



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

October Long Weekend 2026

3 Hour Race Saturday 03 October

6 Hour Race Sunday 04 October

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.
2. All races will be "One Single Mixed Class Race" and spinnakers may be flown in accordance with the following.

3. SPINNAKERS

- 3.1. All boats (spinnaker and non-spinnaker) will race within the same division.
- 3.2. Boats must nominate before the race series if they are racing "spinnaker" or "non-spinnaker".
- 3.3. In the 5-minute preparatory time before her start, a yacht will not fly her spinnaker until she has actually 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.
- 3.4. Spinnakers cannot be flown on single handed boats.
- 3.5. Gennakers/mistresses/MPS etc. are classified as spinnakers.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 4.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the venue which will be at Styles Point.

5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. 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.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

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

7. SCHEDULE of RACES

Dates for races 2026

03 October 2026	3hr Race	04 October 2026	6hr Race
Brian Harrison		OOD TBA	

- 7.1. The scheduled time of the race briefing signal for Saturday is 11:30am and Sunday is 9:00am.

7.2. Race start times are:-

Saturday:- No earlier than 12:30am

Sunday:- No earlier than 10:00am.

- 1000 – Div 1 boat Start
- 1015 – Div 2 boat Start
- 1030 – Div 3 boat start

7.3. Each race is required to have a minimum of 4 boats signed on to start the race and actually cross the start line. -

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

8. RACING AREAS

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

9. THE COURSES

9.1. 3 Hr Race - The course to be sailed will be selected from the club courses or as determined at the race briefing. (see the Sailing Instructions Addendum B). The race organiser will use the B.O.M/Meteye site for weather assessments.

9.2. 6 Hr Race will be a ‘circular’ passage course utilizing a combination of LMYC marks & Pulbah Island (see the Sailing Instructions Addendum B).

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

9.4. 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.

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

9.6. All yachts shall round each mark on the designated side.

10. THE START

10.1. Races will be started using Rule 26, with the warning signal made **5 minutes** before the start.

10.2. The start flag for the 3hr race shall be pennant 1.

10.3. The start flags for the 6 hour race shall be:

10.3.1. Division 1 – Pennant 1

10.3.2. Division 2 – Pennant 2

10.3.3. Division 3 – Pennant 3

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

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

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

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11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1. If it is considered by the O.O.D. that the lead boat may not finish within three and a half (3 ½) hours for the 3 hour race or six and a half (6½) hours for the 6 hour race, 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 Organiser and/or his Assistant as soon as possible, to consider shortening of the course.
- 11.2. The Race Organiser and/or the Assistant Race Organiser may shorten the course. This will be notified over the radio, on VHF Channel 72, by the O.O.D or the Race Organiser using the call sign "Catalina Fleet".
- 11.3. 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**.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1. 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.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. Should the race/s be abandoned for any reason, at the discretion of the Club Race Officer, the race/s may be re-ran as part of the 2025 Spring Series.

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1. Protest forms are available from the Race Organiser.
- 14.2. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has crossed the finish line.
- 14.3. 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.
- 14.4. Decisions of the protest committee will be final.
- 14.5. The protest Committee will be made up from committee members or of financial members of the club chaired by an experienced Race Officer.

15. SCORING

- 15.1. 3 hr Race – This race will conducted as a 'Sternchaser' using the Personal Handicap of each boat. The Club Handicapper will produce a list of individual boat start times (taking into consideration the length of the course, wind conditions etc), with the order of boats finishing the race being their respective finish order. Changes in conditions etc will not form grounds for a protest.
- 15.2. 6 Hour Race - The scoring system will be based on personal handicap (PHC) results using the Top Yacht Club Score software. Cruising Division boats will not be scored.
- 15.3. 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.
- 15.4. Penalty System as per clause A9.
- 15.5. Any Series Ties to be resolved using clause A8.

