

NCYC OFFSHORE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 The events shall be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), Appendixes and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing.
- 1.2 Yachts sailing in IRC Division(s) shall comply with the current IRC Rules Parts A, B and C.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Signal made ashore will be displayed from the event flagpole. The event flagpole will be on the NCYC Floating Shed.
- 2.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the RRS Race Signals.
- 2.3 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online event page located on the NCYC website – www.ncyc.net.au
- 2.4 Notices may also be sent by SMS to the nominated skipper of yachts entered in the series.
- 2.5 The race frequency shall be VHF Ch 77. This channel may be used by the Race Committee (RC) to communicate with competitors and/or broadcast general information throughout the event.

3.0 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 1000 hrs on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2 Oral changes may be given on the water by the RO prior to the Warning Signal. This may be done via VHF radio.

4.0 SAFETY

- 4.1 All boats must have a current, valid AS Equipment Audit Form and carry the equipment, identified on that form, at all times.
 - 4.1.1 NCYC offshore racing is Category 4 as defined by AS Special Regulations Part 1 unless otherwise stated.
 - 4.1.2 Owners may opt to race under Category 7 PLUS offshore, but in this case a wind limit of 21 knots and sea state of less than 4 metres may be imposed. The extra equipment required for Category 7 PLUS is shown on the NCYC audit form of that name. See NCYC website - www.ncyc.net.au/sailing/race-resources/
 - 4.1.3 Inshore keelboat racing on Newcastle Harbour is Category 7 as defined by AS Special Regulations Part 1 unless otherwise stated.
- 4.2 It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure the crew knows where Life Saving Equipment is stowed on the boat and how to use it.
- 4.3 Attention is drawn to AS Special Regulations 6.01.2, Advisory Appendix D and the need to practice man overboard procedures with your crew regularly. NCYC strongly recommends that all yachts should schedule a MOB drill prior to racing and again at regular intervals during the season.
- 4.4 Skippers shall ensure all crew members know how to locate and wear a PFD as per the requirements of RMS and RRS.
- 4.5 Attention is drawn to RRS 1.1. "A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger". The Race Officer (RO) must be notified immediately of a Crew Overboard Incident. After 15 minutes an emergency response may be initiated by the RO including a Search and Rescue response unless already activated by the vessel affected.
- 4.6 Yachts must maintain a minimum distance of 200m from the bow, and 30m from the sides and stern of any Ferry underway. Do not attempt to cross the path of a ferry.

5.0 RACE CONDITIONS

- 5.1 A motor may be used to arrive at the start line after the preparatory signal is displayed, however, after ceasing use of a motor and before starting to race the boat must take a 1 turn penalty which complies with RRS 44.2 prior to starting. A yacht observed by the RO infringing this SI will be scored as DNS.
- 5.2 All boats racing at NCYC will have engines running, and in neutral, when within the Harbour and when within 500m to seaward of the entrance during departure and arrival. A boat that cannot manoeuvre safely, and is in danger of hindering any commercial shipping, shall only use her engine FOR PROPULSION to clear such shipping. The use of the engine for propulsion must be logged and be lodged, together with a Declaration that no advantage resulted from the use of the engine, to the Race Officer after finishing the race. This alters RRS 42. Competitors are reminded that a restricted navigation zone exists on approach to and within Newcastle Harbour (refer Chart AUS207).
- 5.2.1 If, when racing with NCYC, a yacht receives a "5 horn blast" from commercial shipping (meaning "I am in doubt about your action taken to avoid collision"), the offending boat may be disqualified from that race without hearing and that DSQ score shall not be excluded from the series pointscore. This changes RRS Appendix A5.
- 5.3 All boats shall monitor VHF emergency radio channel 16 for the duration of the race.

