



Keelboat Club Racing 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

- The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG, hereinafter referred to as the 'Club'.
- The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- The notation [DP] in a rule means that the penalty imposed by the Protest Committee for a breach of that rule will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee, as per RRS 64.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing and Club rules for the use of Club owned J80s.
- 1.2. Where the word 'member' is used in this document, it shall refer to the classes of membership detailed in Article 5 of the Club's constitution.
- 1.3. The IRC Rules, Parts A, B, and C shall apply.
- 1.4. Division C (Non-Spinnaker) boats shall use only one headsail at any time. This changes RRS 55.1. Boats competing in mid-week Division C racing shall not use a spinnaker in Saturday Club racing.
- 1.5. Competitors in all Classes shall wear lifejackets or suitable personal flotation devices at all times, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices) applies, as per the provisions of RRS 40.2(c).
- 1.6. Each boat shall carry an anchor and warp aboard whilst racing, capable of being quickly deployed in an emergency and suitable for the particular boat and its area of operation.
- 1.7. Anchors shall not protrude beyond the bow of a boat whilst racing.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions (SI) will be available online on the Club website no later than **Thursday, 16th April 2026**.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The official notice board is located beside the marina office.
- 3.2. [NP] Each boat shall carry a serviceable marine band VHF radio and is advised to keep a listening watch on the designated Race Management channel for their race. Failure to receive transmissions from the Race Committee will not be grounds for redress.
- 3.3. [NP] A Club-nominated coach can speak to a boat during racing if the Club has organised on-the-water coaching for the particular race. This changes RRS 41.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The event will comprise a series of sub-events collectively forming the Club's summer programme of keelboat racing. Entry is open to boats of the Howth 17 Footer, National Squib and Puppeteer 22 One-Design Classes and to Cruisers racing under IRC and / or HPH handicap rating systems. Cruisers racing

on Wednesdays will be assigned to a Division according to the design of the particular boat and whether or not it will use a spinnaker and a boat shall comply with the relevant criteria for the particular Division they are assigned to.

- 4.2. For Saturday Cruiser racing, the HPH handicap numbers for each boat shall be the rating assigned to the boat for Wednesday racing.
- 4.3. Boats shall be bona fide the property of, or chartered by, Club members.
- 4.4. Boats may enter the event by registering online at <https://www.hyc.ie/>.
- 4.5. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.6. Howth 17 Footers and Puppeteer 22s are required to have their Class Association fees paid and up to date before a boat can be recorded as a starter in any Club race.
- 4.7. Cruiser Class entries (including Sportsboat type craft such as J70s, J80s and the like) that wish to race using spinnakers shall be assigned to Division A or Division B depending on their characteristics. Boats racing without spinnakers shall be assigned to Division C. Divisions A, B and C shall race under IRC and / or HPH handicap systems. Boats shall be allocated to Division A or B by the OA.
- 4.8. The OA will allocate a HPH performance Time Correction Factor (TCF) to each entrant. This TCF will be updated throughout the season. HPH handicaps will be determined by the OA, in conjunction with the relevant Division / Class Captain.
- 4.9. [DP] A competitor shall notify their Class / Division Captain in a timely fashion of any material change to their boat's rig or sails to allow for adjustment of the boat's handicap where deemed appropriate.
- 4.10. A boat may have its handicap reviewed by the OA at any time.
- 4.11. Each Cruiser class boat entering to compete and to use its IRC TCF is required to have the details (including 2026 issue number) of their IRC certificate submitted to results@hyc.ie before racing. No alteration in a boat's TCF will be permitted after this date, except as a result of a rating protest or to correct rating office errors.
- 4.12. In Crew or other special races, Cruiser class boats shall sail under their current HPH TCF. One Design Classes shall sail under scratch, with the exception of nominated 'special' handicap races when the organisers will allocate handicaps for the race(s).

5. FEES

- 5.1. The entry fee for HYC keelboat racing shall be **€170.00** per boat. This includes entry for the Gibney Classic and for the Fingal Series (excluding Malahide YC Regatta), the results of which will both form part of relevant Club Series.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS [DP]

- 6.1. IRC Rule 22.4 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight, with the exception of the requirements of subsequent sub-clauses of this NOR Clause.
- 6.2. Except by prior written approval of the Sailing Committee, a boat shall not be raced single-handed.
- 6.3. Boat owners / skippers are requested to encourage all persons aboard whilst racing to be members of the Club.
- 6.4. The helmsperson of any boat racing in a keelboat Club race shall be a Full, Associate, Cadet or Junior member of the Club. Those who are members of Crew and Social, Overseas, Country, Temporary or Special Temporary categories shall not helm a keelboat in Club racing. This requirement may be waived by the OA for designated races, for example 'crew' races and the like.

7. SCHEDULE and DEFAULT WARNING SIGNAL TIMES

The schedule of races is summarised below together with the default start line locations and times of the Warning Signal. For the midweek Cruiser Divisions, the time of the first Warning Signal is listed.

