



# Hastings Yacht Club Inc.

## 2026 Winter Saturday Series

### Sailing Instructions

#### 1. Rules

- 1.1 All races conducted by HYC will be governed by:
- The **Racing Rules of Sailing** (RRS), except as modified by the Sailing Instructions.
  - Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing.
  - HYC Sailing Instructions.
  - Performance Based Handicap System of HYC
  - Class Rules of the yachts racing.
- 1.2 The Organising Authority will be the Sailing Committee of HYC. The race Committee shall be appointed by the Sailing Committee.

#### 2. Entries

- 2.1 All competitors shall have signed on with Hastings Race Control on the race radio communications VHF channel 77 at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for the race.
- 2.2 To be eligible to race, all competitors who are members of HYC shall have completed a crew manifest form at 30 minutes prior to racing.
- 2.3 Failure to supply a Crew Declaration within 30 minutes of the race may result in disqualification from ALL races for the day without a hearing. This amends Rule 35, A4 and A5. This instruction will also apply where racing is conducted under any other similar government-imposed health and safety regulations where a Safety Plan is required, and it states this Sailing Instruction is applicable. The Crew Declaration form will be available online and email.
- 2.4 Competitors who are members of HYC who wish to compete on a casual basis in a race will be invoiced at the end of the Winter Series.
- 2.5 Visiting boats may enter the series or individual races by completing the race entry form and paying the prescribed entry fee.
- 2.6 Rule 46 of the RRS will not apply as HYC is not a club affiliated with Aus. Sailing.

#### 3. Safety Regulations

- 3.1 All boats competing must, during daylight hours, comply with Category 6, and during night time racing, comply with Category 5N of the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 with the following inclusions:
- Trailable Yachts shall have their keels fully lowered and pinned in position
  - Fully operational engine permanently installed or outboard to be mounted at all times
  - Fully operational VHF marine radio
  - Lifebuoy and heaving line to be readily accessible
- 3.2 The race radio communications VHF Channel 77 must remain functional from 1 hour prior to the notified start time and for the duration of the race.
- 3.3 A boat that retires from the race shall notify Hastings Race Control by radio as soon as it makes its decision to retire.



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- 3.4 In the interests of safety, the race committee reserves the right to postpone or abandon any event at any time.
- 3.5 On race day at 04:00am if the Bureau of Meteorology has issued or has in place a Strong wind warning or higher the racing for the day will be abandoned.
- 3.6 All boats should report to Hastings Race Control any observed significant circumstances that may adversely affect the safety of any of the competitors in the race.
- 3.7 Boats shall report to Hastings Race Control all incidents that have resulted in injury or serious damage or are of an adverse nature that could affect the safety of the boat or crew while racing. Boats involved in the incident shall lodge with the HYC an Incident Declaration at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 3.8 Port Rule 62B for Victorian Proclaimed Ports, including the waters of Western Port, requires small vessels IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES to keep clear of Commercial Shipping. Boats found to have contravened this Rule will be subject to Disqualification.

#### 4. Notice to Competitors

Notice to Competitors shall be primarily emailed to all entrants and members, they may be posted on the HYC Website, and / or the Official Notice Board located near the entrance to Downstairs Clubrooms.

#### 5. Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any changes to the sailing instructions shall be primarily emailed to all entrants and members, or posted on the Official Notice Board at least one hour before the advertised start time of any race they effect in the event of late notice.

Until further notice HYC will not apply Rule 46 in club races.

#### 6. Signals made ashore

- 6.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the yardarm of the HYC mast.
- 6.2 Flag 'AP' with two sound signals (one sound when lowered) means "The Race is postponed." The Warning Signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered. This amends Race Signals – Postponement Signal AP
- 6.3 Flag 'L' with one sound signal means a Notice to Competitors has been placed on the Official Notice Board.
- 6.4 Flag 'Y' with one sound signal means that Personal Flotation Devices shall be worn by all crewmembers.
- 6.5 The intention of all Signals made ashore may also be relayed on the race radio communications VHF channel 77

#### 7. Committee Vessels

All Committee Vessels shall fly the HYC Burgee



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#### 8. Schedule of Races

Races are scheduled as outlined in the Sailing Calendar published on the HYC website.

#### 9. Class Flags

9.1 Class flags shall be!

Trailable Yachts, Division 1	Code Flag '1'
Keel Boats, Division 2	Code Flag '2'
Multi-hulls, Division 3	Code Flag '3'
Sports boats, Division 4	Code Flag '4'

9.2 All boats will be allocated to a Division in accordance with their handicap at the discretion of the Club Captain.

9.3 For any Trophy races the Club Captain reserves the authority to separate the boats by Division or declare all boats together.

#### 10. Protests

10.1 Protests shall be in writing and lodged at the HYC Office within one hour of the finish time of the last boat in the last race of the day. Protest forms are available at the HYC Office.

10.2 Mediation will be considered an appropriate alternative precursor to a full protest hearing.

10.3 The notice of a protest hearing will be posted on the Official Notice Board prior to 1500 hrs on the first Wednesday after the race, informing competitors of the date, time and location of the hearing to which they are a party to or named as a witness.