6.0 EVENTS & DIVISIONS

- 6.1 The Sailing Committee shall allocate boats to racing Divisions, Classes or One Design Fleets.
- 6.2 Yachts cannot arbitrarily transfer from one division to another part way through a series. Any divisional changes may be considered at the discretion of the OA.
- 6.3 Three starters will constitute a race.
- 6.4 One finisher will constitute a race.
- 6.5 For a race to be scored as a Pointscore race, a Pointscore entrant must finish. Casual entrants may enter individual race(s) without their race result(s) affecting the series pointscore. This changes RRS A2.2.
- 6.6 Divisions to be scored are not limited to the following –

Series	Division(s)
Spring Short Ocean Pointscore Summer Short Ocean Pointscore Winter Short Ocean Pointscore Ocean Pointscore Female Helm Series	PHS IRC ORC Club
Twilight Races Novice Helm Race	PHS ORC Club

7.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1 Each entry must be accompanied by the following requirements –
- current equipment audit as per SI 4.1 unless excused by the OA.
 - current public liability insurance for at least AU\$10million (or equivalent in another currency)
 - The skipper(s) must read the [Newcastle Harbour Safety Information Booklet](#) AND complete the online [Harbour Safety Module](#)
 - current IRC certificate if participating in IRC division
 - current ORC certificate if participating in ORC Club division

- 7.2 For the Female Helm Series, a female shall helm for scores to be eligible for the series.
- 7.3 For the Junior Sailor Day race, at least one person aboard must be under the age of 18 years on the day of the race to be eligible to receive a prize for that race.
- 7.4 For the Novice Helm Race, a Novice will be defined as a person who has not gained a first place position when helming in any race before.

8.0 ENTRY

- 8.1 To enter a race a boat shall complete the online Race Entry for the event(s) prior to participating accompanied by the applicable entry fee. The online entry process includes maintaining an accurate crew list in the online entry system. Entry is online via the event webpage on the NCYC website (<https://www.ncyc.net.au/>).
- 8.2 Entries shall be received no later than 24hrs prior to the Warning Signal of a race.
- 8.3 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA and shall be accompanied by any late fees levied.
- 8.4 A boat is not an entrant until the requirements of SI 7.1 and SI 8.1 have been fully completed.

9.0 THE START

- 9.1 Prior to starting, boats shall contact the 'Start Boat' on the race frequency (VHF 77) to record the number of Persons on Board (POB).
- 9.2 By contacting the Start Boat as per SI 9.1, a race entrant confirms the online crew details required by SI 8.1 are accurate. If the crew aboard is not the same as the online crew list it may be scored DNS without a hearing This changes RRS A5.
- 9.3 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 9.4 A boat shall not start later than 10 minutes after its Start Signal.
- 9.5 Class Flags will be as follows –
 - a) Flag E for Harbour Start races
 - b) Flag T for Offshore Start races

9.6 Start Times will be as follows:

Series	Scheduled Start Time
Spring Short Ocean Pointscore	1330 hours
Summer Short Ocean Pointscore	1330 hours
Winter Short Ocean Pointscore	1130 hours
Twilight Racing	1700 & 1730 hours *
Female Helm Series	1330 hours
Ocean Pointscore	1000 hours **

* Competitors may select their start time for Twilight Races

**Check event sailing instructions for each Ocean Pointscore race start time

10.0 START/FINISH LINES

- 10.1 **For Inshore Races** the start/finish line shall be an imaginary line from a mast carrying an Orange Flag on the Committee Vessel, or from a shore position, displaying the start signals in the vicinity of Scratchley's Restaurant and the East Cardinal Mark (ECM) opposite unless changed in the SIs.
- 10.2 **For Offshore Races** the start/finish line shall be an imaginary line from the mast carrying an Orange Flag on the CV and the Pin. The Pin Mark will be a black & white check inflatable buoy.
- 10.3 The orange flag in SI 10.1 & 10.2 shall be replaced by a Blue flag for finishing.

11.0 MARKS AND COURSE

- 11.1 NCYC marks are orange or yellow buoys.
- 11.4 In the event that a mark has moved or is missing, the Race Committee may instruct competitors to round a 'Virtual Mark' using the GPS coordinates of the mark.
- 11.5 Code flag E or T may be displayed on the Club flagpole at least 1 hour before the warning signal on race days to indicate an Inshore or Offshore Start.

12.0 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 Time limits with Time Limit Expired scoring shall apply to the following races:
(This changes RRS 35 & A5)

Twilight races	2.5 hours
Sunday races	SpSOP, SSOP and WSOP 4.5 hours

- 12.2 Time Limit Expired scoring (TLE): points equal to the number of yachts finishing within time plus 30% of race entrants rounded up to a whole number but no more points than number of entrants.

