Newcastle and Hunter Trailer Yacht Association Inc.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Spring Series 2026

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. All races will be "Mixed Class Races" and spinnakers may be flown in accordance with the following.

2. SPINNAKERS

2.1. All boats (spinnaker and non-spinnaker) will race within their same divisions.

2.2. Boats nominating to use a spinnaker are to demonstrate that they have appropriate insurance coverage.

2.3. Boats must nominate before the race series if they are racing "spinnaker" or "non-spinnaker".

2.4. In the 5-minute preparatory time before her start, a yacht will not fly her spinnaker until she has crossed the start line. Testing a spinnaker before her start may be done provided, she is at least 200 metres clear of, and on the start side of, the start line.

2.5. Spinnakers cannot be flown on single handed boats.

2.6. Gennakers/mistresses/MPS etc. are classified as spinnakers.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard located at the venue which will be F-Jetty for races 1 & 2 and Styles Point for races 3 to 8.

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

Dates for races 2026

05 Sep 26 Race 1 OOD Deja Vu	06 Sep 26 Race 2 OOD Inspiration
17 Oct 26 Race 3 OOD Crosswind	18 Oct 26 Race 4 OOD Gundaroo II
07 Nov 26 Race 5 OOD Biddy Too	08 Nov 26 Race 6 OOD Amerthyst

05 Dec 26 Race 7 OOD Jocimo	06 Dec 26 Race 8 OOD True North

6.1. The scheduled time of the race briefing signal for Saturday is 11.30am and Sundays is 10.30am. The schedule time for the race warning signal for Division 1 shall be about one hour after the race briefing. Race start times are: -

6.1.1. Saturday Division 1: - 12:30am Division 2: - 12:40am Division 3: - 12:50am. The fleet may be directed to a scratch start at 12:30. At the discretion of the Race Officer, boats with a very low handicapped number may elect to start early as Division 4 at 12:10pm.

6.1.2. Sunday Division 1: - 11:30am, Division 2: - 11:40am Division 3: - 11:50am. The fleet may be directed to a scratch start at 11:30. At the discretion of the Race Officer, boats with a very low handicap number may elect to start early as Division 4 at 11:10am.

6.2. Each race is required to have a minimum of 4 boats signed on to start the race and cross the start line. –

6.3. Postponement or abandonment will be notified at the briefing or by a radio call on VHF Channel 72 to the “Catalina Fleet”.

6.4. If a single race, or even a whole weekend of races is not run, the race numbers in the series will continue in chronological order with 2 races being run on the following Saturday race days. Saturday start time of 12:30 will still apply and the second race will commence by flag signals, nominally 10 minutes after the last boat completes the first race. If there are not sufficient Saturday race days to make up any races cancelled or not run, then the Race Committee may elect to also run catch-up races on Sunday race days. Sunday start time of 11:30 will still apply and the second race will commence by flag signals, nominally 10 minutes after the last boat completes the first race.

6.5. Saturdays and Sundays will be used for re-running of abandoned races and if there is more than one race abandoned, they be re-run on consecutive Saturday race days. If required, catch-up races may also be sailed on Sunday race days.

7. RACING AREAS

7.1. Addendum A shows the location of the racing areas.

8. THE COURSES

8.1. The Addendums A and B, plus any other maps issued in the future, show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. A windward leeward triangle course may be used if conditions are suitable.

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 Officer alternate courses may be utilised and will be indicated at the race briefing.

8.5. All yachts 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 **5 minutes** before the start signal for each division.

9.2. The class flag for each division will use the corresponding pennant i.e Division 1 will use pennant 1, Division 2 will use pennant 2, and so on.

9.3. The start will be between an Association buoy and an orange flag on the start boat, unless otherwise notified at the briefing. Preference is for the start boat to be stationed at the starbord end of the start line.

9.4. A yacht's engine shall not be used in the 5 minute period prior to its starting time i.e. after her warning signal.

9.5. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the start sequence for other divisions.

9.6. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.

CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

9.7. If it is considered by the "Officer of the Day" (O.O.D.), who is conducting the race, that the lead boat may not finish within three and a half (3 ½) hours, or there is a change in the weather conditions which may affect the safety of the competitors, the O.O.D. will consult the Race Officer and/or the Assistant Race Officer as soon as possible, to consider shortening of the course.

