



Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions

for the

STEPPING STONE HOUSE REGATTA

Thursday 19th March 2026

CONDUCTED BY THE ORGANISING AUTHORITY

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON

1 Rules

1.1 Racing will be governed by:

- The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing 2025-2028 as amended
- The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS)
- The Notice of Race

1.2 If there is conflict between rules or regulations, other than RRS, the Sailing Instructions will prevail. This changes RRS 63.5 (c) (2).

2 Advertising

A boat and her crew shall comply with the World Sailing Advertising Code.

3 Eligibility & Entry

3.1 The regatta is open to any mono-hull boat with a valid Category 7 (minimum) AS Special Regulations Equipment Compliance Form.

3.2 Eligible boats owners are requested to enter through SailSys by clicking on the following link: [Enter Boat](#)

4 Regatta Office

4.1 The Regatta Office will be the RSYS Sailing Office situated at:

Address: 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli

Telephone: (02) 9017 0150

Email: sailing@rsys.com.au

4.2 Communications to skippers, including any amendments or notices will be displayed on the Official Electronic Noticeboard (ONB) and can be accessed here: [Noticeboard](#)

5 Changes in the Sailing Instructions

5.1 Skippers will also be notified of any change in the Sailing Instructions at a pre-race skippers briefing.

6 Signals Made Ashore

6.1 Signals made ashore shall be displayed on the RSYS Club flag mast located on the RSYS lawn.

6.2 Flag "AP" with two sounds indicated the race is postponed. The first Warning Signal will be made not less than fifteen (15) minutes after the AP is lowered. (Amends RRS Race Signals)

7 Schedule of Events

7.1 There will be a light lunch available for competitors located in the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Careening Cove Anchorage from 1200 hours Thursday 19th March 2026.

7.2 Skippers shall report to Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Careening Cove Anchorage at 1300 hours Thursday 19th March 2026 for a Skippers briefing to be conducted by the Race Officer.

7.3 Handicap starting times will be published on the RSYS / SSH regatta web page by Tuesday 17th March 2026.

7.4 The limit boat (first boat to start) will be at 1400hrs.

8 The Course / Marks

8.1 Boats shall proceed to all marks shown in the course below in the order listed and shall round (pass where appropriate) un-suffixed marks to Starboard and marks suffixed (P) to Port.

8.2 Course descriptions are as follows:

Division 1 SFL – N2(P) - LB - SI - N2 - TB - SI - CI - SFL (approx. 11 miles)

Division 2 SFL – N2(P) - BB - SI - N2 - TB - SI - SFL (approx. 10 miles)

8.3 Mark Descriptions

BB Beashel Mark - AS buoy, south-west of Sow and Pigs

CI Clarke Island - Summit of Clarke Island and Pile south of Clarke Island

LB Lady Bay - AS buoy off northern end of Lady Bay

N2 Naval Buoy No. 2 - Approximately 250m north-west of Clarke Island

SI Shark Island - Light north of Shark Island and yellow AS buoy approx. 10 meters south-east of the south cardinal mark off Shark Island

SFL Start/Finish Line - Between two orange inflatable marks laid to the east of the Neutral Bay ferry lanes

TB Taylor Bay Mark - AS buoy in Taylor Bay

9 Starting & Finishing Lines

9.1 The Start/Finish Line will be located off the RSYS Clubhouse between two orange inflatable marks.


10 Starting Signals

10.1 The list of entries shall show the starting time for each boat.

10.2 Boats are to cross the line on the start of their handicap minute.

10.3 The official time to be used by the Race Officials can be obtained at the Skippers briefing. GPS time can also be accessed via the RSYS website home page, located at the top left.

10.4 For time reference only, the Race Committee shall hoist flag "W" at 1400hrs with a sound signal to indicate the commencement of the starting procedure.

	Time	Flag Up
Commencement of Starting Procedure	1400	W ↑ 

11 Recalls

There shall be no recall signals and it is the responsibility of each boat to determine whether it is over the starting line before its starting signal. A boat which infringes and fails to start subsequently to the satisfaction of the Race Committee is subject to a penalty of four places unless disqualified by the Race Committee.

12 Shorting Course

Should the course have to be shortened, there will be a vessel located at a mark of the course displaying International Code Flag "S" (with a sound signal) indicating that the mark should be rounded/passed then head directly to the finish line. In addition, the race may also be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.