PERSON in CHARGE

16. All yacht skippers must have current:

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

16.1. Visiting yachts are not eligible to be awarded a prize.

17. SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1. 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.

17.2. 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.

17.3. 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.

17.4. Category 7 Equipment Safety Audits must be verified by a Club Auditor and finalised before entry into a race. If a boat has not completed and finalised a Category 7 Equipment Safety Audit prior to entering the race, the boat will be scored DSQ (disqualified).

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

17.6. All boats must at all times comply with the “Roads and Maritime Boating Handbook.

17.7. 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 by SMS messages, the club’s website and Facebook Page two days prior to the event.

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

17.9. 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.

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

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

18. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

18.1. 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.

19. OFFICIAL BOATS

19.1. Official boats will be the “Officer of the Day” (OOD) boat and other Committee member boats as required.

20. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 20.1. 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”.
- 20.2. Changes to race conditions from the Officer of the Day will be broadcast using the club call sign “Catalina Fleet”.

21. CLUB BURGEE

- 21.1. Flying the club burgee is requested 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.

22. PRIZES

- 22.1. Prizes will be given as follows:

For 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placing on PHC (NHTYA members only), (awarded presentation night).

23. **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.

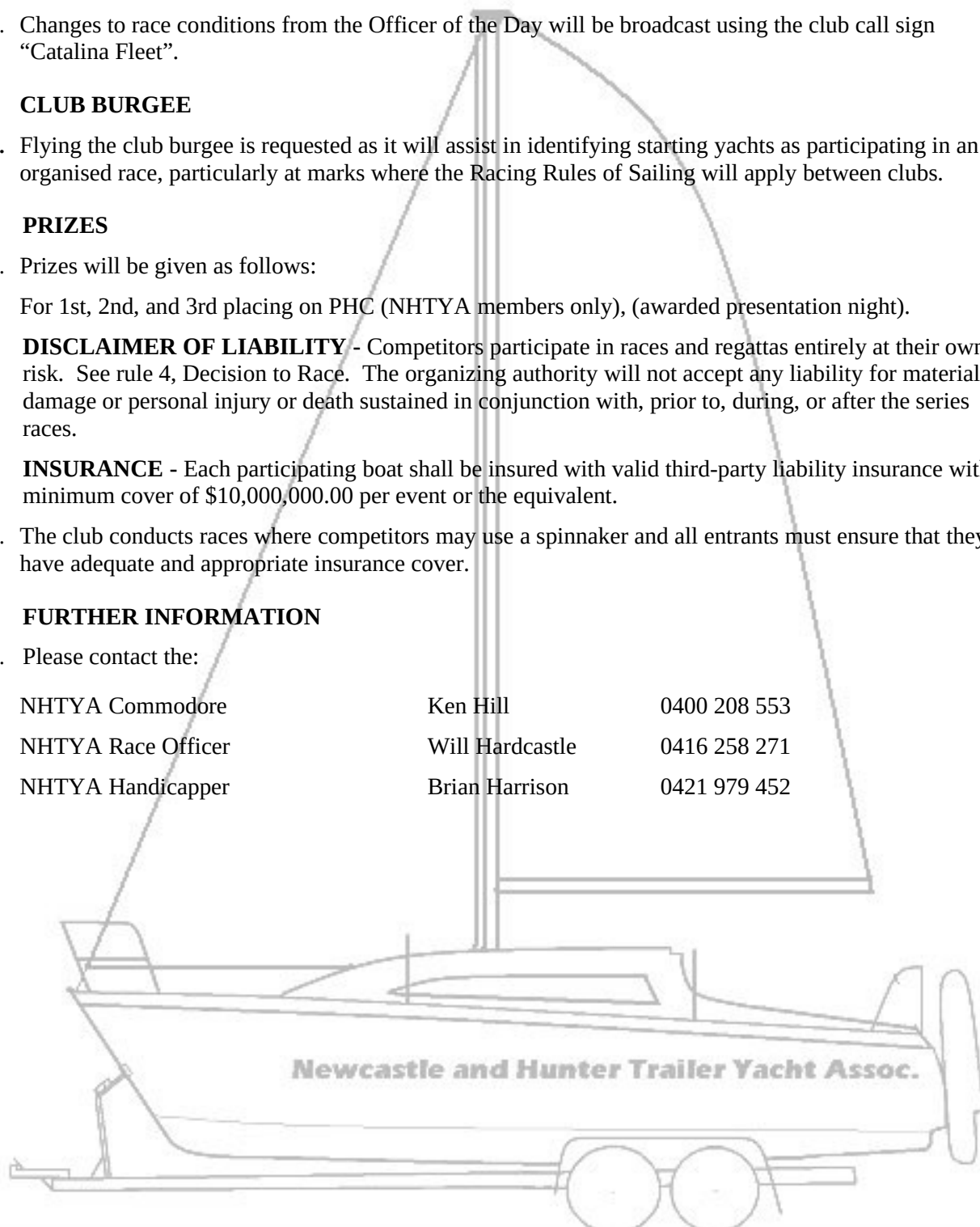
24. **INSURANCE** - Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000.00 per event or the equivalent.

