



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Off The Beach Division - 2025/26 V1.1

1. RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, the Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing Category 7 and any amendments, each yacht's Class Rules (except where any of these are altered by the Sailing Instructions), and the Sailing Instructions.

- 1.2 N/A.

- 1.3 Each race is required to have a minimum of 4 boats signed on to start the race. If less than 4, then race will not be part of the race series.

2. SPINNAKERS

- 2.1 All boats (spinnaker and non-spinnaker, Mono's & Cats) will race within the same divisions.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the venue which will be Kilaben Bay within the immediate vicinity of the large concrete apron near F-Jetty.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before the briefing on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted in the club magazine prior to the next race.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be as notified at the pre-race briefing.

6. SCHEDULE of RACES

- 6.1 Racing will be undertaken over the weekend of the dates listed below. The Saturday of the listed weekend is the preferred race day. However, if in the opinion of the OTB Division Race Organiser, Saturday's weather is not conducive to safe sailing, the Sunday will be used instead. Dates of racing for the 25/26 season are:

13 or 14 Sep 25	10 or 11 Jan 26
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25 or 26 Oct 25	14 or 15 Feb 26
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08 or 09 Nov 25	14 or 15 Mar 26
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13 or 14 Dec 25	18 or 19 Apr 26
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	09 or 10 May 26
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- 6.2 The scheduled time for race briefing is 1130 on the day of the race.
- 6.3 Race start times is 1230. All boats to compete in one division and one start.
- 6.4 Postponement or abandonment will be notified by the Support Boat flying the appropriate signal flag.
- 6.5 N/A.

6.6 N/A.

7. RACING AREAS

7.1 Racing will occur within the confines of Kilaben Bay.

8. THE COURSES

8.1 The courses to be sailed for each race will be traditional Triangle – Windward/Leeward – Triangle courses as marked by orange teardrop buoys. The Support Boat will form one end of the Start/Finish line in the proximity of the Leeward mark.

8.2 The course will be indicated at briefing starting approximately 60 minutes prior to the first boat starting or as in supplementary sailing instructions.

8.3 Course buoys or marks will be identified at the briefing or in the supplementary instructions. Note: - Maritime Cardinal and Navigation buoys on the course must be obeyed.

8.4 At the discretion of the Race Organiser alternate courses may be utilised and will be indicated at the race briefing.

8.5 All vessels shall round each mark on the designated side.

9. THE START

9.1 Races will be started using Rule 26, with the warning signal made **3 minutes** before the start signal for each division.

9.2 The Division One flag is the only start flag.

9.3 The start will be between an Association buoy and a flag on the start boat, unless otherwise notified at the briefing.

9.4 N/A.

9.5 N/A.

10. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

10.1 If it is considered by the Support Boat Operator (SBO), who is conducting the race, that the lead boat may not finish within One hour, or there is a change in the weather conditions which may affect the safety of the competitors, the the Support Boat Operator may consider shortening the course.

10.2 N/A.

10.3 The Start/Finish boat will relocate to a suitable mark and form a finish line between the mark and the Start/Finish boat. The Start/Finish boat will then indicate the shortened course by flying the Shortened Course flag and make a sound signal twice.

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The finish will be between a buoy and the SBO's boat or as notified at the race briefing. Competitors are not to re-cross the finish line. Vessels which do re-cross the finish line will receive a penalty of 2 minutes added to their finish time. In addition, yachts are requested to keep clear of the general area of the finish line after finishing.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 Is changed to; Boats failing to finish within 1.5 hours of the start will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes rule 35.

13. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

13.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Organiser.

13.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has crossed the finish line.

- 13.3 Under rule 61 a list of protests will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors, who are still near the briefing area, of hearings in which they are parties, or named as witnesses.
- 13.4 Decisions of the protest committee will be final.
- 13.5 The protest Committee will be made up from committee members or of financial members of the club chaired by a qualified Race Officer.
- 13.6 Is changed to: On completion of the race, corrected times from the finish times as recorded by the Support Boat Operator will be calculated. There will be no posting of results prior to announcement of the results.