#### 11. Scoring

11.1 The Low Points scoring system of Rules Appendix A will apply to all events

11.2 If a boat completes less than 3 races in a series it shall have no series result.

11.3 If a boat completes 3 races than all results shall count

11.4 When 5 or more races in a series have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

11.5 When 10 or more races in a series have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

11.6 A boat that joins a series after one or more races have been run will be awarded a Late Entrant score for each earlier race not sailed. The Late Entrant score will be the DNC score for the first non-abandoned race after the boat joins the series. Previous allocated DNC scores for other boats in earlier races will not be altered.



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- 11.7 Average points may be awarded for a race that is part of a series where the requesting boat is participating in its class state, national or world championships or where the requesting boat has been chosen to represent the club in another event.
- 11.8 In the event that a boat is rostered on a particular race day to provide regular members of its crew for race crew duties she shall not race and will be scored DUT. This awards a score that is the average of the total points that the boat has received for all races in the series. Boats not meeting this obligation shall be scored DNC without a hearing.
- 11.9 The handicapper shall allocate handicaps to all boats at the commencement of the season and may revise such handicaps from time to time as a result of a boat's performance.
- 11.10 Average points may be awarded at the discretion of the Race Committee to a competitor who has been disadvantaged through an act of sportsmanship.

#### 12. Starters, Race Results, Trophies and Prizes

- 12.1 Two starters per division shall constitute a race for that division.
- 12.2 Race Results shall be displayed on the Official Notice Board on the day of the race and as soon as practicable on the HYC website. Results may also be announced in the Clubhouse
- 12.3 All race and series results shall be considered provisional until the Trophies and Prizes are presented.

#### 13. Marks

Start A	MS2
Start B	B28
Start C	Staff mark with an Orange flag attached
Finish	B28
THB	Tortoise Head Buoy -YBY VQ (9)10S
SPB	Sandy Point Buoy - Red
Fairway buoy	Marks the entrance to Westernport Harbor
Newhaven Mark	Marks the entrance to Newhaven - FI R 10S
MS1	Southern Middle Spit Mark
MS2	Central Middle Spit Mark
MS3	Northern Middle Spit Mark
MSNCM	Middle Spit North Cardinal Mark
MSSCM	Middle Spit South Cardinal Mark
JIECM	Joes Island East Cardinal Mark
B25, 26, 27 etc	Shipping Channel Buoys
Mark A	Orange Inflatable Buoy



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#### **14. Courses**

- 14.1 Courses are detailed in the Course Book published on the HYC website
- 14.2 The course number shall be displayed on the Committee Vessel and relayed on the race radio communications VHF channel 77
- 14.3 The start mark for the days racing may be relayed on the race radio communications VHF channel 77
- 14.4 When Flag C is displayed on a Committee Vessel before or at the start all course are amended to include Mark A as the first mark of the course after the start and shall be passed on a hand that meets the requirements of Rule 28.1.

#### **15. The Start**

- 15.1 Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26
- 15.2 The warning signal for Division 3 (Multi-hulls) shall be made 10 minutes after the starting signal of Division 2. This amends Rule 26.
- 15.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying the class flag for the division to start on a Committee Vessel and the start mark.
- 15.4 A crowding buoy may be laid off the transom of the Committee Vessel and shall be considered part of that vessel.
- 15.5 Boats are requested to keep clear of the start line before their preparatory signal.
- 15.6 A boat that starts later than 15 minutes after her start time shall be scored did not start (DNS). This amends Rule 35, A4 & A5
- 15.7 When two races are programmed with only one start time being listed, the second race shall start as soon as possible after the first race is finished.

#### **16. Recalls**

Recalls shall be signalled in accordance with Rule 29.1 or 29.2

#### **17. Shortening Course**

Courses shall be shortened in accordance with Rule 32.

#### **18. Change of course after the start**

When Flag C is displayed on a Committee Vessel at a rounding mark the course being sailed is amended to include Mark A as the next mark of the course and shall be passed on a hand that meets the requirements of Rule 28.1.

#### **19. The Finish**

- 19.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying the Club Burgee on a Committee Vessel and the finish mark.



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- 19.2 Boats crossing the finish line will receive a sound signal indicating that they have finished the race.
- 19.3 A boat that re-crosses the finishing line after she has finished racing shall be disqualified (DSQ).
- 19.4 Boats that cross the finish line after sailing the course shall be deemed to have signed off
- 19.5 In the event that the Committee Vessel is not on station for the finish, all competitors shall pass within 50m of the finish buoy, as notified on the race radio communication VHF channel 77, and record their finish time. This recorded time shall be passed onto the Race Committee at the first available opportunity as determined by the circumstances.

#### 20. Time Limit

- 20.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish is 5 Hours.
- 20.2 The time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Race Committee. If the time limit is to be extended, it will be announced with the course information on the race radio communications VHF channel 77 before the commencement of the race.
- 20.3 Boats failing to finish within the time limit or within 90 minutes of the first boat in her division to finish, whichever is the later, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This amends Rules 35, A4 & A5

#### 21. Propulsion

- 21.1 A boat observed by a member of the Race Committee to have broken Rule 42 as amended by sub-clause 21.2 shall be Disqualified (DSQ) without a hearing.
- 21.2 For Twilight Races a boat may use its motor, paddles or oars for propulsion up to 1 minute prior to its scheduled start time. This amends Rule 42

#### 14 Risk Statement RRS 3 states:

'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone'. By participating in this event each competitor agrees

and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks.

These risks include

strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure or equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats,

loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.

**Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, Trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**