9.8. The Race Officer and/or the Assistant Race Officer may shorten the course. This will be notified over the radio, on VHF Channel 72, by the O.O.D or the Race Officer using the call sign "Catalina Fleet".

9.9. The fleet will then be told at which buoy the shortened course will take effect. Yachts will then sail from that buoy to the finish line.

10. THE FINISH

10.1. The finish will be between a buoy and the O.O.D.'s boat or as notified at the race briefing. Competitors are not to re-cross the finish line. Yachts 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.

11. TIME LIMITS

11.1. Boats failing to finish within 5 hours of the Division 1 scheduled start time will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. Boats failing to finish within 2 hours after the first boat sails the course will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes rule 35.

11.2. Should a race be abandoned for any reason, at the discretion of the Club Race Officer, the race may be re-run as part of the 2026 Autumn Series on another date.

12. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

12.1. Protest forms are available from the Race Officer.

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

12.3. 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.

12.4. Decisions of the protest committee will be final.

12.5. The protest Committee will be made up from committee members or of financial members of the club chaired by a qualified Race Officer.

12.6. On completion of the race the "Handicap Officer" shall work out the corrected times from the finish times as recorded by the Officer of the Day.

13. SCORING

13.1. The scoring system will be based on both personal handicap (PHC) and Class Basic Handicap (CBH) results using the Top Yacht Club Score software.

13.2. Any boat not listed within the Australian Class Based Handicap (CBH) Rating System listing will be given a CBH at the discretion of the handicapper and will not form grounds for a protest.

13.3. In consultation with the Sailing Committee, and upon review of previous season's CBH race results, some minor CBH rating adjustments may be made by the Club Handicapper to address rating anomalies.

13.4. Series Racing Penalty System as per clause A9.

13.5. Any Series Ties to be resolved using clause A8.

13.6. 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.

13.7. 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 and must be applied for prior to the event.

13.8. 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.

13.9. Series points are calculated on the best 80% of points received in the series.

PERSON in CHARGE

14. All yacht skippers must have current:

- Members of NHTYA must have current NHTYA club membership paid. This fee includes the Australian Sailing membership fee.
- Race fees paid,
- Failing any of these, the yacht will be scored as DSQ (Disqualified).

14.1. Visiting yachts that elect to race can participate, however it is anticipated that visiting yachts shall become members prior to participating in more than three club races. There is no visiting yacht participation fee. Visiting yachts are not eligible to participate in the Series Score Prize.

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

15.1. All boats are to sign the "Race Sign-On Sheet" before crossing the start line. For late arrivals, the boat may contact the start boat before crossing the start line, to both sign on and receive course information however the return of course information may be delayed by the starter attending to race signals.

15.2. In addition to the sign-on described in clause 16.1, prior to the race start, the OOD will call each yacht on VHF channel 72. Acknowledgement of the OOD radio call by each competing yacht will be noted on the sign-on sheet by the OOD, completing the sign-on process. Failure to acknowledge the OOD's radio call may be recorded as a DNS for that yacht.

15.3. All yachts are deemed to have signed off when they cross the finish line or have contacted the OOD of their retirement. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race OOD as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in the boat being disqualified.

15.4. Category 7 Equipment Safety Audits must be verified by a Club Auditor and finalised before the first race entered in this Spring Series 2026. If a boat has not got a completed and finalised Category 7 Equipment Safety Audit before their first race entered in the 2026 Spring Series, the boat will be scored DSQ (disqualified) until compliance is achieved.

15.5. New club members who join during the series will have until their second "race weekend" to submit and completely finalise their Category 7 Equipment Safety Audit. 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._

15.6. Engine and Fuel: all yachts must be fitted with a motor in good working order. Outboard motors shall be always mounted. The mounting may be raised but not removed. The motor may be tilted but not removed.

15.7. All boats must always comply with the "Roads and Maritime Boating Handbook".

15.8. 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 25 knots inshore during the time of the race, the race **may be** cancelled by the race Officer.

