

Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club Combined Sydney Harbour program 16 August 2025 to 29 March 2026.

The Organising Authority (OA) is Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (RSYS) and/or Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club (RPEYC).

The notation '(NP)' in a rule of the sailing instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for infringing that rule. This changes RRS 60.1. '(DP)' denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the protest committee.

1. RULES

- 1.1 All racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing and the Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations except as amended herein or in the notice of race.
- 1.2 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) for all Etchells class events. Details are set out in Addendum A to these sailing instructions, and Etchells competitors should familiarise themselves with the Vakaros RaceSense requirements.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be placed on the official online notice board on the RSYS website.
- 2.2 A list of entries will be available to all entrants, and copies will be posted on the RSYS website no later than two (2) hours before the start of the event.

3. CHANGES TO CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The OA reserves the right to change the calendar of events and the sailing instructions. Changes will be available in writing to all entrants as per RRS 90.2.
- 3.2 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted by 1000 hrs on the day it will take effect. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hrs on the day before it will take effect.

4. SPECIAL SIGNALS

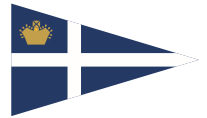
- 4.1 **Signals made ashore** - will be displayed on the RSYS club flag mast.
 - 4.1.1 Flag AP with two sounds indicates racing is postponed. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than thirty (30) minutes' in Race Signals AP.
 - 4.1.2 Flags N over A over Second Substitute with three sounds indicates racing for the Etchells and Yngling classes has been abandoned for the day. This changes RRS 27.3 and Race Signals.
- 4.2 **Signals made on the committee vessel** - will be displayed on the respective committee vessel.
 - 4.2.1 Flags N over A over Second Substitute with three sounds indicates racing for the Etchells class has been abandoned for the day. This changes RRS 27.3 and Race Signals.
 - 4.2.2 These signals will remain displayed during the entire starting sequence and the order of starting will not be altered.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Racing is scheduled as detailed in the calendar of events posted on the RSYS website.
- 5.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for each class or division and the respective class or division flags will be:

Scheduled Time of Warning Signal	Class or Division	Flag Displayed
1235 hrs	Division 1	Q
1240 hrs	Division 2	K
1245 hrs	Division 3	R
1300 hrs	International Etchells	Etchells Class Flag

Note: on mini regatta race days the same starting sequence and scheduled times will apply.



6. RACING AREA

- 6.1 Racing will be on the waters of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) as displayed in the chartlet included in Appendix 3 – Harbour Marks, Buoys and Chartlet posted on the RSYS website.

7. THE COURSES

- 7.1 The courses are detailed as follows, except where a Kirribilli finish has been signalled in accordance with clause 7.6:

INTERNATIONAL ETHELLS CLASS

COURSE 0 (N & NNE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island BB – PP – BB – *PP – BB – PP Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 11.9 nm
COURSE 1 (NE & ENE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island BB – N2 – BB – *TB – BB – N2 Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 11.2 nm
COURSE 2 (E)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli RM(P) – *KP(P) – RM(P) – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 10.0 nm
COURSE 3 (SE)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli DB(P) – TB – RB – *TB – RB – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 9.3 nm
COURSE 4 (S)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DB(P) – CBN – RM(P) – *CBN – RM(P) – CBN Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 9.5 nm
COURSE 5 (SW)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DM(P) – NP – DM(P) – *NP – DM(P) – NP Finish: vicinity of Point Piper. Approximately 9.8 nm
COURSE 6 (W)	Start: vicinity of Shark Island KP(P) – *RM(P) – KP(P) – RM(P) Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 9.2 nm
COURSE 7 (NW)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island KP(P) – PP – KP(P) – *PP – KP(P) – PP Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 9.9 nm

