

Howth Yacht Club

Dinghy Classes Round the Island Race 2026

Saturday, 7th March

Organised by Howth Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Rules**

Racing shall be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing and the rules of the ILCA and the relevant PY Classes, except as amended by these Sailing Instructions or in the Notice of Race. Advertising in compliance with ISAF Regulation 20 is permitted.

2. **Notice to Competitors**

Notice to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the archway beside the Marina Office.

A Briefing will take place outside the Marina Office at 9.30.

3. **Changes to Sailing Instructions**

Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be issued by the Race Committee in writing.

Changes will be posted on the Official Notice Board not later than one hour before the scheduled start of the first race affected.

4. **Signals Made Ashore**

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of the Marina Bridge. When flag 'AP' is displayed ashore 'one minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'.

Flag 'L' with one sound signal indicates an amendment to the Sailing Instructions has been posted.

5. **Schedule of Races**

If conditions permit, a preliminary race sailed on a Windward Leeward course may precede the Round the Island Race. Numeral 1 displayed on the Committee Boat will indicate that this race will be sailed. Where a preliminary race is sailed, the Round The Island Race starting sequence will commence as soon as is possible after the conclusion of that race.

If conditions make it unsafe or impractical to sail Round the Island, the Race Committee may set an alternative course, either Olympic (flag O), Triangles (flag T) or Windward /Leeward (flag W), in lieu of the Round the Island Race.

First Warning Signal: 10.55

Start sequence will be:

ILCA 7, 6 & 4 (all together)

PY Classes

A 3 minute start sequence will apply.

6. **Class Flags**

The Class flags will be as follows:

ILCA 7, 6 & 4: ICF E

PY Class: ICF A

7. **Racing Area**

The racing area will be north of Howth Harbour with the starting lines laid in Howth Sound.

8. **The Courses, if the Race Committee Decides Not to Send Boats Around The Island**

The mark rounding sequences for the various course configurations is as follows. All marks will be left to port.

Windward/Leeward course (ICF W) – note that there will be an offset mark (mark 2) close to the Windward mark.

PY, ILCA 7 & 6: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish (3 laps)
ILCA 4: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish (2 laps)

Olympic Course (ICF O):

PY, ILCA 7 & 6: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish
ILCA 4: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 3 – Finish (Single triangle + WL)

Triangles Course (ICF T):

PY, ILCA 7 & 6: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish
ILCA 4: Start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 – Finish (2 laps)

It is not necessary to pass through the Finishing line at the end of each round.

In addition to the conventional 'shorten course' procedure at a mark of the course, the course may also be shortened by requiring boats to sail directly from a mark to the finishing line. As boats round a mark, ICF '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. This changes Rule 32.2. If ICF 'F' is displayed from a RIB in the vicinity of marks 1 and 2, the flag shall be deemed to be displayed beside mark 2.

The Race Officer may reposition marks during a race to keep the course true to the wind. This will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

For the Round the Island race (unless flag W, O or T is displayed), the course will consist of a leg to a windward mark, around a spreader mark, both left to port, and then downwind to a Turning Mark.

The required side for rounding the Turning Mark for the first time will be advised by hoisting a Red or Green Flag prior to the Warning Signal for the race (diagram attached shows Port rounding on the way to the Island but may be starboard depending on flag hoisted). Boats will proceed to round Ireland's Eye in a direction of their choice and the Turning Mark shall be left to **PORT** before boats sail to the Finish line.

The sequence of mark roundings forming the course for the Round-the-Island Race (unless it is being sailed around marks that are all laid for it) is shown on the appendix. A Hazard Mark (H) may be positioned south of the southern tip of Ireland's Eye. Boats **MUST** pass to the **SOUTH** of this mark between their first and second rounding of the Turning mark (see SI 9) and shall not pass between the Hazard Mark (H) and the Island.

9. **Marks**

The outer end of the Start Line will be a Red Dan Buoy displaying an orange Flag.

The Finish Mark will be a yellow spherical buoy.

