

Academy Graduates Development Regatta 2025

We are excited to welcome you to join us on the Harbour for the 2025 edition of the NCYC Academy Graduates Development Regatta in the Club's fleet of Force 24 inshore keelboats.

The event will bring together NCYC Sailing Academy sailors from across our range of courses and experiences, and allow you to transition your newfound skills & knowledge into a sailing regatta environment.

The aim is to have fun, learn, support each other and hopefully be inspired to continue your sailing journey.

Five crews have been formed from your individual registrations, and you will be supported by one of our Academy Coaches/Mentor Skippers. During the course of the racing, you will be encouraged to swap roles on the boat, (including helping if you feel comfortable) so that you have the opportunity to develop your skills in all areas.

Saturday 13th December 2025



**NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB**



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YACHT CLUB**



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Race Management Team

Race Officer

Dennis Hume

Paul Slattery

Race Support

Alyson Gearing

Neale Kibble

Thank you sincerely to our wonderful NCYC Volunteers
for giving us your time to help run this event for our Teams.

Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be conducted by:
- a) The rules, as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing;
 - b) The Prescriptions, Amendments and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing; and
 - c) This Race Document, except in the event of a conflict with the Notice of Race in which case the Sailing Instructions will take precedence.
 - d) RRS 44.2 is changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required

2 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 2.1 Only crew members who have correctly completed entry will be eligible to compete.
- 2.2 Teams will be allocated by the OA and will be posted on the official notice board prior to racing.
- 2.3 Crew members may substitute as helmsperson for each race.
- 2.4 After the warning signal for a race, the helmsperson shall not leave the helm for the duration of that race, except in an emergency or if directed to do so by the Coach/Mentor Skipper.
- 2.5 The Coach/Mentor Skipper may retake the helm at any point during the event, including whilst racing, if they deem necessary to do so. No penalty will apply.
- 2.6 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, the Race Committee may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.

3 COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the door of the Academy barge and on the online event page – <https://www.ncyc.net.au/inshore-racing/graduates-development-regatta/>
- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagstaff located on top of the Sailing Academy floating shed.

4 SUPPLIED YACHTS

- 4.1 The event will be sailed in Force 24 class yachts.
- 4.2 The sails to be used will be allocated by the Race Committee. One mainsail, one jib, and one spinnaker shall be allocated.
- 4.3 The sail combination to be used will be signalled from the Race Committee vessel with or before the warning signal. The signals shall have the following meaning:

Signal	Sail combinations to be used
International Code Flag 'D' 	Main and jib only
No signal	Full sails (Main, jib & symmetrical spinnaker)

- 4.4 Competitors shall not alter, reposition or add to the standard sailing equipment as supplied by NCYC.

5 IDENTIFICATION & ASSIGNMENT OF BOATS

- 5.1 Boats will be identified by the sail number.
- 5.2 Boats will be assigned by the OA.
- 5.3 Crews may be directed to swap boats whilst on-water, between races.

6 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

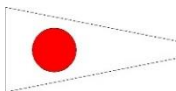
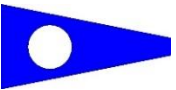
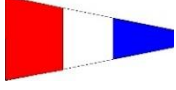
- 6.1 There shall be a maximum of four races (4).
- 6.2 Subsequent races will be started as soon as practical after the preceding race.
- 6.3 The full schedule is attached in Appendix A.

7 RACING AREA & CONDITIONS

- 7.1 The intended racing area will be in the vicinity of Honeysuckle Hotel, in the Basin of Newcastle Harbour.
- 7.2 Racing will be postponed or cancelled if the Race Officer records consistent readings of wind gusts of 18-knots or more.
- 7.3 Racing maybe be postponed or cancelled at a lower wind strength than stipulated in 7.2, if the combination of sea, swell, wind direction and wind conditions is deemed too dangerous by the Race Officer.

