



# ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD YACHT CLUB SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



## Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series

**17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**The organising authority is the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club (RPEYC)  
and the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC)**

### **1, RULES**

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing and the Special Regulations of Australian Sailing applicable to Category 7 races.
- 1.2. Rules 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that only a part-turn is required:
  - a) On a leg to a windward mark, a part-turn is a gybe and luffing to a close-hauled course as soon as reasonably possible.
  - b) On other legs a part-turn is a tack and bearing away as soon as reasonably possible to more than 90 degrees from the true wind.RRS 44.3 shall not apply.
- 1.3. No boat will be allowed to start unless there is a minimum of three (3) persons aboard. Each boat shall always have a competent adult crew member to leeward on watch while racing.

### **2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1000 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it takes effect.

For the Muriel Trophy race, the separate Sailing Instructions issued by SASC will take precedence over these Sailing Instructions.

### **3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard located at RPEYC. Notices may also be made available to competitors on the club's website at, [www.rpeyc.com.au](http://www.rpeyc.com.au).
- 3.2. The list of entries will be available on the RPEYC website no later than two hours before the start of each race.
- 3.3. The race office contact details are:

RPEYC email: [sailing@rpeyc.com.au](mailto:sailing@rpeyc.com.au)  
Telephone: (02)9363 5809  
Race Day Mobile: 0460 362 878 (race day only)
- 3.4. The race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 73.
- 3.5. While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

### **4. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 4.1. Racing will be conducted on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- 4.2. Races abandoned will not be re-sailed.

## **5. STARTING SIGNALS AND TIMES**

### **5.1 Thistle Cup – 17<sup>th</sup> October**

1155 – Warning Signal for Race 1. The class flag for Couta Boats will be code flag C.

Start sequence in accordance with Rule 26

1200 – Start signal for Race 1.

Races 2 and 3 will commence as soon as possible after the completion of the previous race.

### **5.2 Muriel Trophy – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Refer to separate Sailing Instructions issued by the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club

### **5.3 RPEYC Passage Race – 19<sup>th</sup> October (changes Rule 26)**

1125 – Warning Signal - orange banner displayed from the RPEYC Clubhouse balcony centre window for five minutes.

1130 – Start signal - orange banner removed.

## **6. RACING AREA**

Racing shall be conducted on Sydney Harbour. The Start/Finish line will be in the vicinity of Shark Island.

## **7. COURSES**

Courses are described in Appendix 1 for Thistle Cup and Appendix 2 for the Passage Race.

For the Muriel Trophy race courses, refer to the separate Sailing Instructions issued for the race.

## **8. SHORTENED COURSES**

The course for either Division may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.

## **9. MARKS**

Marks are described in the Appendices.

## **10. OBSTRUCTIONS**

10.1 Cardinal marks – boats shall not sail within the areas bounded by Cardinal Marks.

10.2 Moorings – except for naval moorings, boats shall not sail within mooring areas.

10.3 Shark Island – boats shall not sail between the AS Shark Mark (SM) and the Cardinal Mark south of Shark Island or between Shark Island and the Shark Island Light (north of Shark Island).

10.4 Garden Island and Chowder Bay – boats shall not sail within the yellow markers in the vicinity of Garden Island or near the naval wharf in Chowder Bay.

## **11. THE START**

11.1 **For the Thistle Cup races** - The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of a black and white chequered inflatable mark.

11.2 **For the Passage Race** - The starting line will be between the Flag Mast of RPEYC and the western edge of the wharf on Shark Island crossing from East to West to start.

11.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.

11.4 Individual or general recalls shall be made in accordance with RRS29.

## **12. THE FINISH**

12.1 **For the Thistle Cup races** - The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel and the course side of a black and white chequered inflatable mark.

12.2 **For the Passage Race** - The finishing line will be between the Flag Mast of RPEYC and the western edge of the wharf on Shark Island crossing from East to West to finish.

## **13. TIME LIMIT**

13.1 **For the Thistle Cup races** The absolute time limit for all races will be 60 minutes for each race.

13.2 **For the Passage Race** – The time limit will be 1400 on the day of the race.

13.3 Any boat finishing after these times will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF).

**14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 14.1 Protests are to be lodged, in accordance with RRS 61, at the RPEYC Office or by email at [sailing@rpeyc.com.au](mailto:sailing@rpeyc.com.au) by 1600 on the day of the event.
- 14.2 Protests will be heard at the RPEYC club house on the following Wednesday unless otherwise decided by the Protest Committee.

**15. ARBITRATION**

Arbitration may take place in accordance with RRS Appendix T.