Marks 1 and 2 (and 3 where applicable) will be orange spherical buoys.

For the Round the Island race, mark 3 will be described as the Turning mark and will be an Orange Inflatable Pillar mark.

The Hazard Mark (H) off the southern tip of Ireland's Eye, if used, will be a **YELLOW INFLATABLE** mark.

10. **The Start**

The starting procedure for each Class will be Warning Signal: -3 mins, Preparatory Signal: -2 mins, One Minute: -1 min, **START**. This changes RRS 26.

The start line will be between the flagpole on the Committee Vessel displaying an Orange Flag and a Red Dan Buoy displaying an Orange Flag

11. **The Finish**

The finishing line will be between the flagpole on the Committee Vessel displaying a Blue Flag and a Yellow Spherical outer limit mark.

12. Time Limit

The time limit for the leading boat in each fleet shall be 90 minutes for the Round the Island race, 60 minutes for its replacement using laid marks in Howth Sound and 30 minutes for the preliminary W/L, Olympic or Triangles race. Rule 35 is amended so that any boat that fails to finish within 30 minutes of the second boat of its Class to sail the Round the Island course and finish will be deemed to have retired.

After the leading boats have finished a race, the Race Committee may offer finishing positions to boats

13. Protests

Protests must be made on an official IS form (available from the Marina Office) and lodged within 45 minutes of the last boat crossing the finishing line for the last race sailed.

14. Scoring System

The scoring system will be as per the Low Point Scoring System (Appendix A).

15. Competition and Prizes

The preliminary race, if sailed, will not affect the results of the Round the Island Race.

Class results for the Round the Island Race shall be provided for each ILCA rig size (ILCA 7, 6 and 4) and for the PY Class

The Skehan Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the ILCA 7 Class in the Round the Island race. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the ILCA 6, ILCA 4, and PY Classes. Where a Class of boat has three or more competitors the first of them shall be awarded a prize.

16. Club Membership

All visiting competitors are granted temporary membership of Howth Yacht Club for the day of the event.

17. Sign out / sign in [NP]

For safety reasons, there will be a 'Sign out' register, located in the Marina Office, which must be signed personally by the helmsperson of each boat competing before going afloat to race. Failure to sign-out shall result in the boat incurring, without a hearing, a Scoring Penalty of 3 points - as per the provisions of RRS 44.3 (c) - for each race sailed by it. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.2.

Safety & Additional Information

Safety

Competitors are reminded of RRS Fundamental Rule 4 'Decision to Race', which reads 'A boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing'. In reaching a decision, the competitor should bear in mind the fact that the series is a winter event in which wind chill, water temperature and weather conditions can quickly induce fatigue. Personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times. Wet suits shall not be recognised as personal buoyancy. Suitable protective clothing shall be worn at all times.

All boats shall have a painter, with minimum diameter of 6mm and at least 3 metres in length, made fast to the bow.

Competitors shall co-operate with Safety Boat crews and should accept their advice.

In adverse weather conditions, competitors are reminded of the possibility of coming ashore on Claremont beach.

Outside assistance

Boats receiving assistance from official safety boats shall not be obliged to retire from the race. This changes RRS 41. However, where a Safety Boat crew are of the opinion that any boat is committing the resource for an unacceptably long period and advise the sailor to retire, the boat shall be obliged to immediately retire from the race being sailed when the advice is provided.

