



ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD YACHT CLUB

Notice of Race

Sydney Couta Boat Series 2026 incorporating the Thistle Cup Muriel Trophy and Gaffer's Day

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October 2026

**The Organising Authorities are:
the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club (RPEYC)
and the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC)**

1. RULES

The event is governed by the rules as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS) applicable to races of Category 7 and above.

Any person on board who is not a financial member of an AS recognised yacht club must apply and receive a SailPass before racing to comply with RRS 46, AS prescription.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. All boats must be on the Register of the Couta Boat Association.
- 2.2. No boat will be allowed to start unless there is a minimum of three (3) persons aboard. Each boat shall have a competent adult crew member to leeward on watch at all times while racing.
- 2.3. All competitors shall conform to the AS Prescription RRS 46.
- 2.4. To be eligible for pointscores, boats must sail under the same ownership and be entered for the whole of that series.

3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3.1 The series shall be a point score of scratch and handicap results for five races:
 - a) Thistle Cup Race 1 on Friday 9th October 2026. Start time 1200.
 - b) Thistle Cup Race 2 on Friday 9th October 2026
 - c) Thistle Cup Race 3 on Friday 9th October 2026

- d) SASC Muriel Trophy race on Saturday 10th October 2026
(Organising Authority is SASC).
 - e) SASC Gaffer's Day (Couta Boat Division) on Sunday 11th October 2026
(Organising Authority is SASC).
- 3.2 Completion of at least three races shall constitute the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.
 - 3.3 Racing for the 2026 "Thistle Cup" is scheduled to begin on Friday, 9th October 2026. The scheduled time of the first Warning Signal, unless notified otherwise, will be 1155 hours. The Warning Signal for the final race of the Thistle Cup shall not be later than 1500 hours.
 - 3.4 A maximum of three races shall be conducted for the Thistle Cup. The second and third races shall start as soon as practicable after the last boat has finished in the previous race. Completion of at least one race shall constitute the Thistle Cup series.

4. ENTRIES

- 4.1. Eligible boats may enter for the whole series (five races) or Thistle Cup only. Boats entering only Muriel Trophy or Gaffer's Day should enter through the SASC entry process. Enter online by using the RPEYC website Race Entry process into the SailSys system. Boats that enter the whole series do not need to enter separately for the SASC events.
- 4.2. All boats entering shall upload a copy of a current completed Category 7 (or higher) Equipment Audit Form and a current third-party insurance certificate (refer to paragraph 15 below) to the boat's Compliance page in SailSys, or forward to the RPEYC Office at secretary@rpeyc.com.au by the relevant entry closing date and time.
- 4.3. A maximum of two (2) helmsmen may be detailed on the Entry. Any change of helmsman from those listed on the Entry must be notified to the RPEYC Office not later than 1500 hours on the day prior to the race and may result in a change of handicap.
- 4.4. Closing dates and times for entries are as follows:
Series Entries. 1700hr on Monday 5th October 2026.
Casual Entries. 1000hr on the day before the race.
- 4.5. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee
- 4.6. The Race Committee reserves the right to reject the entry of any boat (RRS 76.1).
- 4.7. The Entry Fee for the full series will be \$190, including GST. The Entry Fee for Thistle Cup only will be \$60, including GST.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions for the Thistle Cup will be available approximately two weeks prior to the date of the regatta and will be available from the RPEYC Office or downloaded from the RPEYC Website. Separate Sailing Instructions will be available from the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC) for the Muriel Trophy race.

6. RACING AREA

All races will be sailed on the waters of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour).

7. COURSES

The races will be around laid marks, harbour marks and islands as described in the Sailing Instructions.

8. PENALTY SYSTEM

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.

9. SCORING

- 9.1 The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A4, shall apply as detailed in the Sailing Instructions. There will be no discards in the series.
- 9.2 The race results for the Muriel Trophy and Gaffer's Day races for the purposes of the series point score, will be calculated by taking the elapsed time for each boat, as recorded by SASC and processing it through the RPEYC SailSys system, using the RPEYC series handicaps.
- 9.3 The pointscore for the Thistle Cup will be as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.
- 9.4 The pointscore for the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series will be the combined points from the five races listed in paragraph 4.1 above. There will be no drops in the series.

10. HANDICAPS

- 10.1 Handicaps will be arbitrary and will be at the discretion of the Race Committee, or their nominee. They will not be subject to a Request for Redress (amends Rules 60.1 (b) and 62.1(a)).
- 10.2 Handicaps will be a Time Correction Factor (TCF) that will be applied at the finish. Handicaps may be adjusted after each race has been finalised.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 All boats shall carry an operating marine band VHF radio capable of receiving normal marine international channels. The radio must always be switched on during racing and tuned to the correct race committee frequency.
- 11.2 The Race Frequency will be as defined in the applicable Sailing Instructions.

12 PRIZES & TROPHIES

- 12.1 The RPEYC "Thistle Cup" perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winner of the handicap point score over the three races on Friday 9th October 2026.
- 12.2 Prizes will also be awarded to the scratch and handicap point score first, second and third place getters for the three races comprising the Thistle Cup regatta. Prizes will be presented at the RPEYC Clubhouse after the Thistle Cup races. All competitors are welcome to attend. Temporary moorings and a tender service will be provided.
- 12.3 A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the handicap winner of the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.
- 12.4 Prizes will also be awarded to the scratch and handicap point score first, second and third place getters in the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.

13. RISK WARNING

- 13.1 Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by reasonable and experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to significant risk of property damage, physical harm and possibly death.
- 13.2 As an indication, these risks may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The extremes of weather and sea conditions.
 - (b) The potential that control of vessels may be lost, resulting in collision with objects and other vessels.
 - (c) The sudden movement of the vessel at any time and the possibility that participants may fall or be thrown overboard, resulting in drowning or exposure injury.
 - (d) The possibility that participants may be injured by equipment on the vessel.
 - (e) The absence of immediate medical care and the possibility that significant delays may occur before medical care is available.
 - (f) Exposure to the elements for extended periods.
- 13.3 Participants are also advised that although the Organising Authority is covered by third party liability insurance, this cover does not extend to participants. Any participant who considers they have a need for insurance must make their own private arrangements with an insurer.
- 13.4 Owners and persons in charge of boats shall ensure that all participants on their boats are aware of this risk warning.

14. DISCLAIMERS

All those taking part in the event do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Organising Authority and its race officials accept no liability for any damage or injury in connection with the event and Owners release the Organising Authority from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury in connection with the event.

15. INSURANCES

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 incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.

16. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

- 16.1 **Skippers Briefing** – The skipper of each boat shall have attended a safety briefing for the 2026/27 season held by a Yacht Club on Sydney Harbour. Arrangements will be made for visiting skippers to attend an on-line briefing prior to the first race.
- 16.2 **Helmsman** - Any change of helmsman from those listed on the Entry Form must be notified to the RPEYC office not later than 1500 hours on the day prior to the race and may result in a change of handicap.
- 16.3 **Couta Boat Rules Compliance** - The penalty for breach of a Couta Boat class rule is at the discretion of the protest committee.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club Office on (02) 9363 5809 or email: secretary@rpeyc.com.au.