

# Royal Torbay Yacht Club - Club Racing Programme 2026



## NOTICE OF RACE

***The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Torbay Yacht Club (RTYC)***

**This Notice of Race (NoR) covers the RTYC Club Racing Programme 2026 except the Channel Race, Offshore Week, Torbay Royal Regatta and Torbay Dinghy Regatta for which separate Notices of Race will be published.**

The notation (DP) in a rule in the NoR means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

### **1 RULES**

The event will be governed by:

- 1.1 The rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 including Royal Yachting Association (RYA) prescriptions.
- 1.2 The Equipment Rules of Sailing, to the extent that they apply (available at [Equipment-Rules-of-Sailing-2025-2028-v.2.pdf](#))
- 1.3 The applicable class and/or handicap system rules, including for IRC boats IRC Rule 2026, Parts A, B and C, but excluding rules 21.1.5(d) and (e), and rule 22.4 [IRC Rule, Notices & Policies - IRC Rating](#).
- 1.4 (DP) Torbay Harbour Byelaws [Tor Bay Harbour - Byelaws \(tor-bay-harbour.co.uk\)](#).
- 1.5 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 at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 or on the RYA website at [Racing Charter \(rya.org.uk\)](#).
- 1.6 RRS 40 Personal Flotation Devices - For all competitors in Sportsboat, PY Dinghy and Junior classes, and all helms or crews under the age of 18 on January 1st 2026 in IRC and Cruiser classes, RRS 40.1 applies and is changed to apply at all times whilst afloat.
- 1.7 The Sailing Instructions (SI's) may also change racing rules.

### **2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI's)**

- 2.1 Sailing instructions will be available on the club website by March 14th 2026.
- 2.2 Supplementary Sailing Instructions and Changes to SI's will be published on the online Official Notice Board (ONB).
- 2.3 Any Supplementary Sailing Instructions and entry information for Coastal and TaDCCS Races will be published on the website of the appropriate organising club.

### **3 COMMUNICATION**

- 3.1 The online Official Noticeboard is located at [Club Racing 2026 | Royal Torbay Yacht Club \(rtyc.org\)](#).
- 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 is not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

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- 3.3 In accordance with RRS 20.4 (b) the use of VHF radio as an alternative communication is permitted.
- 3.4 A WhatsApp group may also be used to contact registered mobile numbers for each boat providing notifications and Race Committee (RC) communications whilst ashore. Failure to receive WhatsApp messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## 4 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 4.1 The club racing programme is open to all boats of the following classes or handicap divisions.
  - 4.1.1 IRC Class (IRC) – Open to any Yacht holding a valid [IRC Certificate](#) that does not meet the requirements of the Sportsboat Class.
  - 4.1.2 Cruiser Class (Cruiser) – Open to any World Sailing OSR Cat 4 equipped Yachts holding a current [RYA YTC Certificate](#) that does not meet the requirements of the Sportsboat Class.
  - 4.1.3 Sportsboat (Club) Handicap Class - Class for One Design and IRC rated keelboats with a design weight between 100kg to 1600kg, and an asymmetric rig.
  - 4.1.4 SB20 Class – Open to SB 20 One Design Class yachts.
  - 4.1.5 PY Dinghy Handicap Class – Class for Dinghies with a current Portsmouth Yardstick Handicap Number.
  - 4.1.6 Junior Handicap Classes – Classes Dinghies with a current Portsmouth Yardstick Handicap Number of 1175 to 1249 (Fast) and 1250 and above (Sports), sailed by Junior crews who are under the age of 18 on 1st January 2026.
  - 4.1.7 The OA may, at their discretion, add additional classes and allocate or combine divisions of the above classes. Class starts may be shared.
  - 4.1.8 Any handicap class split will be published on the ONB one week before the start of the series.
- 4.2 Club Handicaps and Pursuit Start times will be calculated by the OA and published on the club website and displayed on the ONB at least 48 hrs before the start of a series/race.
- 4.3 The Coastal Series and Cruiser Class of the New Years' Day Race is open to all yachts complying with Cruiser class definition.
- 4.4 The RYA Yacht Time Correction System will be used for all boats entering the Cruiser Class Series, Coastal Series and the Cruiser Class New Year's Day race 2027.
- 4.5 **Entries** - Eligible boats shall enter by completing the entry form and making payment online at [Club Racing 2026 | Royal Torbay Yacht Club \(rtyc.org\)](#).
  - 4.5.1 To be considered an entry a boat shall meet all entry requirements and pay all fees.
  - 4.5.2 Cruiser Class yachts and IRC Yachts who also holds a valid RYA YTC certificate will automatically be entered in the Coastal series.
  - 4.5.3 An SB20 boat entering the SB20 Class will automatically be entered in the Sportsboat Handicap Class.
  - 4.5.4 There is no additional fee applicable to either 4.5.2 or 4.5.3.
- 4.6 [NP] A yacht that enters IRC or Cruiser Class but does not possess a current certificate by the day of the first race in which she intends to sail, shall notify the Sailing Secretary, and may be given a temporary Club Handicap for that race only. Any extended use of a temporary club handicap is at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. See also section 10.4 below.
- 4.7 An entrant who changes a sail number, boat or hull or substantive change to the boat that may affect the racing, must notify the OA in writing by completing a new entry online, no additional fee will be payable.
- 4.8 A yacht or boat shall not change classes during a series and may only race in one class during a series.