8 COURSES

- 8.1 The courses shall be windward/leeward configuration with a top clearing mark.
- 8.2 The course to be sailed will be signalled from the Start Boat prior to the Warning Signal.
- 8.3 The course descriptions are:

COURSE	SIGNAL	COURSE CONFIGURATION All Marks rounded to PORT
1		Start – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
2		Start – 1 – 1a – 2 – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
3		Start – 1 – 1a – 2 – 1 – 1a – 2 – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)

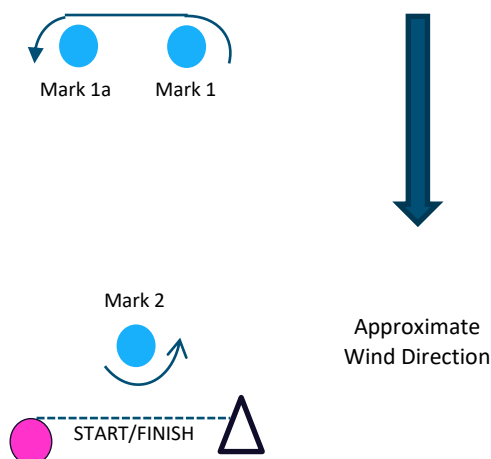



Diagram – Not to scale

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Mark 1, 1a, and 2 will be bright blue inflatable buoys.
- 9.2 The Start/Finish Mark will be a pink inflatable buoy.

10 THE START

- 10.1 The starting line will be a straight line between the port end Mark and an orange flag on the Race Committee vessel.
- 10.2 Start signals will be made in accordance with RRS 26.
- 10.3 The Class Flag will be International Code Flag "F". 

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- 10.4** A Handicap Start or Staggered Start may be used at the discretion of the OA and notification & handicaps will be communicated to crew verbally.

11 THE FINISH

- 11.1** The starting/finishing line will be a straight line between the port end Mark and an Orange Flag on the Race Committee Vessel.

12 TIME LIMIT

- 12.1** The Finishing Window will be 10 minutes, that is, within ten minutes of the first boat to finish.
- 12.2** Boats not finishing within the time limit may be scored their actual place at the time limit. This changes RRS 35.

13 PROTESTS

- 13.1** Arbitration may be implemented as per Appendix T.
- 13.2** The Protest Time Limit will be 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the racing session.

14 SCORING

- 14.1** There will be a maximum of four (4) races.
- 14.2** The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A5.2 of the RRS will apply.
- 14.3** After the completion of four races, a boat's worst score will be excluded from their final result.

15 MEDIA RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

- 15.1** The conditions of entry include that competitors acknowledge that the OA owns all media rights to the event and may exercise those rights as it sees fit and that the OA has the unconditional perpetual right to publish and broadcast, for any purpose and in any media, photographs and video and audio recordings taken of boats and competitors during the event.

16 PRIZES

- 16.1** The Prizegiving Ceremony will take place in the NCYC Clubhouse following the final race.
- 16.2** Prizes may be awarded by the OA for various categories which may include most improved, best starts, best team spirit, most improved crew work etc

17 DISCLAIMER

All those participating in the event do so at their own risk and responsibility. Competitors must acknowledge this prior to competing and release the OA and its sponsors and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members from all liability by signing a form provided by the OA.

Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4, which states:

"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is his/hers alone."




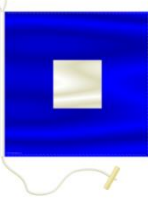


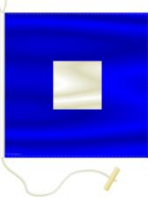





APPENDIX A - Schedule

Date	Time	Event
<i>Saturday, 13th December 2025</i>	8:30am	Registration in the Clubhouse, upstairs in <i>The Bridge</i>
	09:00am	Crew Education – Rules & Race management training session
	09:45am	Rig Boats and spinnaker training (ashore)
	10:00am	On-water Training Session
	12:30pm	Lunch in <i>The Foredeck</i>
	1:30pm	Competitor Briefing
	1:40pm	Prepare/Rig Boats & get onto the water
	2:00pm	First Warning Signal (up to 4 races)
	4:00pm	Latest Warning Signal
	4:30pm	Off water, unrig, stow sails and boats
	5:00pm	Celebration & Prizegiving Ceremony in <i>The Foredeck</i>

APPENDIX B – Crew List

Boat Number	Coach/ Mentor Skipper	Crew	Crew	Crew	Crew
1	Ian	Jessica	Kaylee	Lea	Kym
2	Jack	Christine	Kathy	Paul	Karen
3	Antonia	Alison	Barbara	Rosemary	Melissa
4	George	Ronan	William	Andrew	Hugh
5	Greg	Kane	Vanessa	Stephen	Matheus
6	Andrew	Coral	Lynette	Jennifer	

Start Sequence

	FLAG		SOUND SIGNAL
5 minutes to start CLASS FLAG "F" Flag			
4 minutes to start "P" Flag			
1 minutes to start			
At start			

