

# FIREBALL UK NATIONAL & UK OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Monday 20th to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July



## Royal Torbay Yacht Club

12 Beacon Terrace, Torquay, TQ1 2BH, England

# NOTICE OF RACE

*The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Torbay Yacht Club (RTYC) in conjunction with the UK Fireball Class Association (UKFA).*

*The International Fireball World Championship will take place at the same venue from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July. A separate Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions applies.*

The notation [DP] in a rule in this Notice of Race (NoR) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification. [NP] Denotes that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

## 1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 including the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) prescriptions.
- 1.2 The Class Rules of the International Fireball Class Association shall apply. [DP]
- 1.3 In accordance with Fireball Class Rule 25 the following RRS rule is changed: RRS 42.3(i). When the wind speed is clearly over 12 knots across the course, the Race Committee may signal in accordance with RRS Appendix P that pumping, rocking, and ooching are permitted after the starting signal. This changes RRS 42.2(a), 42.2(b) and 42.2(c).
- 1.4 Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.
- 1.5 RRS 40 Personal Flotation Devices – RRS 40.1 applies all times whilst afloat. [DP]
- 1.6 Competitors should note that the OA implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The charter can be found on the RYA website at: [Racing Charter \(rya.org.uk\)](https://www.rya.org.uk/racing-charter)
- 1.7 Torbay Harbour Bye-Laws apply. [DP][NP]

## 2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Sailing instructions (SI's) will be available by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026 on the Official Notice Board (ONB) [FIREBALL UK NATIONALS 2026](#)

### 3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is located online at [FIREBALL UK NATIONALS 2026](#)
- 3.2 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that are not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.
- 3.3 A voluntary sign-up WhatsApp group will be used to provide notifications and RC communications whilst ashore. Failure to receive WhatsApp messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1.

### 4 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of the International Fireball Class whose helm and crew are members of the UK Fireball Class Association, or any other Fireball National Class Association recognised by the International Fireball Class Association (IFCA) or a member of IFCA if there is no National Class Association in the country of origin of that boat.
- 4.2 A Youth Entry applies where both the Helm and Crew are under 26 on Friday 24th July 2026, see entry fees 5.1 below.
- 4.3 Boats may enter the event by completing the online entry form at [FIREBALL UK NATIONALS 2026](#) and paying the required fee.
- 4.4 The OA will acknowledge receipt of entries and payment, and entry information will be published on the event website.
- 4.5 Entries will not be accepted after 23:59 hrs. on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026.
- 4.6 Parent/Guardian Declarations: All helms and crews under 18 years of age during the event shall submit signed Parent/Guardian Declarations as part of the registration process and submit details of the parent(s) acting in loco parentis.

### 5 ENTRY FEES

- 5.1 Entry fees are as follows:

| Full entry fees.              | Worlds only | UK Nationals only | Both events |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Early bird. Up to 30.04.2026  | £450        | £270              | £695        |
| Standard. 01.05 to 30.06.2026 | £500        | £300              | £775        |
| Late 01.07 to 17.07.2026      | £590        | £330              | £895        |
| Youth entry fees.             |             |                   |             |
| Early bird. Up to 30.04.2026  | £300        | £230              | £495        |
| Standard. 01.05 to 30.06.2026 | £350        | £260              | £575        |
| Late 01.07 to 17.07.2026      | £440        | £290              | £695        |

- 5.2 The entry fee includes trailer parking, the Welcome Reception and Prizegiving Supper for both the Helm and Crew.
- 5.3 Entry cancellations before 23:59 hrs. on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 will be charged a £15 administration fee and the balance refunded. For later cancellations, any refunds made will be at the sole discretion of the OA.

## **6 CREW LIMITATIONS [DP]**

- 6.1 See class rules

## **7 ADVERTISING [DP][NP]**

- 7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

## **8 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES**

- 8.1 Does not apply.

## **9 EVENT SCHEDULE**

- 9.1 All boats are required to complete registration by 10.30 hrs. on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The race office will be located in the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

- 9.2 Registration and Inspection

| Date                            | Boats entering UK Nationals only and boats entering both the UK Nationals and World Championship. | Times         |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July    | Registration and Inspection   | 10.00 – 17.30 |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July   | Registration and Inspection   | 09.00 – 17.30 |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | Registration and Inspection   | 08.30 – 10.30 |

- 9.3 A competitors briefing will be held at 11.00 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July on Haldon Pier, Torquay.

- 9.4

| Date                            | Intended Number of Races | Intended First Warning Signal |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | 2 races                  | 12.55 hrs.                    |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July  | 3 races                  | 10.55 hrs.                    |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> July    | 3 races                  | 10.55 hrs.                    |

- 9.5 It is the intention to complete a single series of 8 races with no more than 3 races on any one day.

- 9.6 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be displayed after 15.00 hrs.

## **10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION [DP]**

- 10.1 A valid measurement certificate shall be held at all times for each boat and shall be produced at inspection. Boats shall comply with RRS 78.1 when presented for inspection,
- 10.2 Boats shall have completed inspection before racing.
- 10.3 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time during the event for compliance with Class Rules, NoR, and SI's. The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this NoR.

## **11 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT [DP]**

- 11.1 See class rules

## **12 RACE AREA**

12.1 Racing will take place in Tor Bay.

## **13 COURSES**

13.1 Courses to be sailed will be described fully in the Sailing Instructions.

## **14 PENALTY SYSTEM**

14.1 Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.