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- 4.9 **Race Duties** - by entering the 2026 Club Racing programme covered by this NoR, all entrants agree to undertake delegated Race Officer, committee boat, shore or safety boat duties. Allocated role will be posted on the Club Racing website page and it is the responsibility of the boat to carry out that duty or to make arrangements with a suitably qualified person from another boat.
- 4.10 **Junior Race Duties** - the person signing the parental consent form assumes the duty obligations.
- 4.11 If the entrant is unable to undertake their designated or agreed duty, they may pass this duty to one of their crew, as long as that person is suitably qualified for the role.
- 4.12 **Parent/Guardian Declarations:** All helms and crews under 18 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 shall submit signed Parent/Guardian Declarations as part of the entry and submit details of the parent(s) acting in loco parentis.

## 5 FEES

- 5.1 Entry fees for the full programme of races shall be as follows: -
  - 5.1.1 Junior classes £50.00
  - 5.1.2 All other classes £105.00
  - 5.1.3 Helms under 18 on January 1st, 2026 £50.00
- 5.2 Entry fees for a single race will be £10.00 (£5.00 Juniors)
- 5.3 Entry fees for a single series of races will be £25.00 (£20.00 Juniors)
- 5.4 No additional entry fee is payable for The Bill's Goblet or New Year's Day Races
- 5.5 Entries and payment must be received no later than 12.00 two days before a race (e.g. 12.00 Friday before a Sunday race)

## 6 CREW LIMITATIONS

- 6.1 To score series points the helm of the entered boat must be a full member of RTYC in at least 75% of the races.
- 6.2 Named helms are required to be declared for each Junior Handicap Class series (see Section 15.7 below – Scoring)
- 6.3 Eligibility for the Crews Race is limited to boats helmed by a crew member who is a current member of the RTYC and has crewed in more than 50% of the club races that the boat has sailed at that point in 2026. Also, Crews are not eligible if they have previously helmed in more than 30% of the races that the boat has sailed during 2026.

## 7 ADVERTISING

- 7.1 (NP) Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.
- 7.2 (NP) Advertising will comply with World Sailing Regulation 20 Advertising Code.

## 8 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES

Does not apply.