13 Handicaps

Starting times shall be displayed on the Provisional List of Entries and shall be distributed at the Competitors Briefing. Start times may also be published on the RSYS website, <https://www.rsys.com.au/sailing/regattas> from Tuesday 17th March 2026.

14 Turns Penalty

The RRS 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that the 720° turns are replaced by a 360° turn in the same direction including one tack and one gybe (Amends RRS 44.1 and 44.2).

15 Time Limit

The absolute time limit shall be 1700 hours. No boat shall be finished after the expiry of the time limit. (Amends RRS 35)

16 Protests

The Race Committee looks to each competitor to enter the race in the right spirit; be meticulous in observing the rules and complete the alternative penalty (or retire) immediately if they breach them.

17 Special Conditions

No Extras shall be allowed, only a Mainsail and Headsails shall be used. Headsails shall not be set flying.

18 Prizes

Prizes shall be presented at the RSYS Clubhouse after the finish of the race.

19 Radio Communications

19.1 All boats shall carry a marine band VHF receiver capable of receiving and transmitting marine VHF channels. Boats shall use the radio to report retirement from racing and may use the radio to request assistance in an emergency.

19.2 The race officer will use VHF channel 73 to advise competitors of general matters relating to the racing.

20 Other Instructions

Skippers and crew are required to be appropriately dressed at all times while racing. The minimum standard of dress is shorts and t-shirt.

20.1 The RSYS encourages sustainable racing by avoiding: single use water bottles, printing race documents, and one-off race promotion materials, etc. The RSYS provides water bottle refilling stations and recycling bins on the hardstand area.

21 Safety Regulations

21.1 [NP] Boats shall comply with the following with regard to commercial shipping.

- (a) Boats shall not pass between the bow of any Seagoing Ship and a dedicated Port Authority escort vessel whilst on escort duty and within 500 metres from the bow and 30 metres from the side or stern of the Seagoing Ship
- (b) Boats shall maintain a minimum distance of 200m from the bow, and 30m from the sides or stern of any ferry displaying the Orange Diamond.
- (c) Boats must abide by traffic directions of NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers. Any yacht directed to stop or alter course by NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers as a result of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
- (d) Boats reported by NSW Maritime as having contravened NSW Maritime regulations shall be scored DNE (non-excludable disqualification) without a hearing (amends RRS 63.1).

21.2 Boats shall report any incident involving injury or significant damage likely to cost more than \$5000 to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

22 Responsibilities

22.1 **Risk Warning** - The OA advises owners, skippers and anyone who participates in sailing events conducted by the OA that participation in the sport of sailing, whether racing or otherwise, can be dangerous and can result in harm, personal injury and property damage. The OA is not responsible for any harm or injury suffered by any person in any sailing event of whatever nature conducted by the OA. All participants acknowledge that competing in yachting events may be dangerous and may result in harm or personal injury and they participate in such events aware of such dangers and voluntarily accept any risk of harm.

22.2 **Competitors' Declaration** – It is the responsibility of owners and skippers to ensure that each boat nominated complies with the 'rules' as defined in the RRS. The owner or person who enters the boat declares to the OA that the nominated boat will at all times while racing comply with the requirements of Australian Sailing, this notice of race and the sailing instructions and that the owner or person who enters the boat:

- (a) warranting to the OA that he or she will draw the attention of any person who competes on the boat the subject of the entry in any event conducted by the OA to the risk warning above; and
- (b) acknowledging receipt of the risk warning above and releasing the OA from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury suffered by him, or by any person claiming through him, in any event conducted by the OA, and declaring to the OA that the nominated boat has not been grounded during the past twelve (12) months.

22.3 **Disclaimer of Liability**

- (a) All those taking part in these races do so at their own risk and responsibility. Specific attention is drawn to RRS 3 which states; "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". The organising authority, sponsors, class associations, the race committee and other race officials are not responsible for any damage or injury either afloat or ashore.
- (b) The OA, sponsors, class associations, the race committee and other race officials are not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.
- (c) All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the AS Special Regulations clause 1.02 Responsibility of the Person in Charge.