## **15 SCORING**

15.1 RRS Appendix A applies except where changed in 15.3 below.

15.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

15.3 RRS A2.1 Series Scores is changed to read as follows:

15.3.1 When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

15.3.2 When five to eight races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

## **16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS [DP]**

16.1 Boats intending to bring a Support Vessel shall notify the OA in advance by email to [events@rtyc.org](mailto:events@rtyc.org) to secure a berthing space.

16.2 All support vessels and operators shall register with the OA upon arrival and before launching, and pay all fees determined by the OA.

16.3 Support vessel trailers shall be parked at Daddyhole Plain, Daddyhole Road, Torquay, under the direction of the OA Beachmaster team.

16.4 All support vessels shall display identification flags provided by the OA

16.5 All support vessels shall hold full public liability insurance and be able to provide evidence of this if requested by the OA.

16.6 All support vessel crews shall wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) whilst afloat.

16.7 All support vessels shall have a kill cord type device fitted and operational at all times whilst the engine is running.

16.8 The Sailing Instructions may further limit the activities and area of operation of support vessels.

## **17 CHARTERED OR LOAN BOATS**

17.1 A chartered or loan boat may carry national letters or sail numbers in contravention of her class rules and RRS Appendix G3, provided the Race Committee (RC) has approved her sail identification during registration.

## **18 BERTHING [DP] [NP]**

18.1 Boats shall be kept in their designated areas on Haldon Pier, Torquay and as directed by the OA and Beachmaster.

## **19 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**

19.1 Does not apply.

## **20 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**

20.1 Does not apply.

## **21 DATA PROTECTION**

- 21.1 The personal information you provide to the OA will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the RRS and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your National Authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 21.2 The Privacy Policy of the RTYC may be found at <https://rtyc.org/privacy>.

## **22 RISK STATEMENT**

- 22.1 Rule 3 of the RRS states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 22.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
  - b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
  - c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
  - d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
  - e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
  - f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
  - g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any specific risks to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

## **23 INSURANCE**

- 23.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million per event or the equivalent.

## **24 PRIZES**

- 24.1 The event prizegiving will take place in the Corinthian Room, Royal Torbay Yacht Club at 19.30 on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.
- 24.2 Daily prizegiving will take place after racing in the Royal Torbay Yacht Club
- 24.3 Trophies will be awarded in accordance with Addendum 1.
- 24.4 Prizes will be awarded for both the UK Nationals and UK Open events
- 24.5 The OA may at their discretion award additional prizes.

## **25 RIGHTS TO USE NAMES & LIKENESS**

Competitors automatically grant to the OA and their sponsors without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion or still pictures and live, taped, or filmed television of or relating to the event.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Event website: [FIREBALL UK NATIONALS 2026](#)

Email: [events@rtyc.org](mailto:events@rtyc.org)

# ADDENDUM 1

## PRIZES

| Trophy Name                                    | Awarded for ...   |
|--|---|
| Shackleton painting                            | Winner of the Nationals   |
| Access Trophy                                  | Winning helm  |
| City of Plymouth Trophy                        | Winning crew  |
|  |   |
| Norris Brothers Trophy                         | Race 1 Winners  |
| The Urban District Council of Hunstanton Plate | Race 2 Winners  |
| Chippendale Hull Trophy                        | Race 3 Winners  |
| Contac 400 Trophy                              | Race 4 Winners  |
| Hyde Sails Trophy                              | Race 5 Winners  |
| Peter Milne Trophy                             | Race 6 Winners  |
| Yachts & Yachting Trophy                       | Race 7 Winners  |
| Anya Charlotte Horey Trophy                    | Race 8 Winners  |
|  |   |
| U26 Helm Trophy                                | 1st U26 Helm  |
| U26 Crew Trophy                                | 1st U26 Crew  |
| 1st all U26 boat                               | U26 National Champions  |
| Toby Hamer Trophy                              | U26 sailor who has exhibited enthusiasm and general joie de vivre that was associated with Toby |
| RBS Rose Bowl                                  | 1st Lady Helm   |
| 1st Lady Crew Trophy                           | 1st Lady Crew   |
| Master Helm Trophy                             | 1st helm > 50   |
| Master Crew Trophy                             | 1st crew > 50   |
| Grandmaster Helm Trophy                        | 1st helm > 60   |
| Grandmaster Crew Trophy                        | 1st crew > 60   |
| McLaughlin Southworth Trophy                   | Most improved team (from the previous Nationals)  |
| Classic Boat                                   | Highest placed Classic Fireball   |
| Perseverance Trophy                            | Lowest placed boat to complete all races  |

## OTHER EVENT AND VENUE INFORMATION



- **Dinghy and Trailer Parking** on Haldon Pier  
[Tor Bay Harbour - Home \(tor-bay-harbour.co.uk\)](http://tor-bay-harbour.co.uk)
- **Public Car Parking above Beacon Quay** for information and passes visit [Beacon Quay - Torbay Council](http://Beacon Quay - Torbay Council)
- For **Accommodation and Camping** visit [englishriviera.co.uk/accommodation](http://englishriviera.co.uk/accommodation)
- **Royal Torbay Yacht Club** bar and restaurant will be open all day and evening throughout the event serving meals, bar snacks and refreshments. Detailed information, including menus will be published on the event website.
- **Club Entry Access Code** – At registration competitors and their supporters will be given a door entry code to gain access to the club throughout the event. The front door must remain closed at all times, for security reasons.
- **Class Social Events** will take place in the Royal Torbay Yacht Club. Details and menus for all social events will be published on the event website. Additional tickets for family and friends will be available.



## RACE AREA