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## 9 SCHEDULE

- 9.1 The Club Racing Programme 2026 is displayed on the Official Noticeboard on the club website and available at the club. See 9.5 below
- 9.2 Racing for all classes seasonal series will be on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings. See 9.5 below
- 9.3 Details of Coastal Series races will be in the Racing Programme (see 9.1 above)
- 9.4 Times of First warning signals will appear in the SI's.
- 9.5 Series/Events and number of races

<i>Class/Day</i>	<i>Series/Event</i>	<i>No of Races</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>IRC and Cruiser Classes Sunday Series</b>	Spring Sunday Series	6	April – May
	Summer Sunday Series	6	June – August
	Autumn Sunday Series	7	April - August
	Winter Sundays Series	8	September - October November – December
<b>Cruiser Class yachts Coastal Weekend/Friday Races</b>	Coastal Series Of which 6 form <b>The TaDCCS Coastal Series (event)</b>	11	April – September
<b>Sportsboat and SB20 Sunday Series (up to 2 races per day)</b>	Spring Series	14	April – May
	Summer Series	14	June – August
	Autumn Sunday Series	14	September - October
	Winter Sunday Series	16	November - December
<b>PY Dinghy Handicap Sunday Series (up to 2 races per day)</b>	Spring Series	14	April – May
	Summer Series	12	June – August
	Autumn Series	14	September - October
	Winter Series	16	November - December
<b>Junior Classes, inc. Squadron 13, (up to 2 races per day)</b>	Spring Series	14	April – May
	Summer Series	14	June – August
	Autumn Series	14	September - October
	Winter Series	16	November - December
<b>Wednesday Series All Classes</b>	Spring Series	8	April – May
	Crews Race (event)	1	May 27 <sup>th</sup>
	Pursuit Race Series	2	June - July
	Early Summer Series	8	August – September
	Late Summer Series	6	
<b>Bill's Goblet All Classes</b>	Bill's Goblet Pursuit Race (event)	1	May 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>New Year's Day Race 2027 Cruiser and Sportsboats Classes</b>	New Year's Day Race 2027 One off race (event)	1	January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2027

## 10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1 A valid measurement certificate, rating or handicap certificate shall be held at all times by each boat for the class for which she is entered and shall produce it if requested to do so by the OA.
- 10.2 Any changes to IRC Rating or RYA YTC certificates shall be notified to the OA by submitting a new entry not less than 24 hours before the scheduled warning signal of the next race of the series. There is no additional fee.
- 10.3 White Sail declarations for each series shall made to the OA prior to the scheduled warning signal of the first race of the series to which it applies.
- 10.4 Handicaps for all classes, other than IRC and YTC classes, will be allocated and/or adjusted at the discretion of the OA with reference to published data.
- 10.5 (DP) A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 10.6 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this NoR.

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## 11 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- 11.1 Manual Power – IRC and Cruiser Classes. RRS 52 is changed to permit the use of automatic pilots, whether electronic or otherwise.

## 12 VENUE

- 12.1 Racing will take place in Torbay and South Devon Coastal waters.

## 13 THE COURSES

- 13.1 Courses will be described in the Sailing and Supplementary Instructions.

## 14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3 does not apply. This changes RRS 44.
- 14.2 For the Sportsboat Handicap and SB20 Classes RRS 44.1 is changed so that Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty, except where the infringement is against a boat competing in another class.
- 14.3 RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.

## 15 SCORING

- 15.1 Rule A5.3 applies.
- 15.2 Any boat that enters after a series has commenced will score the number of entries plus 1 point for the races in which she did not compete prior to entry.
- 15.3 RRS A2.1 Series Scores is changed to read as follows:
  - 15.3.1 When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
  - 15.3.2 When four to six races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
  - 15.3.3 When seven to nine races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her scores excluding her worst two scores.
  - 15.3.4 When ten to twelve races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her scores excluding her worst three scores.
  - 15.3.5 When thirteen or more races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her scores excluding her worst four scores.
- 15.4 All corrected times for handicap classes will be rounded to the nearest second to determine finishing place.
- 15.5 Any competitor who does not compete in a race(s) to help with race organisation of any club sailing event, will be awarded series average points (SAP), excluding discards. Average points claim forms available in the club or on the club website [Club Racing 2026 | Royal Torbay Yacht Club](#) shall be completed and emailed to [sailing@rtyc.org](mailto:sailing@rtyc.org), or returned to the club office within 5 days of the race.
- 15.6 Boats will only be scored for Junior Handicap Class series if there is a nominated helm.
- 15.7 An entrant, who changes their boat or hull during the season, and within the same class, may count the old boat or hull scores, together with the new boat or hull scores, towards that series and the Class Championship.
- 15.8 Any one design class with five or more entries will be scored separately in addition to their handicap class scoring.
- 15.9 In Coastal Races, scores from events organised by other clubs will only include RTYC entered boats.