Due to tidal related Harbour access difficulties on specific dates, racing on specific dates may be deferred to another day in the same week (or cancelled) and the time of the Warning Signal(s) may change.

All Classes: The midweek racing (both Tues and Wed) for week ending July 17th will be brought forward to the previous week and all midweek Classes / Divisions will race on **Friday, July 10th**.

Cruiser Division races that would otherwise be sailed on Wednesday June 17th are advanced to **Friday, June 12th**, those for Wednesday July 1st are advanced to **Friday, June 26th**, and those for Wednesday July 29th are advanced to **Tues, July 28th**.

A summary of the affected and rescheduled dates is provided in 8.2 hereafter. Appendix A of the Sailing Instructions provides more detail of dates when racing is rescheduled or not possible. Where the rescheduling affects the times of Warning Signals more information is provided in the Sailing Instructions.

Appendix A will be deemed to take priority over the Schedule below in the event of a conflict.

In addition to the races listed, additional 'special' races may be scheduled (Crew, Ladies, Ballot, and the like), details of which will be provided to those entered for the relevant Summer Series.

ONE DESIGNS – TUESDAY (typically)

Class / Division	Dates (inclusive)	Start Location	Warning Signal
Howth 17s	May 5 – Aug 11	Pier	1900
	Aug 18 – Aug 25	Pier	1845
Puppeteers	May 5 – Aug 11	Committee Vessel	1910
	Aug 18 – Aug 25	Pier	1840
Squibs	May 5 – Jun 2	Committee Vessel	1915
	Jun 9 – Aug 11	Pier	1905
	Aug 18 – Aug 25	Pier	1850

CRUISERS - WEDNESDAY (typically)

Class / Division	Dates (inclusive)	Start Location	1 ST Warning Signal
Divisions A, B and C	May 6 – Aug 5	Committee Vessel	1910
	Aug 12 – Aug 26	Pier	1840

ONE DESIGNS AND CRUISERS - SATURDAY

Class / Division	Dates (inclusive)	Start Location	Warning Signal
Cruiser Classes	May 9 – Aug 29	Pier	1030
Puppeteers	May 9 – Aug 29	Pier	1035
Squibs	May 9 – Aug 29	Pier	1040
Howth 17s	May 9 – Aug 29	Pier	1420

- i. No Club racing on Saturday, May 30th – Lambay Races.
- ii. The Gibney Classic Open Event will be sailed on Aug 15th. Racing for all Classes will start and finish from a Committee Vessel. It's results will form part of the relevant Club Series and the race will be subject to its own Notice of Race, which shall take precedence over this document in the event of a conflict. Boats not competing in the Gibney Classic will be scored as 'DNC' for the relevant Club race.
- iii. For the Saturday Cruiser Class, particular races from the Saturday schedule will form part of the Fingal Series, which is an Open Event. Entry to the Fingal Series is free of charge to those who have entered the Club Summer Series.
- iv. On four Saturdays, due to tidal constraints, morning racing will be deferred to the afternoon with the first Warning Signal (Cruisers) at 14.05, followed at 5-minute intervals by the Puppeteers and then the Squibs. The affected days are **May 23rd, June 6th, June 20th and July 18th**. On these days, the scheduled Warning Signal for the Howth 17s will remain as 14.20 – the last scheduled Class in the sequence.
- v. On a further two Saturdays, due to tidal constraints, racing for the Howth 17s will start earlier than usual. These days are **May 16th and June 13th**, when their Warning Signal will be at 12.55.
- vi. Saturday, July 18th, is Malahide YC Regatta. For the Saturday Cruiser Class, this event will form part of the Fingal Series for boats entered in that Series and the Regatta will require a separate entry to be made to Malahide YC. The Club Cruiser race on July 18th will be starred – not counted for the Club Series results.

8. RACE SERIES

- 8.1 The racing for each Division / Class will be divided into sub-series over the course of the event, as follows. Tidal considerations will require some changes of day for racing that would otherwise take place on Tuesday or Wednesday – see 8.2 below.

Tuesday (Puppeteer and Squib)

Series 1	May 5 – Jun 2	5 races
Series 2	Jun 9 – Jul 10	6 races
Series 3	Jul 21 – Aug 25	6 races

Tuesday & Saturday (Howth 17)

Series 1	May 5 – Jun 6	9 races
Series 2	Jun 9 – Jul 18	12 races
Series 3	Jul 21 – Aug 29	12 races

Wednesday (Divisions A, B and C)

Series 1	May 6 – Jun 3	5 races
Series 2	Jun 10 – Jul 10	6 races
Series 3	Jul 22 – Aug 26	6 races

Saturday Pier Racing (Cruiser Class, Puppeteer & Squib)

Series 1	May 9 – Jun 6	4 races
Series 2	Jun 13 – Jul 18	6 races
Series 3	Jul 25 – Aug 29	6 races

