



Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Match Racing Program

2026/27



RSYS Sailing
Academy

Updated: 18/06/2026

Program Overview

The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron's Academy Match Racing Squad is the premier pathway for developing young sailors into high-performance match racers and keelboat sailors. The program offers expert coaching, structured training, and elite racing opportunities in a world class environment. Designed for sailors with strong fleet racing experience, the Academy focuses on building tactical, technical and teamwork skills essential for success in match racing from youth levels through to international competition.

Aims & Objectives

- Execute strong boat handling maneuvers, speed management and crew/team dynamics.
- Apply match racing rules in live scenarios.
- Consistently make advanced tactical decisions, boat on boat positioning and opponent behavior.
- Communicate concisely and decisively under pressure.

Sailing Pathways



Head Coach

As a high-performance sailor (2000 Olympian, Sydney to Hobart and America's Cup Skipper) with expertise in team and boat performance and decades of experience as an elite sailing coach, Neville Wittey brings a rare blend of knowledge to the program.

Renowned for his tactical insight, technical expertise, and ability to develop sailors at all levels, Neville has a proven track record of building competitive, cohesive teams. His hands-on coaching style and deep understanding of match racing dynamics make him an invaluable leader in shaping the next generation of elite sailors at RSYS.

Volunteering

All sailors within this program are expected to contribute to the Squadron by completing 15 hours of volunteering each season. Volunteering opportunities may include, but are not limited to, assisting Race Management during club racing and twilight series, basic Elliot 7 boat maintenance and on-water roles such as mark laying and media boat driver.

Membership Requirements

RSYS requires all participants to be current fully paid Member's or to have begun the membership process. U/18 participants must also have a parent/ grandparent who is a current fully paid Member or in the membership process. For more information contact RSYS Membership matilda@rsys.com.au

Training Sessions

All training sessions are compulsory and sailors must log-in each session using the QR training code located in the Squadron training room. If you are unable to attend a session, please notify the Academy Manager and Sailing Coach.

WINTER TRAINING SESSIONS

Monday Winter Start Time : 0530-0830

27 April, 4 May, 11 May, 18 May, 25 May, 1 June, 15 June, 22 June, 29 June, 6 July, 20 July
27 July, 3 August, 10 August, 17 August, 24 August, 14 September, 21 September

SUMMER TRAINING SESSIONS

Monday Summer Start Time : 1530-1930

19 October, 26 October, 2 November, 23 November, 30 November, 7 December, 14 December
4 January, 11 January, 1 February, 8 February, 22 February

Squad teams can request additional use of the Elliott 7s outside of the scheduled sessions. This request must be approved by the Sailing Coach and Academy Manager academy@rsys.com.au



Fees

\$1300.00	Under 23 yrs
\$800.00	23-25 yrs Alumni

Note:

- 23-25yrs Alumni fees include all RSYS coached training and one (1) Team entry fee to the Helly Hansen International Open/U25 Regatta 18 – 22 January 2027.
- Fees do not include RSYS membership fees, end of season celebration dinner, regatta transport, food or accommodation.
- Fees can be paid in full or installments over the program period.
- Please note this program is subsidized by Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron with fees only contributing to partial costs of the program.

Regattas 2026/27

Entry fee to the following regattas for two (2) selected U23 teams, will be supported by the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

MONTH	REGATA	GRADE	CLUB	RFI DATE	EVENT DATE	COACH SUPPORT
JUNE 2026	CYCA Match Race Open	5	CYCA	15 June	27 JUN	
JULY 2026	Captain John Piper Open	4	CYCA	12-13 July	11-12 JUL	
AUGUST 2026	NSW Youth Match Racing Championship - U23	4	CYCA	29 July	29-30 AUG	✓
SEPTEMBER 2026	John Messenger Women's MR Regatta	3	CYCA	2 August	5-6 SEPT	✓
NOVEMBER 2026	Hardy Shield - OPEN	5	RSYS	15 October	8 NOV	✓
	Harken AUS Youth Match Racing Championship - U23	3	RPAYC	TBC	11-15 NOV	✓
JANUARY 2027	Helly Hansen International CYCA - U25	2	CYCA	ASAP	18-22 JAN	✓
FEBRUARY 2027	Hardy Cup - U23	3	RSYS	1 November	14-18 FEB	✓
	New Zealand Youth International MR Championship - U23	3	RNZYS	1 November	25-28 FEB	

Regatta Opportunities

Teams will be selected by the Sailing Coach and Academy Manager taking into account the Selection Criteria outlined below. A position in the Match Racing Squad program alone does not guarantee selection for regattas.