13.0 PROTESTS, ARBITRATION and REDRESS

- 13.1 A yacht intending to protest shall inform the Finish Boat when finishing.
- 13.2 Protest Forms are available at the Sailing Office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there or to the Race Officer within the appropriate time limit. If the Sailing Office is unattended, a protest form may be submitted via email to sailing@ncyc.net.au
- 13.3 For each division, the protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 13.4 An Arbitration Hearing may be called as per RRS Appendix T.
- 13.5 Protest Hearings shall be held at a location and time advised by the Protest Committee.

14.0 HANDICAPS

- 14.1 A boat's handicap in PHS divisions shall be based on an arbitrary Time Correction Factor (TCF).
- 14.2 Race results are based on corrected times calculated by multiplying the elapsed time by the respective TCF.
- 14.3 Race/Class boats shall provide a copy of any amended rating certificate/s to the sailing office not less than one and a half hours prior to the warning signal of a race.
- 14.4 Boats shall notify the Sailing Office in writing at least seven days prior to a race any change (addition or alteration) to a boat's hull, appendages, equipment, sailing inventory or crew that may affect its performance. A boat failing to comply may be subject to action by the Race Committee (RC) under RRS 60.2(c) and 69.1(a).
- 14.5 Once published, the handicap adjustment method for PHS shall not be changed during a series.
- 14.6 The selection of a handicap method or adjustment system shall be at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.

- 14.7 Applications in writing for reviews of the PHS handicap will be considered by the RC.
- 14.8 Handicaps or time offsets for pursuit races will not be given verbally from the Starter's Boat or Start Officials.
- 14.9 The Handicapper shall have the discretion to adjust any PHS handicap without notice.

15.0 POINTSCORES AND DISCARDS

- 15.1 Pointscores shall be conducted on the nominated races in the Sailing Program.
- 15.2 Discards will be 15% of completed races unless amended by other SI's (0.5 of a race is rounded up).
- 15.3 RRS Appendix A – Scoring: Low Pointscore shall apply to all Pointscores amended as follows:
 - 15.3.1 Scores shall be calculated as per RRS A5.3.
 - 15.3.2 The number of completed races to constitute a series shall be 50% of the scheduled races.
 - 15.3.3 Annual Pointscore shall be conducted over the Winter, Spring, Summer and Ocean pointscore races scheduled.
 - 15.3.4 Any series ties shall be broken in accordance with RRS A8.
- 15.4 Annual Pointscore 'APS' Calculation. This changes RRS A1, A2, A4 & A5.
 - In each series a boat shall score points calculated in her division by taking the points between 1st & 3rd (or 1st & 2nd if less than 5 competing) divided by the number of scoring races, divided by the number of boats in that Division, multiplied by her divisional placing, multiplied by 10.
 - For results of a series to be counted towards the APS a boat shall contest at least 50% of completed races in that series. Further, a boat shall contest at least 50% of the completed series to score in the APS.
 - There will be one (1) drop in the APS. Boats not competing in a series shall score the maximum points for a series, i.e. 20 points.

The boat with the lowest total APS wins.

16.0 DISPENSATION

- 16.1 Dispensation may be awarded for up to 40% of races in a Series for Yachts representing NCYC in races or regattas organised by AS or another affiliated Club or Class.
- 16.2 Dispensation shall not be awarded for participation in equivalent Series Pointscore races organised by clubs other than NCYC.
- 16.3 Requests for Dispensation must be submitted in writing addressed to the Sailing Committee no later than 21 days prior to the first proposed race absence.
- 16.4 Dispensation will be a two-stage approval process:
 - a) Nomination of the event and NCYC series pointscore anticipated to be missed prior to the event.
 - b) Proof of participation in the event via results to be posted at NCYC.
- 16.5 When Dispensation is approved series points for races missed will be calculated in the Series as the average for that Yacht's 5 best results elsewhere in the series.
- 16.6 Guidelines for dispensation will be considered around time frames as:

The intention of these guidelines is to provide a framework for Skippers to plan their sailing season. If a boat can return to races at NCYC sooner than the requested Dispensation Period, it should do so. Attention is drawn to RRS 2. In the interests of good seamanship, additional dispensation may be considered if extreme weather events or other misadventure prevents return to NCYC within the requested timeframe.

17.0 PRIZES

- 17.1 Series prizes may be awarded at the conclusion of each series.
- 17.2 Annual Pointscore prizes may be awarded at the Sailing Presentation Night.
- 17.3 Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.