15.9. Cancellation of Sailing for the weekend. To facilitate members who travel long distances when foul weather is predicted, the Race Officer shall monitor the B.O.M./MetEye website forecast for the upcoming race weekend. Should (in the opinion of the Race Officer) the forecast weather for the weekend not be conducive to safe racing, or if cancellation for other factors is deemed necessary by the race Officer, the Race Officer shall cancel the weekend's racing. The cancellation shall be advised by SMS messages, the club's website and Facebook Page two days prior to the event.

15.10. All crew on yachts that have no lifelines must at all times wear a Category 7 complying lifejacket.

15.11. When a competing yacht's crew elects to reef sails during a race because of the prevailing weather conditions, the crew of the yacht will don a Category 7 complying lifejacket prior to reefing, if not already wearing a lifejacket. If the subsequent prevailing weather conditions abate to allow the yacht to remove the reefing described above, lifejackets may be removed if deemed appropriate by the yacht's master.

15.12. All crew are to check the location of the activation toggle on any manually activated inflating lifejackets prior to donning.

15.13. Keels/centreboards must remain down during the race.

16. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

16.1. 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.

17. OFFICIAL BOATS

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17.1. Official boats will be the "Officer of the Day" (OOD) boat and Committee member boats.

18. RADIO COMMUNICATION

18.1. All boats will monitor VHF Channel 72 while racing. A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. The club call sign is "Catalina Fleet".

18.2. Changes to race conditions from the Officer of the Day will be broadcast using the club call sign "Catalina Fleet".

19. CLUB BURGEE

19.1. Flying the club burgee is required as it will assist in identifying starting yachts as participating in an organised race, particularly at marks where the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply between clubs.

20. PRIZES

20.1. Prizes will be given as follows:

Medal for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each race based on Personal Handicap (PHC).

20.2. Trophies will be as follows:

Winner of the Autumn Series based on PHC.

Winner of the Combined Spring and Autumn Series based on PHC.

Winner of the Combined Spring and Autumn Series based on CBH.

20.3. The crew of a prize-winning boat (not being a spouse/partner of the owner):

Having paid club membership, and

Having paid race fees, and

Participated in a minimum of 80% of the races on that boat in that series.

Shall be eligible for an individual award.

21. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY - 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.