8.2 Midweek Tues and Wed racing will be affected by tidal considerations as follows:

<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>
	May 20 – no racing, <i>deferred to <u>Friday, May 22</u></i>
<i>June 16 – no racing, all Classes deferred to Wed, June 17 - Puppeteers start off Pier with their Warning Signal ADVANCED to 18.55</i>	June 17 – no racing, ADVANCED to <u>Friday, June 12</u>
	July 1 – no racing, ADVANCED to <u>Friday, June 26</u>
<i>July 14 – no racing, all Classes ADVANCED to <u>Friday, July 10</u> – Puppeteer Warning Signal delayed to 19.25</i>	July 15 – no racing, ADVANCED to <u>Friday, July 10</u>
<i>July 28 - Puppeteer Warning Signal delayed to 19.25</i>	July 29 – no racing, ADVANCED to <u>Tuesday, July 28</u>

On Friday, July 10th, all midweek racing that would otherwise be held during the week ending July 17th will take place on the same evening. Howth 17s and Squibs will start from the Pier and all others will have a Committee Vessel start.

9. SUPPLEMENTARY RACES

9.1. Over the course of the season, Classes/Divisions may choose to supplement the Club racing schedule detailed herein with additional races. Arrangements for the conduct of such races will be managed by the Class responsible for them and will be notified by the Class to the likely competitors and approved by the Sailing Committee.

10. 'STARRED' RACES

10.1. In addition to races identified as 'starred' in this Notice of Race, a Class Captain may request that a scheduled Club race be 'starred' – result excluded from consideration in the total score for a particular series. This request must be made in writing and received by the Honorary Sailing Secretary at least 72 hours before the scheduled start of the race concerned. Notice of races starred under this procedure will be displayed on www.hyc.ie at least 48 hours before the scheduled starting time.

11. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

11.1. Where relevant, each boat shall produce or verify the existence of a valid measurement or rating certificate when requested to do so by the OA.

12. VENUE

12.1. Races will be sailed in the waters to the north and east of Howth Harbour.

13. COURSES

- 13.1. The race area and other relevant information shall be as shown on the TECHNICAL SHEET FOR COURSE CARDS, which shall be made available with the SIs.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 As per the Racing Rules of Sailing.

15. SCORING

- 15.1. The scoring system shall be as per RRS Appendix A – Low Point System. RRS Appendix A Scoring rule A5.3 will apply.
- 15.2. One discard is allowed for every four races completed.
- 15.3. No results shall be allocated for a race where less than two boats come to the starting area. This changes RRS 90.3(a).

16. BERTHING

- 16.1. [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the marina or on swinging moorings and, for dry sailed boats, in the place ashore assigned to them by marina staff.

17. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 17.1 Particular Divisions / Classes may have requirements / restrictions on the hauling out of boats over the duration of the event. Boats assigned to such Divisions / Classes shall comply with the appropriate requirements / restrictions.

18. DATA PROTECTION

- 18.1. Competitors give their consent to the OA to use or to license the use of their name, comments, photographs and likeness as it sees fit for the promotion of the Club and its activities. The OA reserves the right to uses or to license the use of any images and sound recordings free of charge.

19. RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 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.'
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 and acknowledges that:

19.1.A. *They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;*

19.1.B. *They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, the boat in their charge and their other property whether afloat or ashore;*

19.1.C. *They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;*

19.1.D. *The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;*

19.1.E. *The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;*

19.1.F. *It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.*

20. INSURANCE

20.1 Each participating boat shall be insured throughout the Series with adequate, valid, third-party cover with an appropriate extension for racing risks. Written evidence of the required insurance being in place shall be provided to the Club before the boat competes in its first race – email copy of cover note to HonSailingSec@hyc.ie. Further details shall be provided if the cover note information provided is deemed inadequate.

21. PRIZES

21.1. Prizes shall be awarded for each series/division on the basis of average turnout as follows:

2 boats – 1st

5 boats – 2nd

8 boats – 3rd

11 or more boats – 4th

21.3 For the special races (Crew, Ladies, etc.), a 1st prize only shall be awarded for each division.

21.3 In a Cruiser Division or Class series, a boat shall not be awarded both an IRC and HPH prize and the HPH prize shall take precedence.

21.4 In a One Design Class series, a boat shall not be awarded a scratch and handicap prize. The scratch prize shall take precedence.

21.5 Overall 'All races' prizes will be awarded – decided on the racing across the full Series, based on the Scratch results for One Designs and the HPH results for the Cruiser Divisions and Saturday Classes.

21.6 Club Racing Perpetual Trophies shall be awarded as listed in the Club Keelboat Racing section of the HYC website.

22. BOAT ASSIST ROSTER

22.1. [DP] Class Assist: Boats entering Club racing may be assigned a race date on which the boat will be required to provide assistant(s) to the Race Committee running racing on that date. Racing may be either from a Committee Vessel or from the East Pier Hut. It is a condition of entry that a boat assigned to provide Boat assist personnel does so. The owner will be advised by their Division / Class Captain of the date and approximate time that the assistant(s) are required to attend and the number of persons (either 1 or 2) that the boat is required to provide for the duty. Any boat failing to meet its obligations in this respect may be subject to protest and imposition of a penalty.