DIVISION 1

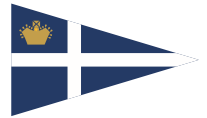
COURSES 0 (N & NNE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island MW – ME – *N3 – CP – N3 Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 16.0 nm
COURSES 1 (NE & ENE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island CP – *N3 – CP – N3 Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 14.4 nm
COURSE 2 (E)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli SM – KP(P) – SM – *KP(P) – SM – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 12 nm

**DIVISION 1 (continued)**

COURSE 3 (SE)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli DB(P) – OB – RM – CBS – RM – *KP(P) – RM – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 15.9 nm
COURSE 4 (S)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DB(P) – MW – ME – *EC – MW – ME Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 14.2 nm
COURSE 5 (SW)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DM(P) – MW – ME – DM(P) – *LB – SM – LB Finish: vicinity of Point Piper). Approximately 16 nm
COURSE 6 (W)	Start: vicinity of Shark Island KP(P) – SM – KP(P) – *SM – KP(P) – RM(P) Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 13.0 nm
COURSE 7 (NW)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island KP(P) – PP – KP(P) – RM(P) – KP(P) – *SM– KP(P) – RM(P) Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 13.3 nm

DIVISION 2

COURSE 0 (N & NNE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island OB – SM – *PP – OB - SM – N3 Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 11.3 nm
COURSE 1 (NE & ENE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island CP – *N3 – EC – N3 Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 12 nm
COURSE 2 (E)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli SM – KP(P) - SM– *N3 – SM – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 10.7 nm
COURSE 3 (SE)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli DB(P) – KP(P) – RB – *KP(P) – RB - TB Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 12.1 nm
COURSE 4 (S)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DB (P) – MW – *ME – PP – OB Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 12.1 nm
COURSE 5 (SW)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DM(P) – EC – PP – *EC – PP – EC Finish: vicinity of Point Piper. Approximately 10.7 nm

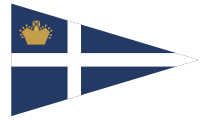
**DIVISION 2 (continued)**

COURSE 6 (W)	Start: vicinity of Shark Island KP(P) – SM – KP(P) – *SM) – KP(P) – SM Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 11.8 nm
COURSE 7 (NW)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island KP(P) – RB – KP(P) – *N3 - KP(P) – RB Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 12.3 nm

DIVISION 3

COURSES 0&1 (N & NE)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island BB – PP – NP – *N3 – BB – SM – PP Finish: vicinity of Nielsen Park. Approximately 10.0 nm
COURSE 2 (E)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli RM(P) – N3 – SM – *KP(P) – SM – N3 Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 9.4 nm
COURSE 3 (SE)	Start: vicinity of Kirribilli DB(P) – KP(P) – N3 – *KP(P) – SM – KP(P) Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 9.0 nm
COURSE 4 (S)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DB(P) – OB – NP – CBS – *SM – OB – SM Finish: vicinity of Woollahra Point. Approximately 10.2 nm
COURSE 5 (SW)	Start: vicinity of Athol Bay DM(P) – BB – PP – *NP – PP – NP Finish: vicinity of Point Piper. Approximately 9.8 nm
COURSE 6 (W)	Start: vicinity of Shark Island KP(P) – PP – KP(P) – *SM – KP(P) – SM Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 10.2 nm
COURSE 7 (NW)	Start: vicinity of Clarke Island KP(P) – *RM(P) – KP(P) - RM(P) Finish: vicinity of Kirribilli. Approximately 9.0 nm

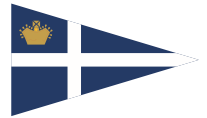
- 7.2** The course to be sailed will be:
- signalled with or before the warning signal
 - indicated by the appropriate numeral pennant
 - indicated by the appropriate numeral pennant with flag O to signify a Kirribilli finish as per clause 7.6.
- 7.3** Boats shall proceed to all marks of the relevant course in the order listed and leave each mark on the required side.
- 7.4** All marks are to be left to STARBOARD unless the mark is suffixed (P), which indicates the mark is to be left to PORT.
- 7.5** The race committee may change the course signalled, display flag S, flag Y or flag Y over Second Substitute before, with or shortly after the warning signal. When a signal is displayed with a class or division flag it is to apply to that class or division only. Flag Y over Second Substitute indicates RRS 40 shall apply to all Etchells, Dragons and Ynglings. This changes RRS 27.1, 32, 40 and Race Signals.



