



Open Dinghy Frostbite Series 2025 / 2026



PY Dinghy Class

Sailing Instructions

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. **RULES**

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the Prescriptions of Irish Sailing. Advertising in compliance with WS Regulation 20 is permitted.
- 1.2. Replica ILCA sails or spars may be permitted, provided their measurements fall within ILCA Class limits.
- 1.3. Providing the flag remains on the mark, a boat may touch any part of the flag of a mark that does not surround the staff of the mark. This changes RRS 31.
- 1.4. [DP] Sails shall have the correct sail number (as per the entry form) clearly displayed on both sides in accordance with Class Rules. Permission from the race committee shall be requested in writing before each day's racing should a competitor wishes to sail under a different number from that under which he / she is entered.
- 1.5. Boats which have not competed in any of the first three days on which racing is held will be asked to remove their boats from the Club and an entry fee refund will be applied.

2. **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1. Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board not later than 2 hours before the scheduled start of the first race so affected and will remain in force for all subsequent races. Changes may also be circulated via WhatsApp messages to the Event Group, as per NOR 26.1.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, which is located at <https://hyc.ie/open-events>. Notices may also be circulated via WhatsApp messages to the Event Group, Link to join WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jz9kt97QCxeKXh4epVmP7B>. Notices may also be posted on the notice board outside the Marina Office

4. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

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

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- 5.2. When flag 'AP' is displayed ashore "one minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes". This changes RRS "Race Signals". Boats are requested not to leave the harbour until flag AP is lowered.
- 5.3. Flag 'L' over the ILCA flag indicates that an amendment to the Sailing Instructions has been posted. This signal will only be made on the first day of racing after each amendment has been posted.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. It is intended to run a maximum of two races back-to-back each day, including on the day of the Round the Island Race. On New Year's Day there will be one race. Entry for the New Year's Day Race is free for entrants to the pre-Christmas series. Entry for the Round the Island Race is free for entrants to the post-Christmas series.
- 6.2. Racing is scheduled as follows:

Series	Dates	Race Day	No. Races	Warning Signal
Courtney Cup (ILCA) PY 1	2nd November 2025 to 14th December 2025	Sunday	14 Races (2 per day)	1045
New Year's Day Race	1 st January 2026	Thursday	1 Race	1155
Rowan Trophy (ILCA) PY 2	4th January 2026 to 1st March 2026	Sunday	18 Races (2 per day)	1045
Round the Island Race	7th March 2026	Saturday	2 Races	1055

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1. The Class flags and the starting sequence where all four Classes have individual starts, shall be:

Class	Flag
ILCA 7	ILCA Class flag
ILCA 6	ICF 'R'
ILCA 4	ICF 'J'
PY	ICF 'A'

- 7.2. The fleets may be started separately but the Race Committee has discretion to amalgamate the starts of either two, three, or all ILCA Classes into fleets as they see fit, which will be indicated by displaying the Class Flags of the next Classes to start simultaneously at their fleet Warning Signal.
- 7.3. If the decision is made to start all ILCA classes together, Code Flag E will replace the Class flags of the individual ILCA Classes

8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. The Starting Area will be North of Howth Harbour in Howth Sound.
- 8.2. Boats are requested to sail near the Committee Boat prior to the first warning signal each day for identification purposes.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. Courses will be a mixture of Windward-Leeward and Olympic courses starting from a Committee Vessel.
- 9.2. Courses will be selected by the Race Committee on the day and indicated by displaying on the Committee Boat either Flag "W" for Windward-Leeward Course, Flag "O" for Olympic Course or Flag "T" for Triangle Course.
- 9.3. The Race Committee may shorten the course at any mark on the course.
- 9.4. In addition to the normal procedure of shortening the course at a mark, the Race Committee may also shorten the course by requiring boats to sail directly from a mark to the finishing line. As boats round a mark, flag 'F' may be displayed from a nearby RIB, accompanied by repeated short sound signals. Boats shall then sail directly from that mark to the Start / Finish line and finish from the direction of the last mark rounded. This changes rule 32.2. Where a WL course is in use and the RIB is in the vicinity of marks 1 and 2, the flag shall be deemed to be flown beside mark 2.
- 9.5. See Appendix A for course diagrams.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. The starting mark will be a red Dan Buoy displaying an Orange Flag.
- 10.2. The finish mark will be a yellow spherical mark.
- 10.3. All other marks will be red spherical marks to be left to port.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1. [NP] [DP] Howth Harbour and the Sound are deemed to be 'confined channels' and trawlers, ships and similar craft constrained in their ability to manoeuvre shall be kept clear of by sailing boats. Accordingly:
When entering and leaving the harbour, boats competing in Club racing shall pass other vessels PORT-TO-PORT.
Boats shall not impede trawlers, fishing vessels or other large, powered craft that are constrained in their ability to manoeuvre whilst in Howth Sound, the Harbour Entrance and the Fairways to the Trawler Dock and the HYC Marina.