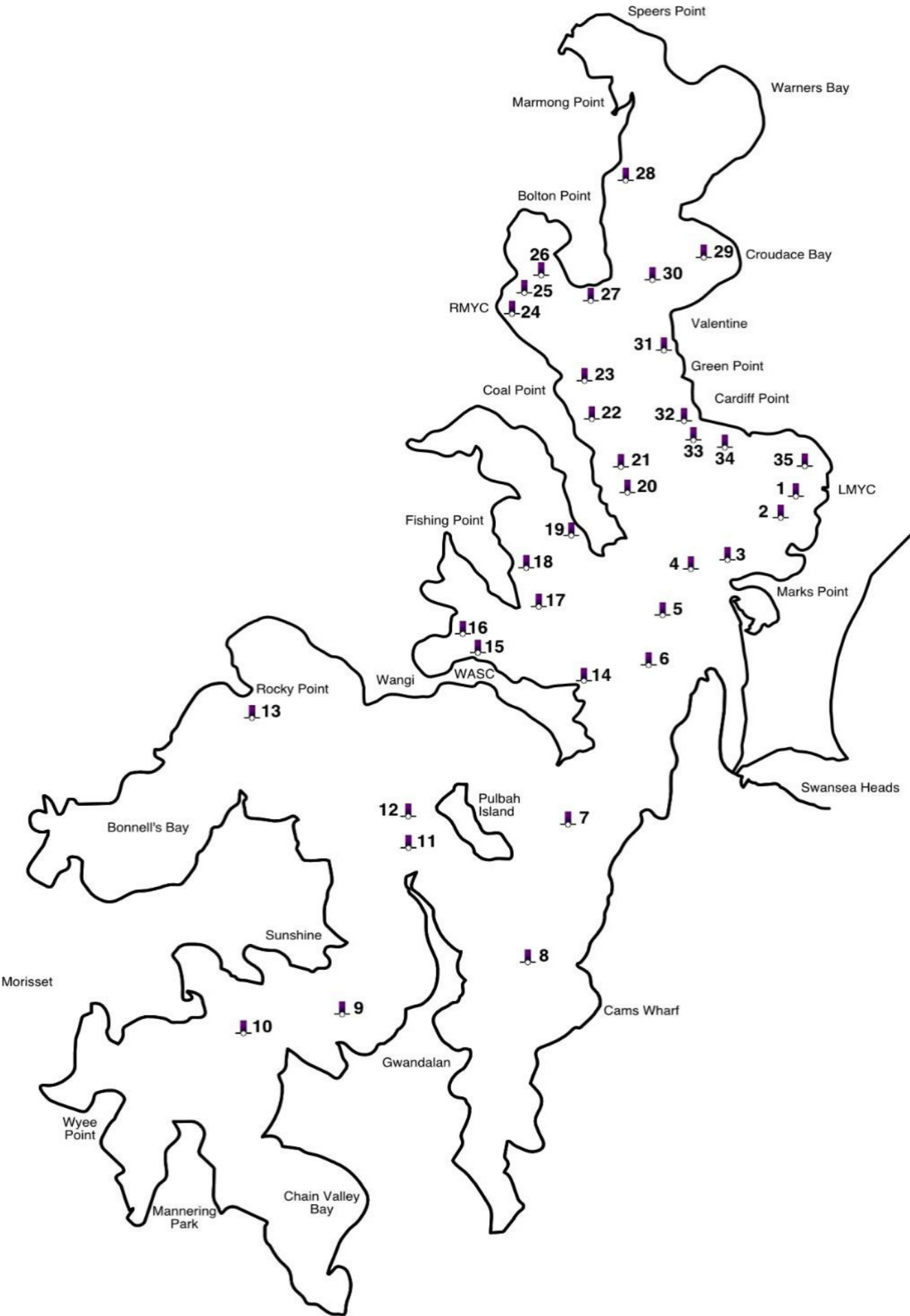
- 24.1. The club conducts races where competitors may use a spinnaker and all entrants must ensure that they have adequate and appropriate insurance cover.

25. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 25.1. Please contact the:

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







Newcastle and Hunter Trailer Yacht Association Inc.

ADDENDUM B

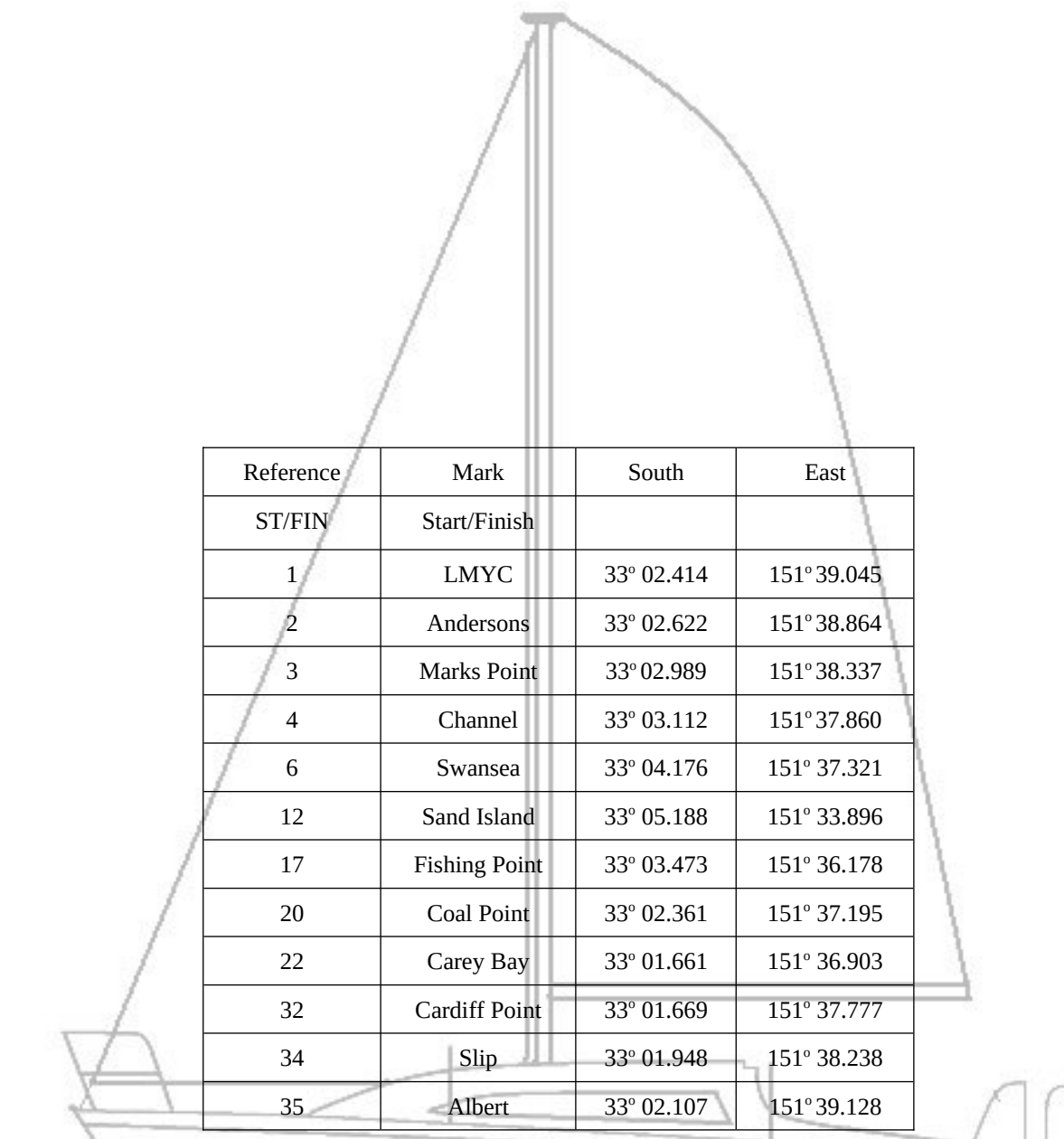
Note: - Waterways Cardinal and Navigation buoys are to be treated as Marks on the course.