- 7.6 Kirribilli Finishes – As detailed in the calendar of events, races on 20 September, 11 October, 15 November, 6 December, 20 December, 7 February, 14 March and 28 March will finish in the vicinity of Kirribilli, replacing the normal finish line outlined in clause 7.1 above. On these designated dates, the race committee will display flag O with the appropriate course numeral pennant from the committee vessel with or before the warning signal. Boats are to leave the last mark of their respective course on the required side and proceed directly to the finish at Kirribilli.
- 7.7 The Sydney Harbour Regatta is scheduled for the weekend of 7-8 March. Separate sailing instructions will be issued by Middle Harbour Yacht Club. Results of the first race on Saturday 7 March will be included in the RSYS Main and Summer point scores for Divisions 1, 2 and 3.
8. **SHORTENED COURSE**
- 8.1 When flag S is displayed with two sound signals in accordance with clause 7.5 the course to be sailed is shortened and boats are to proceed directly to the finishing line after leaving the mark indicated with an asterisk (*) in the courses listed in clause 7.1. This changes RRS 32 and Race Signals.
- 8.2 The race committee may elect to send some classes or divisions on the full course and others on the short course.
9. **MARKS AND BUOYS**
- 9.1 Marks and buoys are as described in Appendix 3 – Harbour Marks, Buoys and Chartlet posted on the RSYS website.
- 9.2 When a mark is missing or out of position the race committee shall, if possible;
- replace it in its correct position, or
 - substitute one of similar appearance, or
 - replace it with a buoy or vessel displaying flag M. This changes RRS 34.
10. **AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**
- 10.1 (NP) (DP) The following areas are prohibited and deemed to be continuing obstructions. Boats infringing this rule will be subject to protest:
- a) **Other Starting and Finishing Lines** – the starting or finishing lines of another division or class or another club's race.
 - b) **Cardinal Marks** – the areas bounded by cardinal marks.
 - c) **Moorings** – mooring areas. Naval and shipping moorings are excluded from this clause.
 - d) **Shark Island** – the areas between the AS Shark Island Mark (SM) and Shark Island or between Shark Island and the Shark Island light (north of Shark Island).
 - e) **Garden Island and Chowder Bay** – the areas within the yellow markers in the vicinity of Garden Island or near the naval wharf in Chowder Bay..
11. **ASSISTANCE IN RECORDING STARTERS**
- 11.1 (DP) Boats are requested to sail past the starboard side of the committee vessel prior to their starting sequence to assist race officials identifying starters in all events. In so doing, boats must keep clear of boats already in their starting sequence.
12. **THE START**
- 12.1 The starting lines will be in the following locations or as advised by the race committee:
- N, NNE, NE, ENE and NW winds – in the vicinity of Clarke Island.
 - W winds – in the vicinity of Shark Island.
 - E and SE winds and West Harbour races – in the vicinity of Kirribilli.
 - S and SW winds – in the vicinity of Athol Bay.
- 12.2 The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel and the course side of a yellow inflatable mark with the lettering RSYS.
- 12.3 The race committee may change the line by moving one of the starting line marks up to the lowering of the preparatory flag. This changes RRS 27.2.
- 12.4 A boat starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal may, at the discretion of the race committee, be scored DNS.
- 12.5 (DP) Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.