14. **SCORING**

- 14.1 Is changed to; The primary scoring system will be based on the Australian Sailing Dinghy and Catamaran Yardsticks for the 2024-25 season. Scoring will be based on the skipper (not the boat) across the season, this enables skippers to try multiple OTB sailing craft across the season.
- 14.2 The secondary scoring system will be based on the personal handicap (PHC) results of the skipper.
- 14.3 N/A.
- 14.4 Series Racing Penalty System as per clause A9.
- 14.5 Any Series Ties to be resolved using clause A8.
- 14.6 A racing yacht that renders assistance to another vessel in distress will be allocated the average of her 4 best scores meaning that yacht will be scored as a DUTY boat.
- 14.7 Any NHTYA Club Member absent from an NHTYA race because they are participating in another club's race on the same day will be scored as a "DUTY" boat and receive an average of her 4 best scores. This can only be applied once per Series.
- 14.8 Any member who participates in "The Buddy System" to guide a new member will be scored as a "DUTY" boat and receive an average of her 4 best scores.

15. **PERSON in CHARGE**

- 15.1 All yacht skippers must have current:
- Australian Sailing membership,
 - Race fees paid,
 - Members of NHTYA must have current NHTYA club membership paid,
 - Failing any of these, the yacht will be scored as DSQ (Disqualified).
- 15.1 Visiting yachts are not eligible to participate in the Series Score Prize. Also, the visiting boat is to complete and supply to the Race Officer the Visiting Yacht Declaration Form.
- 15.2 Visiting yachts that elect to race can participate in the podium prizes by paying the standard race fee of \$5 per race event (day) entered in this series, until \$10 has been accumulated. Visiting yachts are not eligible to participate in the Series Score Prize.

16. **SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 16.1 Is changed to; All boats are to 'sign on' and 'sign off' on the Race Sign-on/Off Sheet. Failure to do so will result in the boat being disqualified.
- 16.2 N/A.
- 16.3 N/A
- 16.4 Is changed to OTB Equipment Safety Audits (IAW 2021- AS Special Regulations Part 2 at <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/fjbezh5drjdqta5.pdf>) must be verified by a Australian Sailing accredited auditor and finalised before the second race event of this series. If a boat has not got a completed and finalised OTB Equipment Safety Audit before the second race event of this series the boat will be scored DSQ (disqualified) until compliance is achieved.

- 16.5 New club members who join during the series will have until their second “race weekend” to submit and completely finalise their Off the Beach Equipment Audit Form. However, they must pay Australian Sailing Membership fees, NHTYA Membership fees and race fees before entering a race. Until these requirements are completed, they will be scored DSQ._
- 16.6 If the weather forecast for Lake Macquarie, as viewed on the “Meteye” site (<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye>) is for extreme conditions, or winds are predicted to exceed 15 knots inshore during the time of the race, the race **may be** cancelled by the race organiser.
- 16.7 N/A.
- 16.8 All boats must at all times comply with the “Roads and Maritime Boating Handbook.
- 16.9 Cancellation of Sailing for the weekend. To facilitate members who travel long distances when foul weather is predicted, the Race Organiser shall monitor the B.O.M./MetEye website forecast for the upcoming race weekend. Should (in the opinion of the Race Organiser) the forecast weather for the weekend not be conducive to safe racing, or if cancellation for other factors is deemed necessary by the race organiser, the Race Organiser shall cancel the weekend’s racing. The cancellation shall be advised two days prior to the event.
- 16.10 N/A.
- 16.11 N/A.
- 16.12 N/A.
- 16.13 N/A.
- 17. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**
- 17.1 A boat or its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Sailing Instructions. On the water, a boat may be instructed by a Race Committee Officer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- 18. OFFICIAL BOATS**
- 18.1 Official boats will be the Support Boat Operator boat and any Committee member boats.
- 19. RADIO COMMUNICATION**
- 19.1 N/A.
- 19.2 Changes to race conditions during the conduct of a race will be notified by a combination of display of the relevant signalling flag, and also verbally, from the Support Boat.
- 20. CLUB BURGEE**
- 20.1 N/A.
- 21. PRIZES**
- No prizes for individual races will be given.
- 21.1 Trophies will be as follows:
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in the season’s series based on Yardstick.
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in the season’s series based on PHC.
- Any competitor eligible for a trophy on Yardstick is not eligible for a trophy on PHC.
- No prizes for crew.
- 21.2 N/A.
- 22. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**
- 22.1 Competitors participate in races and regattas entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the series races.

23. **INSURANCE**

23.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000.00 per event or the equivalent.

23.2 N/A.

24. For further information please contact the:

Commodore	Ken Hill	0400 208 553
NHTYA Race Officer	Peter Melbourne	0412 278 567
OTB Race Officer	Brian Harrison	0421 979 452