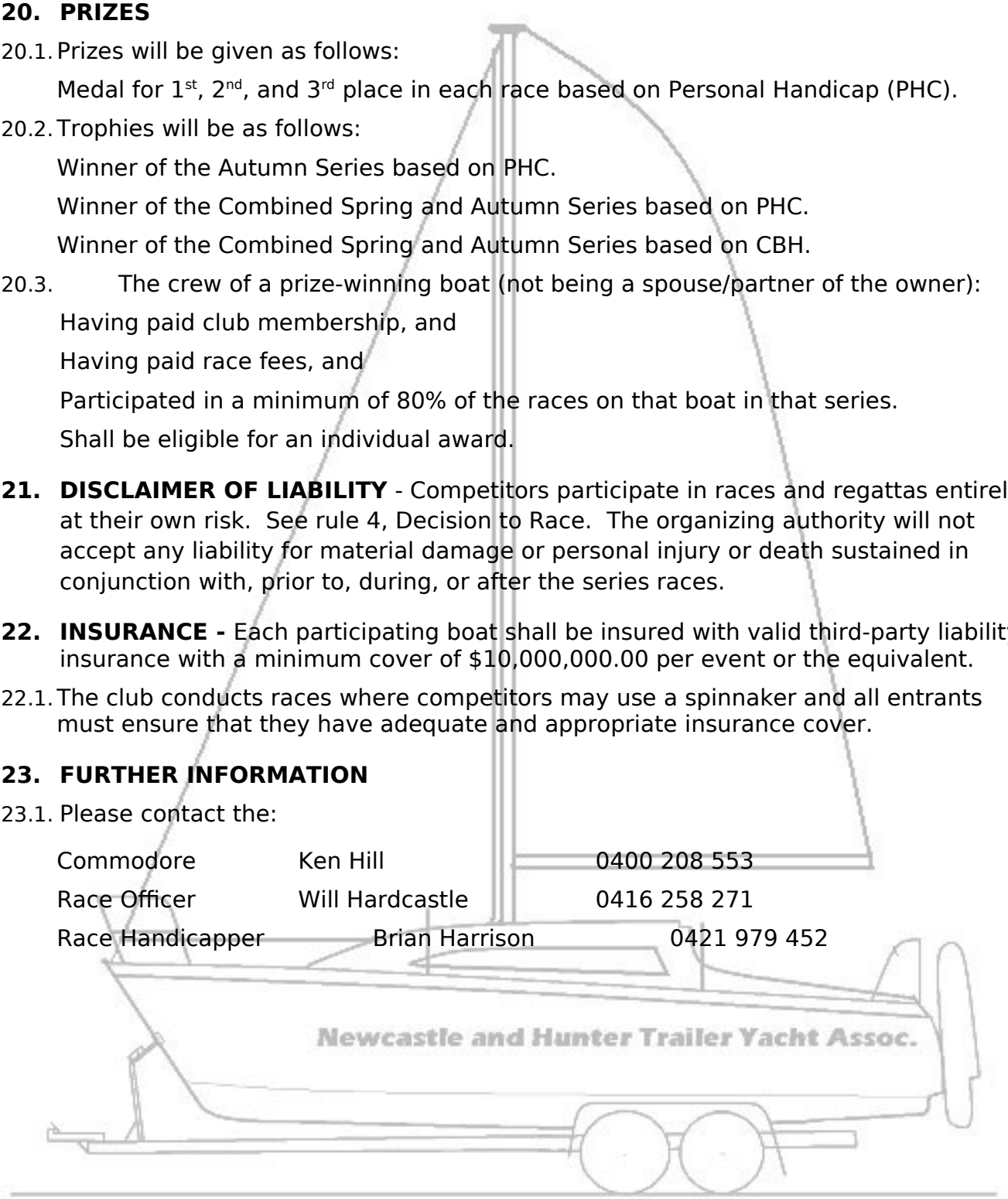
22. INSURANCE - Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of $10,000,000.00 per event or the equivalent.

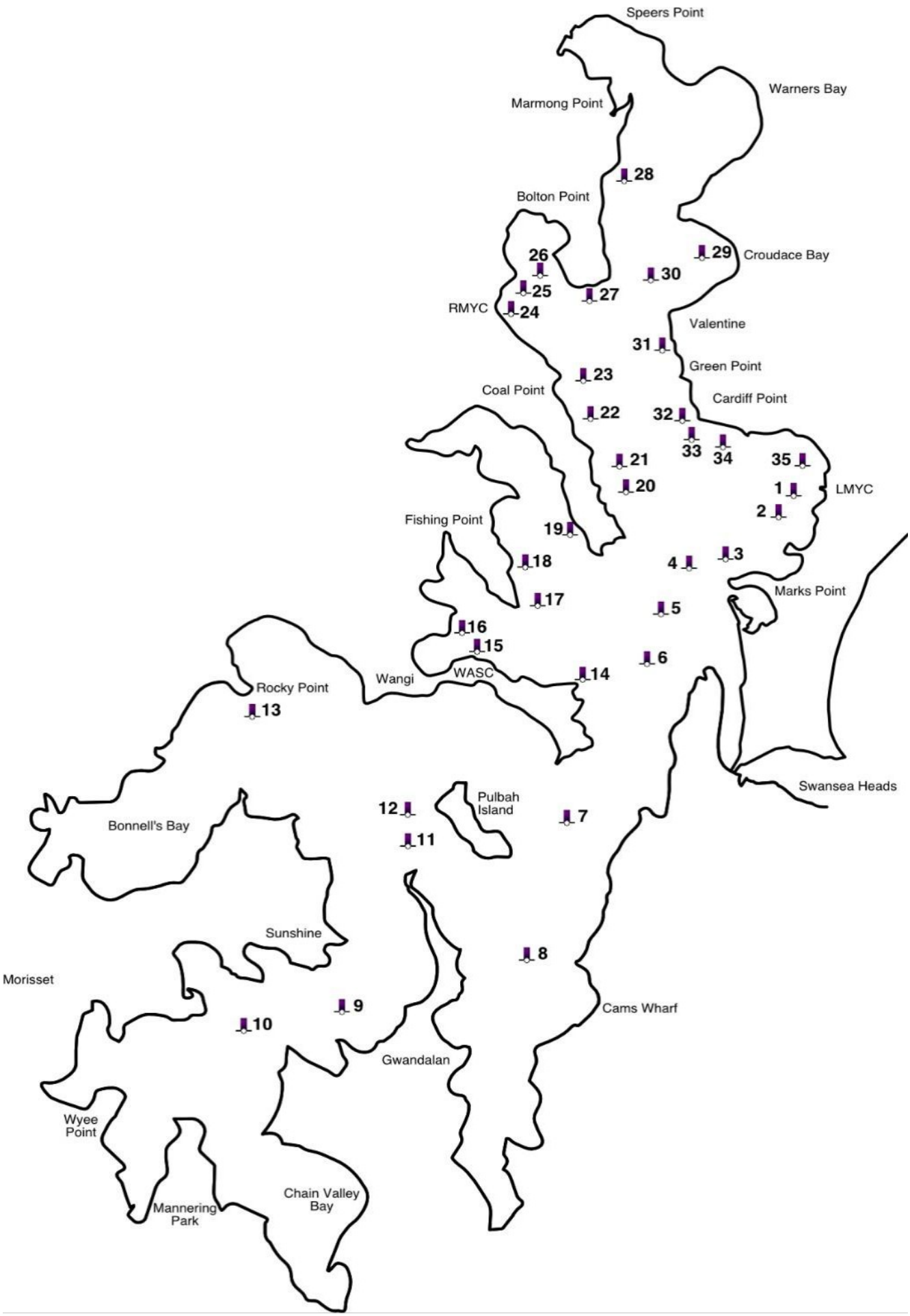
22.1. The club conducts races where competitors may use a spinnaker and all entrants must ensure that they have adequate and appropriate insurance cover.