- 12.6 (NP) For boats that have rounded the first mark of the course, the starting line and one metre on the course side of the starting line shall rank as an obstruction and shall not be crossed until five (5) minutes after the last start. Any boat which fails to observe this instruction shall be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.
- 12.7 Except where a race has been abandoned, if one boat in any class or division appears at the start that boat is entitled to sail the course and receive a result.
- 12.8 There may be more than one RSYS or RPEYC race committee vessel on the water. It is the obligation of each skipper to identify the correct location of the committee vessel.
- 13. RECALLS**
- 13.1 In the event of a general recall, the order of starting will not be altered.
- 13.2 To assist competitors the race committee may advise individual and general recalls over VHF channel 73. This changes RRS 29.
- 13.3 When a black flag or a U flag has been displayed, and there has been no general recall, any boat identified as BFD or UFD may be advised on VHF channel 73. This changes RRS 30.3 and 30.4.
- 13.4 Any error or omission in the advice referred to in clause 13.2 or 13.3 above will not be grounds for protest or redress.
- 14. RETIREMENT**
- 14.1 Boats which retire from a race before finishing are required to notify the race committee by direct contact or on VHF channel 73 or by phoning the Sailing Office on 9017 0152.
- 15. THE FINISH**
- 15.1 The finishing lines will be as follows, except where a course is designated to finish at Kirribilli as per clause 7.6:
- Courses 0 and 1 – in the vicinity of Nielsen Park, approx. 200 metres NW of the yellow Special Mark
 - Courses 2, 3 and 4 – in the vicinity of Woollahra Point
 - Course 5 – in the vicinity of Point Piper
 - Courses 6, 7 and those with a Kirribilli finish as per clause 7.6 – in the vicinity of Kirribilli.
- 15.2 The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and the course side of a yellow inflatable mark with the lettering RSYS.
- 15.3 When the committee vessel is on station, the finishing line and one metre on either side of the finishing line will rank as an obstruction and boats shall not cross it from either direction unless finishing. Any boat which fails to observe this instruction shall be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.
- 16. TIME LIMIT**
- 16.1 The absolute time limit for all races will be 1800 hours or the official sunset time, whichever is the earlier.
- 16.2 If one boat finishes within the time limit, all boats that have not finished by the time limit will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35.
- 17. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**
- 17.1 Protests are to be lodged in accordance with RRS 60 and requests for redress in accordance with RRS 61 as amended by clauses 17.2 and 17.3.
- 17.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be lodged in writing at the RSYS Sailing Office or by electronic means. If the RSYS Sailing Office is closed, protests and requests for redress may be placed in the Sailing Office letter box.
- 17.3 The time limit for the lodging of protests, and requests for redress based on an incident in the racing area, shall be 1000 hours on the first working day after the event. This changes RRS 60 and 61.
- 17.4 Protests and requests for redress will be heard at the clubhouse of the conducting club on the following Wednesday unless otherwise decided by the protest committee. The hearing time will be advised to the parties involved.
- 17.5 Any boat which lodges a protest or request for redress and which is not represented at the hearing without informing the protest committee by 1000 hours on the day of the hearing shall be scored DNE for the race to which the protest or request for redress is related. This changes RRS 63.1(b).



18. SCORING

18.1 The Low Point System, RRS Appendix A, applies including the provisions of RRS Appendix A5.3 subject to the amendments detailed in clause 15 of the notice of race and in Appendix 12 – Schedule of Discards.

18.2 RSYS Point scores

18.2.1 Divisions 1, 2 and 3

- The MAIN series for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be a combination of the SPR and SUM series.
- The first race of the Sydney Harbour Regatta on Saturday 7 March will be included as part of the RSYS MAIN and SUM point scores.
- Point scores for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be based on PHS results.
- A separate additional point score will be available for boats which have elected to be handicapped and scored in the ORC Club and have lodged a current ORC Club Certificate with the Sailing Office. Boats will be provided with a windward/leeward time on time handicap which will remain constant for the season unless a new validated ORC Club Certificate is lodged with the Sailing Office.