12. THE START

- 12.1. The time of the first warning signal each day shall be as per NOR 9.1. Subsequent races that day shall start as soon as is possible.
- 12.2. Racing shall be started using a 3-minute sequence: Warning signal with relevant Class flag(s) displayed at Start -3 minutes. Preparatory signal with appropriate flag (P, U or Black) displayed at Start -2 minutes and removed at Start -1 minute. Class flag(s) removed at Start. Where more than a single fleet is planned, the Warning Signal for each succeeding fleet shall be made with or after the Starting Signal of the preceding fleet. This changes RRS 26
- 12.3. The starting line will be between the red and white pole displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and a red Dan Buoy displaying an Orange Flag. The starting mark may remain in place during the first race. The fleet flag will be displayed 3 minutes before the start of the race to which it applies.
- 12.4. Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their warning signal.
- 12.5. A boat that comes to the starting area but does not start (as per RRS Definitions) within 5 minutes after her valid starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5.1 and A5.3.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1. To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position. Minor course changes will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finishing line, except where the course is being shortened at a mark of the course, shall be a line between the red and white pole on the Committee Boat, which shall display a blue flag, and a spherical yellow finishing mark, which shall be left to port.
- 14.2. [DP] Boats having finished are required to keep clear of all boats still racing.

15. NOT USED

16. TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. The Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Race Time Limit	Finishing Window ILCA Only
60 minutes	10 minutes

With the exception of the PY fleet, any boat which fails to finish within 10 minutes of the leading boat in their fleet shall be deemed to have retired and will be scored as DNF. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5.1 and A5.3.

The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

- 16.2. After the first boat has finished, the Race Committee 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 last boat. The offer may be made via safety or support boat personnel. This changes the definition of the word "Finish". This changes RRS 35, A4, A5.1 and A5.3.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. Protests, Requests for Redress or Reopening and Scoring Enquiries shall be submitted online at: https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/12979/event_links?name=Howth%2520YC%2520Winter%2520Dinghy%2520Frostbite
- 17.2. The Protest Time Limit is 1600 on each race day.
Notices of protests by the Race Committee will be posted online, at the same link, to inform boats. This changes Rule 63.1(1).
- 17.3. Times and locations of protest/redress hearings shall be notified to all parties involved.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. Scoring shall be as per RRS Appendix A4, low points system. Points are accumulated by the entered sailor(s) and not the boat.
- 18.2. One discard will be allowed for every four races sailed, up to a maximum of four discards per series.

- 18.3. Persons not entered shall not be awarded results. Boats participating in the series shall only be raced by helmsmen who have been properly entered. Single race entrants shall not score points in the series nor affect the results of those who have entered the series. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.3.
- 18.4. Rule A5.3 shall apply but, by way of change to it, the following scores will apply to boats falling into the following categories:
- 18.4.1. DNC: Points equal to the number of entries for the series plus one
- 18.4.2. DNS/OCS/RET/DSQ: Points equal to the number of boats that came to the starting area plus one

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. [DP] There will be a 'Sign out / Sign in' register which must be signed personally by the helmsman of each boat competing. This will be located in the Marina Office. The Sign Out must be completed by each helm before 11:00 each day The Sign In must be completed by each helm no later than 45 minutes after the last boat finish time. Failure to sign-in or sign-out shall result in the boat in question being scored as DSQ for all races sailed on the day in question without a hearing and may result in further action at the discretion of the Race Committee. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.3.
- 19.2. The attention of each competitor is drawn to the potential dangers of sailing during Winter months when wind chill, water temperature and weather conditions can quickly induce fatigue / hypothermia. Each competitor shall wear a buoyancy aid and suitable protective clothing at all times and RRS 40.1, in accordance with RRS 40.2, shall apply. Wetsuits will not be recognised as personal buoyancy. Competitors must be aware of the Irish Sailing Safety Guidelines and its recommendations.
- 19.3. The following minimum level of protective clothing is recommended: 3.5 mm long john wetsuit, long sleeve jumper, wind-proof suit, wet suit boots, hat or balaclava, OR Dry suit, tee shirt, long sleeve jumper, warm trousers, wet suit boots, hat or balaclava.
- 19.4. Competitors participate in the series entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. Neither Howth Yacht Club CLG, the Race Committee, nor the Organising Committee, including those individuals who comprise them, are liable for loss of or damage to boats or equipment, or for death or injury to competitors.
- 19.5. All boats shall have a painter, with minimum diameter of 6 mm and at least 3 metres in length, made fast to the bow.
- 19.6. Competitors are advised to regularly check their equipment for possible defects, e.g. loose rivets, frayed ropes, insecure bung, loose tiller extension universal joint, split rings, etc.
- 19.7. Competitors shall co-operate with crews of Race Committee boats, including RIBs, and should accept their advice.
- 19.8. In adverse weather conditions competitors are reminded of the possibility of coming ashore on Claremont beach.

