

Women at the Helm

Friday 29th August 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority is Howth Yacht Club CLG

1. RULES

The event is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions (SI) and any changes thereto. (DP) denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the PC and may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1. (NP) denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1 (a). Appendix T (Arbitration) will apply.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 1630 on the Official Notice Board located beside the marina office. Code flag L will be displayed from the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge to indicate a change has been posted.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located adjacent to the Marina Office at Howth Yacht Club and on the What's app group. QR code at bottom.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from the race officials

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Three races “back-to-back” will be sailed, subsequent races to be started as soon as possible after the previous race.

CLASS	FLAG	WARNING SIGNAL
J24/J80 / Puppeteer	A	17:40
Squibs / H17's	K	17:43
Dinghies	Q	17:46

7. NOT USED

8. RACING AREA

The racing area will be North/Northwest of Howth Harbour

9. COURSES

The courses to be sailed by each class is shown in Appendix A. After starting and until approaching the finish line to finish, the marks at the ends of the start/finish line are not marks on course.

10. MARKS

The Windward, Offset and Leeward mark shall be black inflatable buoys. The Inner windward mark shall be a yellow inflatable buoy. The outer limit mark for the start will be an orange pillar mark and the finish mark (if the race is not shortened) will be a pink cherry buoy.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS NOT USED

12. THE START

12.1 Races will be started using a 3-2-1 starting sequence with a warning signal made 3 minutes before the starting signal. This changes RRS 26

12.2 The starting line is between a mast displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel at the starboard end of the course side and an orange pillar mark at the port end of the start line.

12.3 Unless correcting a starting error, boats already racing shall not sail through the starting line whilst subsequent sequences are under way.

12.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12.5. A boat that does not start within 3 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1

12.6. General Recalls will be signalled by the display of the First Substitute with two sounds. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made

one minute after the First Substitute is removed, and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

13. CHANGE TO THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

Minor course changes may not be signalled. This changes RRS33

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finish line will be between a mast displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel and a pink cherry buoy.

14.2 Where shortened course applies to all classes, it will be signalled by displaying Flag S and two sound signals. In the case of individual class or classes the appropriate class flags will be displayed with Flag S. The finishing boat for such an instance may be a RIB.

14.3 A committee vessel located near a mark making repetitive sound signals and displaying Flag F and their class flag shall signify that after rounding the mark, boats of that class shall proceed directly to the finish line. If no class flag is displayed then all boats shall round the mark and go directly to the finish.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

15.1 The penalty system for a rule infringement will be one full turn.
This amends rule RRS 44.1.

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1 The finishing window for each class shall be 10 minutes after the finishing time of the first boat in that class to sail the course and finish correctly. This changes RRS 35.

16.2 After the first boat has finished, the Race Officer may offer a finishing position to the boat still racing in last place. The finishing position offered will be the number of boats finished and still racing plus 1. A boat is not obliged to accept such an offer unless it is the last boat still racing. The Race Officer is not obliged to make such an offer. A boat that accepts such an offer will immediately cease racing, and the Race Officer may repeat this process with the next boat. The offer may be made via safety or support boat personnel. This will be signalled using code flag W. This changes RRS35

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 Online Protest Portal

<https://tinyurl.com/ysn4yd96>

17.2 The Protest Time Limit for a boat is 45 minutes from the time of the last finishing boat. The time will be posted on the Marina Notice Board.

17.3 Hearing request forms are available on the Online Protest Portal

17.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee or Protest Committee will be posted before the end of the protest time limit to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

17.5 The time and place of Protest Hearings will be initially posted on the Online Protest Portal within 15 minutes of the Protest Time Limit. The listing of a boat

on this schedule shall constitute informing her of a hearing as per RRS 63.2. Parties involved shall present themselves and their witnesses at the time and place indicated on the schedule.

17.6 To request correction of an alleged error in a posted race result, a boat shall complete a scoring enquiry via the Online Protest Portal.

18. SCORING

18.1 A boat's series score is the total of her race scores and no discards allowed.

18.2 All classes will be scored separately (on scratch) regardless of multiple classes starting together.

18.3 If there is a series score tie, rule A8.2 will be used to break the tie.

18.4 If there remains a tie the winner of the larger fleet will be deemed to be the HYC Women at the Helm Trophy winner for 2025

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

Boats retiring shall inform a safety boat as soon as possible and shall obey the instructions of the safety boat crew.

20. - 22. NOT USED

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

Official vessels shall comprise of the committee boat called North Star, mark laying boats and safety boats

24. NOT USED

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard official or support boats

26. -28. NOT USED

29. PRIZES

29.1 Prizes will be awarded for the winner of each fleet.

29.2 Overall WATH Baltic Gold Trophy will be awarded to the Crew with the lowest score overall.

30. RISK STATEMENT

30.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

30.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race."



APPENDIX A

Courses to be Sailed

The course will be Windward / Leeward for all fleets. The number of laps for each class will be displayed on the committee boat following its warning signal and shall be displayed for not less than 2 minutes before the start. This changes RRS 27.1. All marks shall be left to Port.

J80 / J24/ Puppeteers/ Melges:

Lap 1: 1 – 2 – 3

Lap 2: 1 - 2 – 3

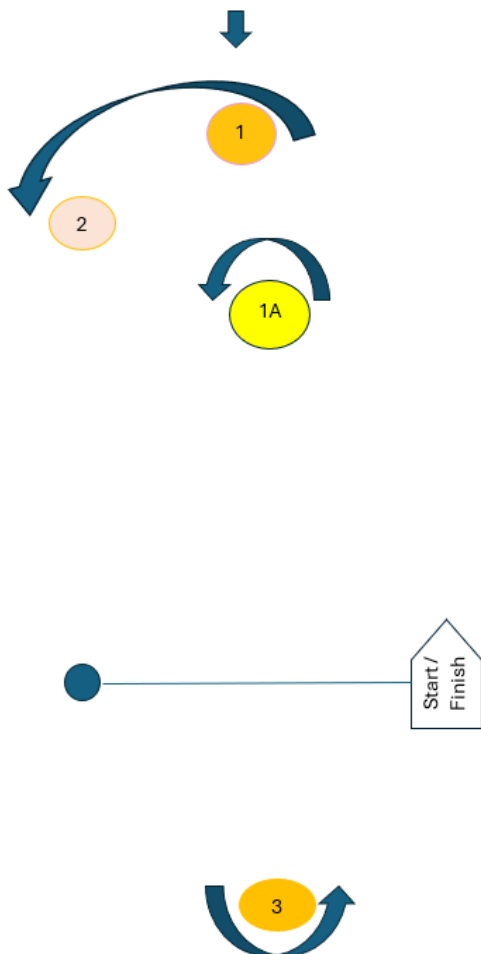
Lap 3: 1 – 2 – 3

Squibs / H17s/ IDRA 14

Lap 1: 1A– 3

Lap 2: 1A–3

Lap 3: 1A– 3





Women at the Helm 2025

WhatsApp group



Scan or upload this QR code using the
WhatsApp camera to join this group