class rules, rating certificates or the sailing instructions.
- 20.2 A yacht required by the race committee to conduct compliance checks on another yacht is deemed to be a race committee measurer.
- 20.3 If required by a race committee measurer, a yacht 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 A yacht that is racing in a measurement configuration that is at variance to the issued PHRF certificate or the sailing instructions may be subject to protest.

21 Disposal of trash

- 21.1 Yachts shall not put trash in the water.

22 Hull cleaning

- 22.1 All yachts are reminded of their obligations regarding biosecurity requirements from the Ministry for Primary Industries to have clean hulls. It is recommended that all yachts carry certification of hull cleaning or the invoice or the receipt from a pre-race hull clean. Marinas may require evidence of hull cleaning prior to entry.

23 Scoring

- 23.1 Races will be scored on PHRF, offshore general handicap and line.

- 23.2 The offshore general handicap will be a formula-derived performance handicap that adjusts after each race based on the performance for that race and up to four prior races.
- 23.3 PHRF results will be calculated for all yachts with a valid PHRF handicap, unless the yacht advises the race committee that it is not sailing in its measured configuration.
- 23.4 Any race in which fewer than three yachts attend the relevant race briefing will be deemed to have been abandoned.
- 23.5 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed in the offshore series, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 23.6 When five (5) races have been completed in the offshore series, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 23.7 The minimum number of races to be completed for the offshore series shall be two (2).

24 Prizes

- 24.1 The organising authority may award the trophies normally associated with the organising authority's offshore races.
- 24.2 RPNYC trophies may only be awarded to yachts entered as RPNYC yachts. If, but for this paragraph, a trophy would have been awarded to a visiting yacht, then the trophy may instead be awarded to the highest placed RPNYC yacht.
- 24.3 Eligibility for class trophies requires yachts to comply with their class rules.
- 24.4 Presented trophies remain the property of RPNYC and are not to leave the clubhouse premises.

25 Insurance

- 25.1 Each yacht that races shall be insured with valid marine third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000 per incident or the equivalent thereof.
- 25.2 Evidence of insurance shall be provided by the scheduled briefing time of the race the yacht intends to compete in if requested by the organising authority.

26 Disclaimer of liability

- 26.1 Competitors who participate in any RPNYC event do so entirely at their own risk. Refer to RRS 4. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.
- 26.2 The organising authority will make starting signals unless in the race committees' opinion it is manifestly unsafe for yachts to race. Each yacht shall exercise her responsibility under RRS 4 and decide whether to start or having started whether to continue to race.
- 26.3 The organising authority is not responsible for:
 - (a) The seaworthiness of a yacht whose entry is accepted.
 - (b) The sufficiency or adequacy of the yacht's equipment.
 - (c) The competence of the yacht's skipper or crew.
- 26.4 After 1 January 2021, RRS 3 will be substituted for RRS 4 in paragraphs 26.1 and 26.2.

27 Further information

- 27.1 For further information, please contact sailing@rpnyc.org.nz or visit www.rpnyc.org.nz.