23. FURTHER INFORMATION

23.1. Please contact the:

Commodore	Ken Hill	0400 208 553
Race Officer	Will Hardcastle	0416 258 271
Race Handicapper	Brian Harrison	0421 979 452




Speers Point
Warners Bay
Marmong Point
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Bolton Point
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Croudace Bay
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RMYC
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Valentine
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Green Point
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Coal Point
Cardiff Point
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LMYC
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Fishing Point
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Marks Point
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Wangi
WASC
14
Rocky Point
13
Swansea Heads
Pulbah Island
12
7
Bonnell's Bay
11
Sunshine
8
Morisset
9
Cams Wharf
10
Gwandalan
Wyee Point
Chain Valley Bay
Mannering Park

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ADDENDUM B

Note: - Waterways Cardinal and Navigation buoys are to be treated as Marks on the course.
Channel Mark to be treated as a **West Cardinal Mark** in all courses

COURSES

North: Start Swansea (P) Cardiff Point (S) Andersons (S) Marks Point (S) Slip (P) Finish	**North-East**: Start Fishing Point (P) Albert (P) Cardiff Point (P) Coal Point (P) LMYC (S) Finish	**East**: Start LMYC (S) Marks Point (S) Coal Point (S) Andersons (S) Finish
South - East: Start Swansea (P) Slip (P) Carey Bay (P) Marks Point (S) Coal Point (P) Finish	**South:** Start Fishing Point (P) LMYC (P) Carey Bay (P) Swansea (S) Finish	**South - West**: Start Fishing Point (P) Slip (P) Coal Point (P) Swansea (P) Albert (P) Finish
West: Start Andersons (P) Coal Point (S) Cardiff Point (S) LMYC (S) Marks Point (S) Finish	**North – West**: Start Swansea (P) Carey Bay (S) Andersons (S) Swansea (S) Coal Point (P) Finish	