23 Insurance

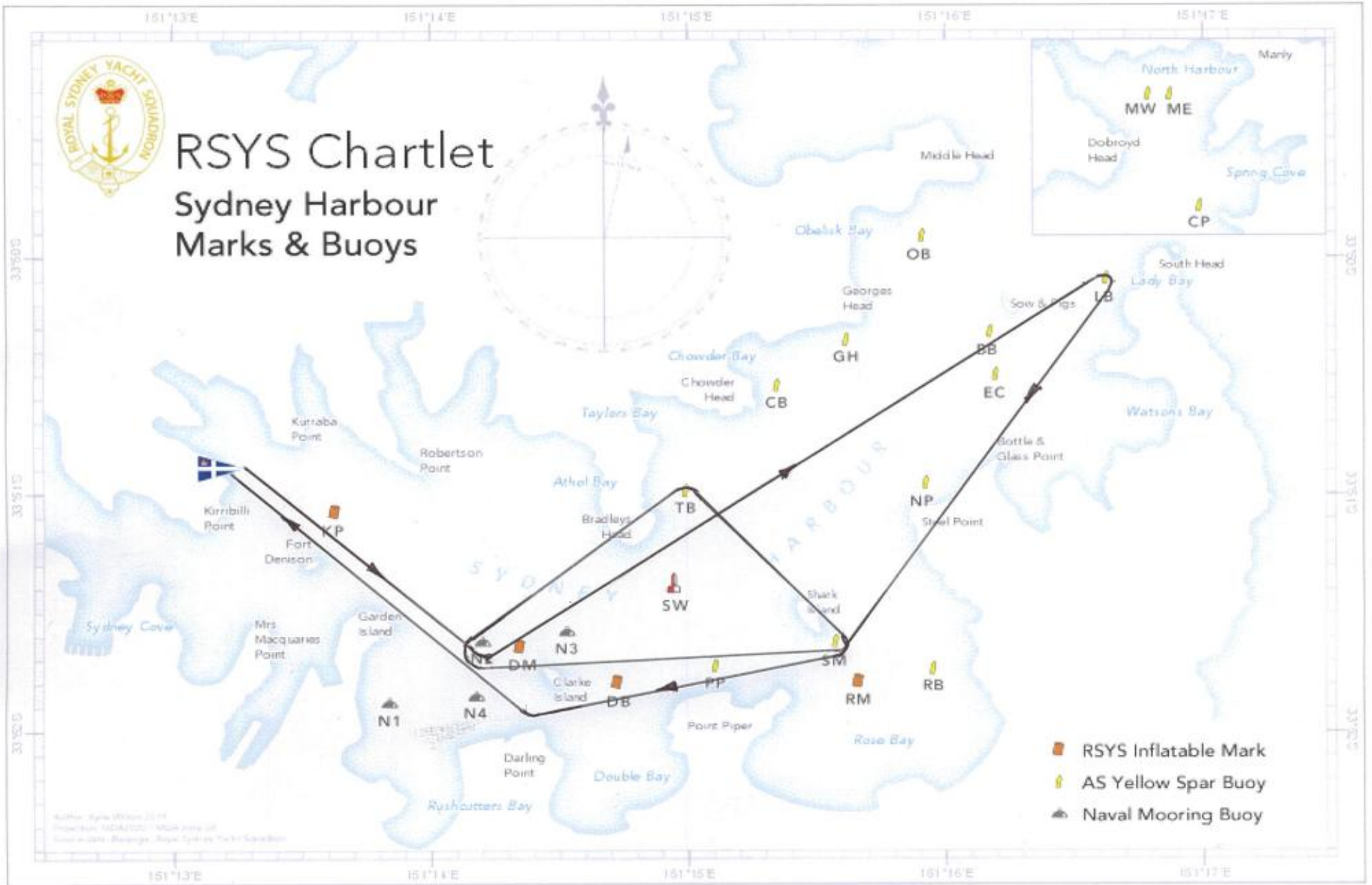
23.1 Each participating boat shall be covered by current third-party property liability insurance and third-party personal liability insurance of not less than \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each separate incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing, and it is the owner's responsibility to ensure a current Certificate of Currency is lodged.

24 Rights to Use Name and Likeness

24.1 In participating in this event, a competitor automatically grants to the OA and the sponsors of these events the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time and at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or film television and other reproductions of him/her during the period of the competition for the said event in which the competitor participates, and all material related to the said event without compensation.