**16. RETIREMENT**

Boats that retire from the race shall contact the club on VHF 73 or phone 0460 362 878 within the race time limit. Boats failing to do so may be scored DNE. This changes RRS 63.1 & A5.

**17. SKIPPERS BRIEFING**

The skipper of a boat racing shall have attended a safety briefing held by a yacht club located on Sydney Harbour for the current sailing season. Arrangements will be made for visiting skippers to attend a briefing online.

**18. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 18.1 Boats shall comply with the following regarding commercial shipping.
- (a) Boats shall not pass between the bow of any Seagoing Ship and a dedicated Ports 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 and any accompanying tugs.
  - (b) Boats shall maintain a minimum distance of 200 metres from the bow, and 30 metres from the sides or stern of any ferry displaying the Orange Diamond.
  - (c) Boats must abide by traffic directions of NSW RMS Boating Safety Officers. Any boat directed to stop or alter course by NSW RMS Boating Safety Officers because of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
  - (d) Boats reported by NSW RMS as having contravened NSW RMS regulations shall be scored DNE without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 & A5.
- 18.2 Boats shall report any incident involving injury or significant damage likely to cost more than \$5,000 to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

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# APPENDIX 1

## Thistle Cup Courses

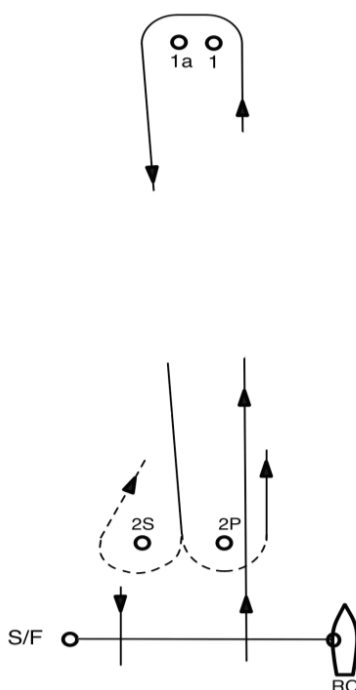
Boats are to proceed to all marks named in the course in the order shown.

The number of laps to be sailed will be signalled with or before the warning signal and indicated by the appropriate numeral pennant.

Any Course may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.

The diagram below shows the approximate course configuration.

Courses shall be windward/leeward:



Mark 1 and mark 1a will be red inflatable marks laid to windward of the starting line. Mark 1a shall be an offset mark approximately 50 metres from mark 1. Mark 1 and 1a shall be rounded to Port.

If mark 1a is not in place, boats shall leave the single mark to port.

Mark 2S and 2P will be red inflatable marks laid approximately 50 metres to windward of the starting line and shall form a gate with mark 2S rounded to Starboard or 2P rounded to Port.

(Note: Marks 2S and 2P may be laid after the starting signal).

## Emergency Contact Details:

<b>Medical Emergency</b> 000	<b>Medical Evacuation Locations:</b>
<b>Marine Rescue</b> 9450 2468	<b>Rose Bay Wharf</b>
VHF Ch 16	<b>Taronga Zoo Wharf</b>
<b>Water Police</b> 9320 7499	
<b>RMS</b> 13 12 36	

## APPENDIX 2

### Passage Race Course

Boats are to proceed to all marks named in the course in the order shown.

All marks shall be rounded to starboard.

Start	N3	CP	EC	SM	Finish
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Approximate length is 6.8 nm.

### Mark Descriptions

**BB** - Beashel Mark - AS buoy, southwest of Sow and Pigs

**CBS** - Chowder Bay Mark - AS buoy off southern shore of Chowder Bay  
(the southernmost buoy of the two SA buoys in Chowder Bay)

**CP** - Canae Point - AS buoy approximately 100m W of Canae Point (North Harbour)

**EC** - Eastern Channel Mark - AS buoy approx. 100m north of the Eastern Channel  
Pile Light.

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

**N2** - Naval Buoy No.2 - Approximately 250m NW of Clarke Island

**N3** - Naval Buoy No. 3 - Approximately 200m North of Clarke Island

**OB** - Obelisk Bay Mark - AS buoy E of Obelisk Bay

**PP** - Point Piper Mark - AS buoy north of Point Piper.

**RB** - Rose Bay Mark - AS buoy approximately 200m off the eastern shore of Rose  
Bay, in front of the convent.

**SM** - Shark Island Mark - AS buoy approximately 30 metres south-east of the South  
Cardinal mark at Shark Island, passing Shark Island to starboard

**TB** - Taylor Bay Mark - AS buoy in the middle of Taylor Bay

AS buoys referred to in these instructions may be a yellow spherical, cylindrical or  
spar shape buoys and may be replaced with a different mark without warning.

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