18.2.2 Etchells Class

- The Etchells club championship point score series will consist of twelve (12) designated races on non mini regatta days as detailed in the 2025-26 calendar of events.
- Four sub series point scores, as detailed in the 2025-2026 Etchells calendar of events, will be maintained during the season and each one will incorporate results of both the Etchells club championship point score series and mini regatta series.
- Results will be scored based on scratch results. Additional point scores based on PHS handicap results will be awarded at the discretion of the race committee in conjunction with the fleet representative.

18.3 RPEYC Point scores and races discarded

Except for the Nettle Gold Cup, points are awarded on the same system as set out for the Scoring System in clause 18 above, except that a boat shall drop its worst (1) score in the Season point score, and the first race of each Etchells mini regatta will count towards the RPEYC point score.

19. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

19.1 Roads and Maritime Services Regulations

19.1.1 (NP) Boats shall not interfere with the Commercial or Defence shipping of the Port. The attention of skippers is drawn to NSW Roads and Maritime Services (NSW RMS) regulations regarding the right of way of vessels entering or leaving port, ferries displaying orange diamonds and vessels engaged in towing. NSW RMS regulations specify *“Priority over Sail – Some Ferries on Sydney Harbour display an orange diamond shape which grants priority of way over sailing vessels. Sailing vessels must keep a minimum distance from these ferries of:*

- 200 metres from the bow
- 30 metres from sides or stern.

Do not attempt to cross the path of an approaching ferry displaying this signal”.

Attention is drawn to the guidelines published in the appendices posted on the RSYS website.

19.1.2 (NP) Boats found to have interfered with commercial shipping may be subject to action by the race committee in accordance with RRS 60.2.

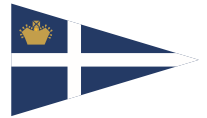
19.1.3 (NP) All boats must abide by traffic directions of NSW RMS Boating Service Officers and the NSW Port Authority. Any boat directed to stop or alter course by NSW RMS Boating Service Officers as a result of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.

19.1.4 (NP) Any boats reported by NSW RMS as having contravened NSW RMS regulations shall be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1(b). Any alleged infringement of this clause shall not be grounds for protest by another competitor. This changes RRS 60.1.

19.1.5 (NP) Reporting of Incidents - Competitors are required to notify the Sailing Office of any marine incident occurring during racing whether or not it results in a race protest or a report to NSW RMS. The attention of competitors involved in an accident is drawn to the requirements of NSW RMS published in Appendix 5 – NSW RMS Requirements in Case of Accident posted on the RSYS website.

20. RESPONSIBILITIES

20.1 The attention of all competitors is drawn to the responsibilities of owners and skippers as detailed in in the notice of race clauses 18.1 – Risk Warning, 18.2 – Competitors' Declaration and 18.3 – Disclaimer of Liability.

**Addendum A** to the 2025-2026 Spring & Summer Sailing Instructions

(For Etchells class boats competing in the Spring & Summer series)

Use of the Vakaros RaceSense System for the Etchells class

1. The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) in conducting races for the Etchells class races.
2. (DP)(NP) Each Etchells class boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense, which shall be mounted above any other device on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing. Each Atlas 2 device shall be configured with the latest RaceSense firmware.
3. Each boat shall program their Atlas 2 by selecting the Etchells class setting.
4. The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and RRS 30 by the RC is replaced with the electronic identification by the Vakaros RaceSense system. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4. For a boat whose device is malfunctioning, not turned on or lost, RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4 remain unchanged.
5. (DP)(NP) Competitors shall do their best to keep the system safe and active. They shall inform the RC as soon as possible, on the water or ashore, about any problems encountered with the device. The system shall be kept running until after the last race of each day.
6. (NP) Any kind of failure of an Atlas 2, the RaceSense system or communication systems shall not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat or protest committee. This changes RRS 41(c), 60.5(b), 61.1(a), 61.1(c) and 61.4(b).
7. If Firmware updates to Atlas 2 devices are required between scheduled race days, notice via email, SMS or WhatsApp will be sent to all boats,
8. If the RC vessel displays flag G with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, the use of the Vakaros RaceSense system will not apply to that race.