20. - 25 NOT USED

26. BOAT PARKING AND TROLLEYS

- 26.1. Competitors are required to register their dinghies on Park Turtle for the duration of the Winter Frostbites. Please complete the online form [here](#) so that the Marina team can add you to the Park Turtle tracking system and place a sticker on your dinghy.
- 26.2. Masts must be stored with the sections separated.
- 26.3. Road trailers are not permitted except when delivering and collecting boats. Road trailers found inside the dinghy park at other times will be placed on the pier at the owner's risk.
- 26.4. All boats must be removed on or before Monday 9th March 2026. Boats remaining on the premises after that date will be placed on the pier at the owner's risk.
- 26.5. All boats must have a serviceable trolley suitable for the type of boat they are sailing.
- 26.6. To speed up the recovery of boats after racing, sailors are asked to take the first available trolley suitable for their type of boat. Sailors may collect their own trolley on the last day of each series. Owners are responsible for identifying their own trolleys.

27. NOT USED

28. NOT USED

29. PRIZES

- 29.1. Per NoR 24

30. RISK STATEMENT

- 30.1. As per NOR 22

31. INSURANCE

- 31.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate, valid, third party liability insurance cover inclusive of a racing risks extension.

32. TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP

- 32.1. All Competitors are granted temporary membership of Howth Yacht Club on racing days. Club facilities are not available to non-member participants at any other time.

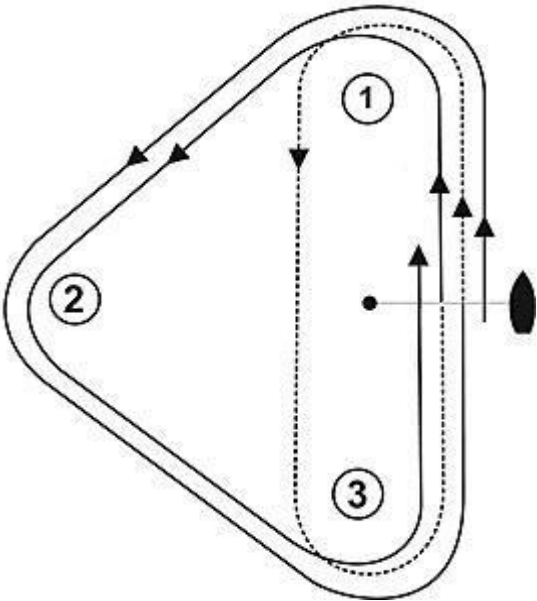
Appendix A – Course Information

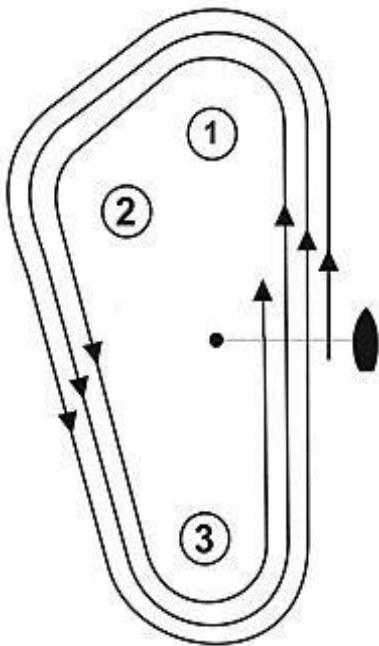
Olympic – Flag “O”

Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish

Triangle - Flag “T”

Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish





W/L – Course flag ‘W’

Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 Finish