Channel Mark to be treated as a **West Cardinal Mark** in all courses.

3 hr COURSES

<u>North:</u> Start Swansea (P) Cardiff Point (S) Andersons (S) Marks Point (S) Slip (P) Finish	<u>North-East:</u> Start Fishing Point (P) Albert (P) Cardiff Point (P) Coal Point (P) LMYC (S) Finish	<u>East:</u> Start LMYC (S) Marks Point (S) Coal Point (S) Andersons (S) Finish
<u>South - East:</u> Start Swansea (P) Slip (P) Carey Bay (P) Marks Point (S) Coal Point (P) Finish	<u>South:</u> Start Fishing Point (P) LMYC (P) Carey Bay (P) Swansea (S) Finish	<u>South - West:</u> Start Fishing Point (P) Slip (P) Coal Point (P) Swansea (P) Albert (P) Finish
<u>West:</u> Start Andersons (P) Coal Point (S) Cardiff Point (S) LMYC (S) Marks Point (S) Finish	<u>North - West:</u> 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	33° 02.414	151° 39.045
2	Andersons	33° 02.622	151° 38.864
3	Marks Point	33° 02.989	151° 38.337
4	Channel	33° 03.112	151° 37.860
6	Swansea	33° 04.176	151° 37.321
12	Sand Island	33° 05.188	151° 33.896
17	Fishing Point	33° 03.473	151° 36.178
20	Coal Point	33° 02.361	151° 37.195
22	Carey Bay	33° 01.661	151° 36.903
32	Cardiff Point	33° 01.669	151° 37.777
34	Slip	33° 01.948	151° 38.238
35	Albert	33° 02.107	151° 39.128

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6 hr COURSE

Sequence	Mark	Direction
1	Start	
2	Coal Pt	Starboard
3	Carey Bay	Starboard
5	Cardiff Point	Starboard
6	Slip	Starboard
7	Albert	Starboard

8	LMYC	Starboard
9	Andersons	Starboard
10	Marks Point	Starboard
11	Channel	Port
12	Swansea	Starboard
13	Pulbah Island	Starboard
14	Sand Island	Starboard
15	Pulbah Island	Starboard
16	Fishing Point	Starboard
17	Finish	