RSYS Chartlet Sydney Harbour Marks & Buoys



Division 1

SFL – N2(P) – LB – SI – N2(S) – TB – SI – CI – SFL

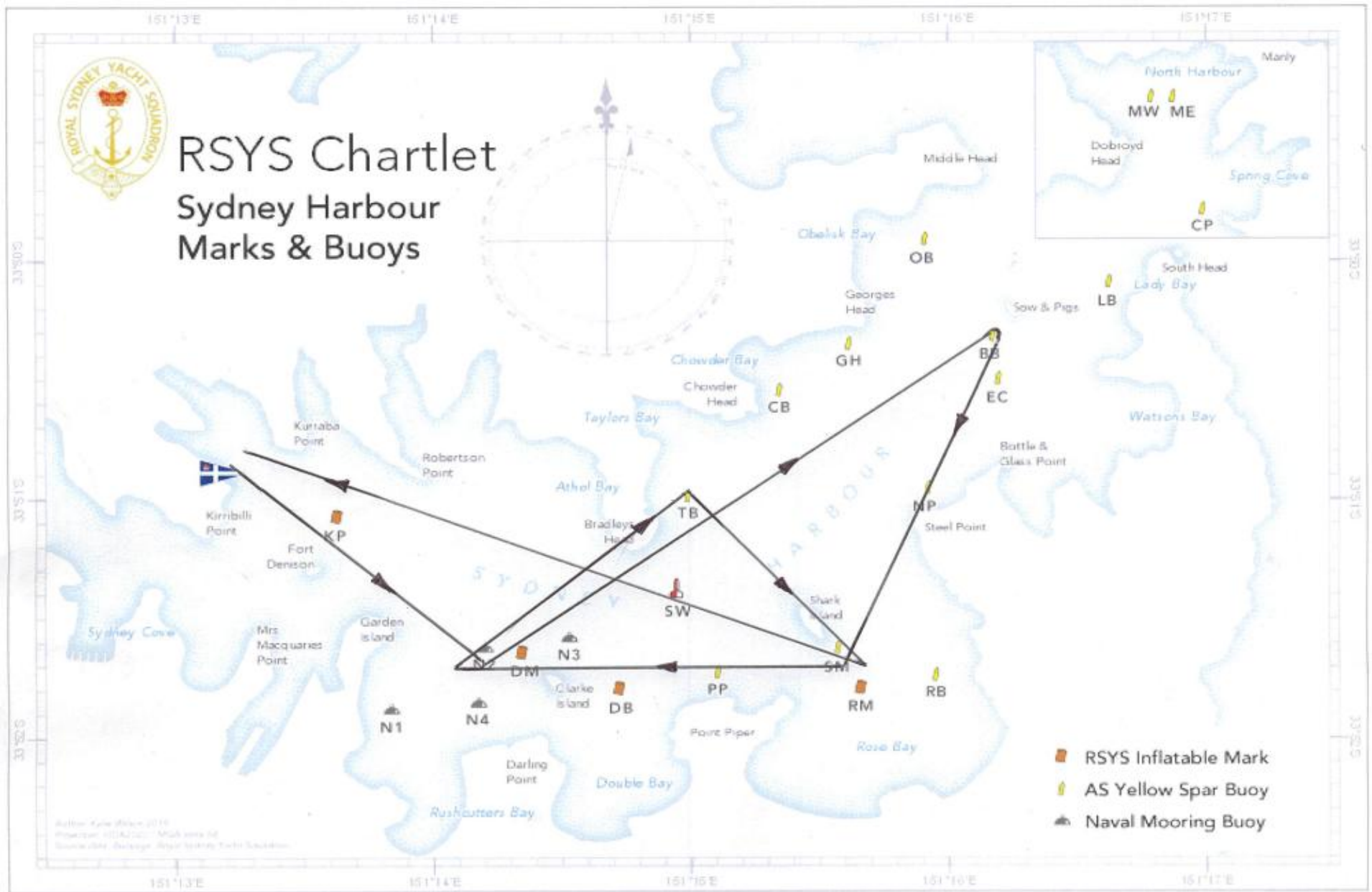
(Approx 11.5 nm)



RSYS Chartlet

Sydney Harbour

Marks & Buoys



Division 2

SFL – N2(P) – BB – SI – N2(S) – TB – SI – SFL

(Approx 10 nm)