Sailors in the Academy program can submit individual or team expression of interest for an event. If sailors are unable to form a team, Academy management team will select squad members who submit individual expressions of interest.

Selection Process

1. Sailors fill out an EOI form for the event that they intend to attend.
2. Six weeks before an event the EOI will close for all sailors.
3. Academy management team will select and propose the sailors that will compete to the Academy Committee for approval.
4. Four weeks before an event the selected team will be announced on via email.

Selection Criteria

Sailors' selection will be based on several factors and will include the following criteria

- Attendance at training sessions is above 80% (minus approved leave)
- Demonstration of excellent sporting behaviour, strong work ethic, teamwork, enthusiasm, integrity and leadership
- Recent performance at training and events
- Number of volunteer hours completed
- Number of events previously attended
- Agree to complete a regatta report including any relevant media

The following variables are also considered in team selection: strength, age, gender, weight, positions available, team dynamics.

NB: Academy management team reserves the right to amend the selection process and criteria at their discretion. Sailors will be notified about any major changes. Academy Management identifies the need for transparent selection criteria to ensure fairness, build credibility for its members

Uniform

All participants will be provided with:

Sail Racing Grey Bowman Tee : to be worn on land before & after racing.

Sail Racing LS Rashguard : to be worn while racing at regattas.

RSYS Red Racing Big : to be worn while racing at regattas.

Blue LS Collar Shirt : to be worn at Welcome and Prize Giving events.

All other clothing, general sailing gear and personal floatation device are to be provided by the sailor in line with uniform guidelines. See examples below;



Code of Conduct

By applying to a RSYS Sailing Academy program, participants acknowledge and agree to abide by the following:

1. Adhere to the RSYS Constitution, By-Laws, and Member Code of Conduct.
2. Support the development of a positive and safe environment for training and competition.
3. Show respect to all participants, coaches, staff, and volunteers at RSYS and other Clubs.
4. Act in a sportsperson like manner both on-and-off water at RSYS and other Clubs.
5. Act as a positive ambassador for RSYS and its sponsors when representing the program at RSYS and other Clubs.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the relevant provisions of the RSYS Constitution and By-Laws.

Participants who believe there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct should speak with their coach or RSYS Academy Manager (E: academy@rsys.com.au)

Cancellation & Refund Policy

The below policy outlines the terms and conditions related to refunds and cancellations for the Match Racing Program. **Please read this policy carefully BEFORE enrolling.**

1. **Commitment** - When enrolling in the Match Racing Program, participants are committing to the Full Season. This commitment enables us to plan and ensure a consistent and cohesive training experience for all involved.
2. **No Partial Refunds** - We do not offer refunds, either in full or in part, for cancellations or missed sessions once the season has commenced. This policy applies to all reasons for missing a session including illness, personal commitments, or other unforeseen circumstances.
3. **Cancellation before a season commences** - If a participant wishes to cancel their enrolment before the start of the season, they must notify us in writing no later than seven days prior to the season's commencement date. In such cases, a full refund will be provided minus any administrative fees.
4. **Exceptions** - Any exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case-by-case basis in extraordinary circumstances. Such exceptions are at the sole discretion of the Academy Committee.
5. **Enquires** - If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding this policy, please contact the Academy Manager.
6. **Agreement** - By enrolling in this program, you acknowledge and agree to comply with this Refund and Cancellation Policy.

Foundation Support Policy

Participants who have been RSYS Members for more than two (2) years* can apply to the RSYS Foundation for financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses for any interstate and international target regattas.

When applying to the foundation, participants must:

1. Submit their application at least one (1) month prior to regatta commencing.
2. Include a cover letter to the RSYS Trustees
3. Agree to provide a report with images within seven (7) days of the regatta concluding.

Contact RSYS Membership (E: matilda@rsys.com.au) for the application form and more information.

* Participants under 18 years of age must be associated with a parent or grandparent who has also been a RSYS Member for more

Applications

Applications for the program close at 5:00 pm on 13 April 2026. Sailors will be notified if their application is successful by 5:00 pm on 17 April 2026. Applications will be assessed on merit for the available positions. Shall you have further enquiries regarding the program please contact the Academy Manager academy@rsys.com.au

Applications Now Open - [Apply Here](#)