## 16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 16.1 (DP) Support person vessels will not be allowed

## 17 CHARTERED BOATS

- Does not apply.

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- 18 BERTHING** - Does not apply.  
**19 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS** - Does not apply.  
**20 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS** – Does not apply.

## **21 DATA PROTECTION**

- 21.1** The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing 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. RTYC Privacy Policy [rtyc.org/privacy](https://rtyc.org/privacy).

## **22 RISK STATEMENT**

- 22.1** Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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.
  - h) (For offshore races) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and is in date and familiar to the crew.

## **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.

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## 24 PRIZES

- 24.1 Unless stated in the Sailing Instructions or any Supplementary Instructions. Prizes and perpetual trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the OA for each class and special races. A minimum of 2 boats must have entered the class and at least 66% of the series races must have been contested by any two entrants to constitute a series.
- 24.2 Class Champion trophies will be awarded to the boat that has the best overall results adding up the net points achieved in each series covered by this NoR, excluding Winter series.
- 24.3 The **Wilkinson Cox Trophy** will be awarded for the Club "Champion of Champions".
  - 24.3.1 A Class Champion who has been awarded the trophy in the previous two years for their current or any other class is not eligible to receive the trophy.
- 24.4 Perpetual trophies will be presented but retained by OA after prizegiving.

## 25 SAFETY

In addition to section 1 above:

- 25.1 **(DP) All IRC, Cruiser and Coastal** series entrants shall comply with their own class, rating and handicap system rules and in addition shall carry the following.
  - 25.1.1 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on Channels 12, 14, 16, 65, 72, 77.
  - 25.1.2 Fire Safety. Boats carrying an engine or fuel shall carry a suitable fire extinguisher and a bucket of 9 litres capacity, attached to a lanyard.
  - 25.1.3 Personal Flotation Devices for each crew member.
  - 25.1.4 Man Overboard. A rescue quoit or throw bag with at least 15m of floating line, and at least one lifebuoy or life sling.
  - 25.1.5 First Aid kit in a waterproof pack with instructions.
  - 25.1.6 Anchor suitable for the size of boat with a minimum of 50m warp.
  - 25.1.7 Compass - either fixed or handheld.
  - 25.1.8 Equipment including fittings and engines shall be securely fastened.
  - 25.1.9 Propulsion – an alternative means to the boats sails is to be provided.
- 25.2 **(DP) Sportsboat Handicap and SB20** class entrants shall comply with their own class rules and in addition carry the following safety equipment.
  - 25.2.1 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on Channels 12, 14, 16, 65, 72, 77.
  - 25.2.2 Compass – either fixed or handheld.
  - 25.2.3 First Aid kit in a waterproof pack with instructions.
  - 25.2.4 Anchor suitable for the size of boat with a minimum of 30m warp.
  - 25.2.5 Propulsion – an alternative means to the boats sails is to be provided.
- 25.3 **(DP) PY Dinghy, Junior, and Sportsboat Classes shall also comply with: -**
  - 25.3.1 The helm and crew shall wear clothing and safety equipment (including harnesses) in the manner intended by the manufacturer.

## 26 RIGHTS TO USE NAMES & LIKENESSES

- 26.1 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 CONTACT

Royal Torbay Yacht Club, 12 Beacon Terrace, Torquay, TQ1 2BH.

Tel +44 (0) 1803 292006

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

Web [Club Racing 2026 | Royal Torbay Yacht Club](#)