Other Signal Flags

	FLAG	SOUND SIGNAL
Individual Recall "X" Flag		
General Recall "First Substitute"		
Postponement "Answering Pennant"		

Different Types of Sailing Courses

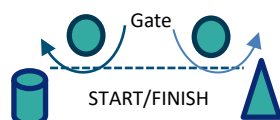
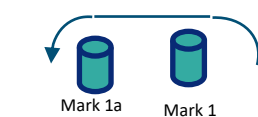


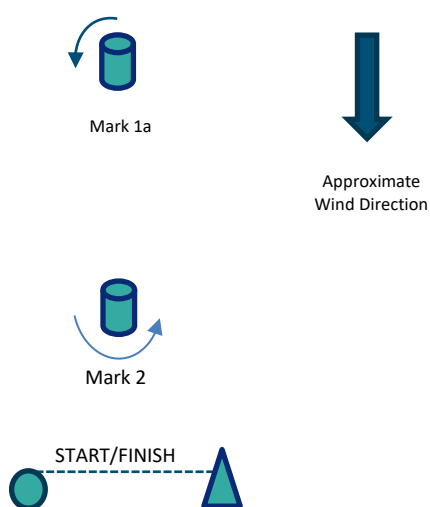
Diagram – Not to scale

Windward/Leeward with a Gate (& clearing mark)

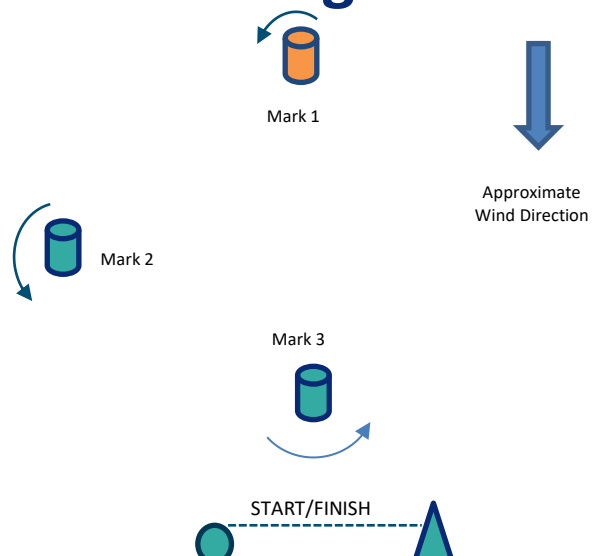
COURSE SIGNAL	COURSE CONFIGURATION All Marks rounded to PORT
1	Start – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
2	Start – 1 – 1a – Gate – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
3	Start – 1 – 1a – Gate – 1 – 1a – Gate – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)

Some other courses you may come across

Windward/Leeward



Triangle



Top 5 Rules

1. Port & Starboard

Rule 10 – “On Opposite Tacks”

When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.

2. Windward Boat Keep Clear

Rule 11 – “On the Same Tack, Overlapped”

When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.

3. Keeping Clear while Changing Course

Rule 13 – “While Tacking”

After a boat passes head-to-wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course.

Rule 16.1 – “Changing Course”

When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat room to keep clear.

Sydney to Hobart 2017 – Wild Oats vs Comanche

4. Buoy Room

Zone – The area around a mark within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone.

Rule 18.2 – “Giving Mark Room”

When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room

Rule 18 – When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a mark on the same side. However, it does not apply;

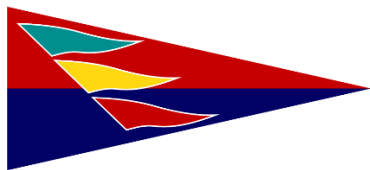
- (a) Between boats on opposite tacks on a beat to windward*
- (b) Between a boat approaching a mark and one leaving it*

5. Avoiding Collisions with other boats

Rule 14 – “Avoiding Contact”

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat or one entitled to room;

- (a) Need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room, and*
- (b) Shall be exonerated if she breaks this rule and the contact does not cause damage or injury*



Save the date for next year! . . .

Academy Graduates Development Regatta

Saturday 12th December 2026

SheSAILS@NCYC Development Regatta



7th & 8th March 2026

**Sail the Saturday Regatta
or the Sunday Regatta**

Entry is open now!

Stay up to date with NCYC Sailing on our website

www.ncyc.net.au



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Facebook**



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