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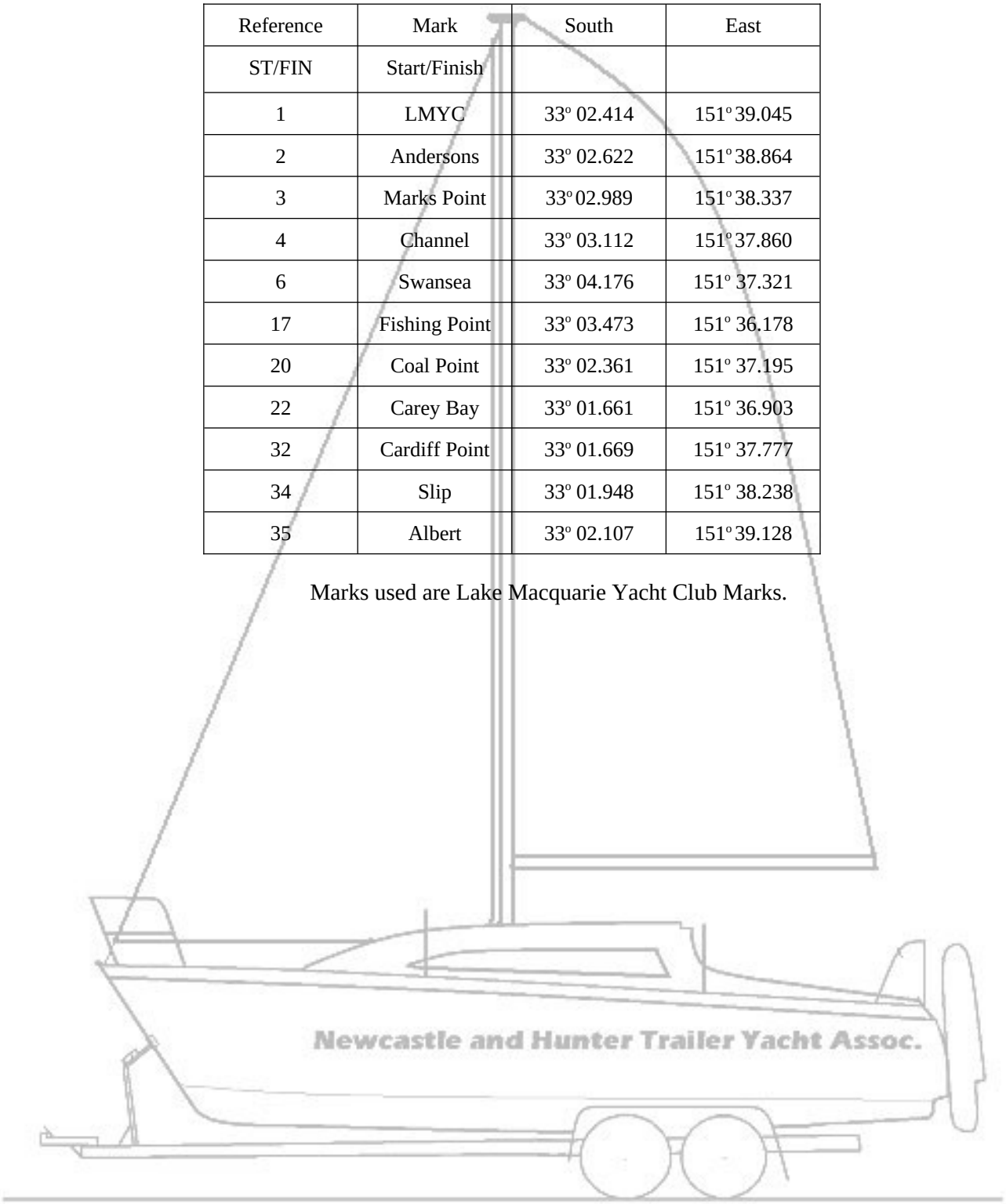
Reference	Mark	South	East
ST/FIN	Start/Finish		
1	LMYC	33º 02.414	151º 39.045
2	Andersons	33º 02.622	151º 38.864
3	Marks Point	33º 02.989	151º 38.337
4	Channel	33º 03.112	151º 37.860
6	Swansea	33º 04.176	151º 37.321
17	Fishing Point	33º 03.473	151º 36.178
20	Coal Point	33º 02.361	151º 37.195
22	Carey Bay	33º 01.661	151º 36.903
32	Cardiff Point	33º 01.669	151º 37.777
34	Slip	33º 01.948	151º 38.238
35	Albert	33º 02.107	151º 39.128

Marks used are Lake Macquarie Yacht Club Marks.