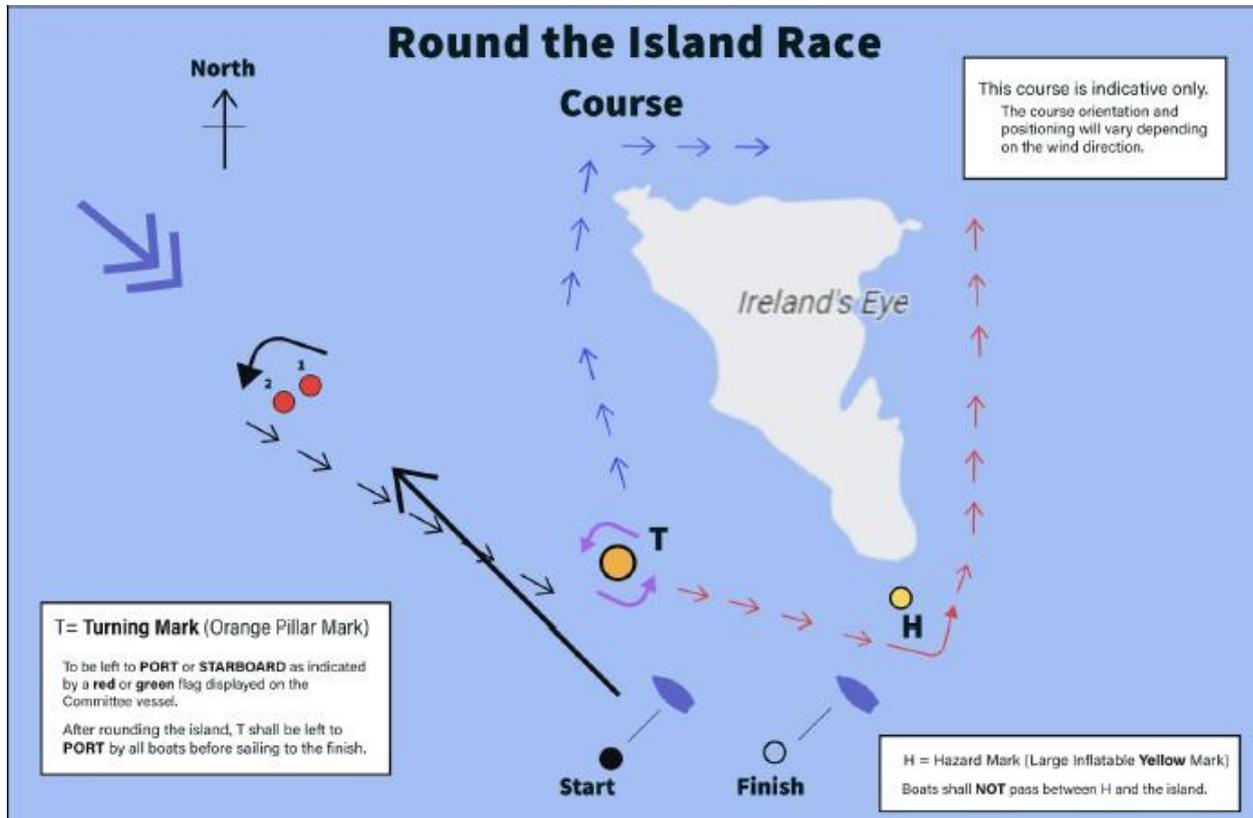
Rules of the Road at Sea

When leaving or entering the Marina area and harbour entrance boats shall keep in single file on the right hand side of the channel, passing vessels going the other way 'port side to port side'. Trawlers have right of way due to restricted waters in the area from the entrance of the trawler dock out to the Rowan Rocks buoy.

Sail Numbers

Sails shall have the correct sail number, as provided on their entry form, clearly displayed on both sides of the mainsail in accordance with Class Rules. Permission from the Committee Vessel at the start *shall be requested should a competitor wish to sail under a different number from that under which he / she is entered. Boats that cannot be identified will not be recorded at the finish or in the results.*

Round Island Course Diagram



Note:

1. The above course details will apply where the fleet races around Ireland's Eye and is indicative only – north westerly wind direction used in example. The course orientation and positioning will vary depending on the wind direction.
2. After rounding marks 1 and 2 and leaving them to port, boats shall round Turning Mark (T) before proceeding to round the Island.
3. Committee Boat will display a **red flag** if Turning Mark (T) is to be left to port by boats on their way to the Island or will display a **green flag** if T is to be left to starboard.
4. After rounding the Island, T shall be left to port by all boats before sailing to the Finish.
5. Boats may not pass between Mark H (if laid) and the Island.