



Keelboat Club Racing 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. IRC crew limitation and weight limitation Instructions are waived for all Cruiser Classes.
- 1.3. It is prohibited for a boat to listen to Race Committee private VHF channels between leaving their mooring/marina area and the end of the race they intend to, or are, participating in. This may be ground for a protest under RRS 2 (Fair Sailing).
- 1.4. The Irish Sailing prescriptions will apply and can be found at:
 - 1.4.1. www.sailing.ie/Library/racing#worldsailinglibrary.
- 1.5. 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.

2. Management of Races

- 2.1. Club races shall be arranged by the Sailing Committee, which shall appoint a Race Committee responsible for the management of particular races in respect of course selection, signals and recording of results. The Race Committee shall have an option to postpone or abandon races for any reason.
- 2.2. The decision of the Race Committee shall be final in all matters connected with the times at which boats cross the starting or finishing line.
- 2.3. Information may be transmitted by the Race Committee using VHF radio. Unless otherwise advised, the VHF Channel normally used will be as follows:
 - 2.3.1. Committee Vessel starts Channel 77
 - 2.3.2. Pier starts Channel 69.
- 2.4. There shall be no race unless two or more boats rank as starters by sailing in the vicinity of their starting area, as defined in Instruction 8 for Committee Vessel starts and Instruction 9 for Pier starts, between their Warning and Starting signals.
- 2.3. A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee of its retirement as soon as possible.

3. Race Schedule

- 3.1. The Schedule of Races is provided in Appendix A herewith.
- 3.2. The Sailing Committee may alter the racing schedule, times and sailing instructions during the season. Any such alteration shall be posted on the Club Notice Board not less than two hours before the start time of the first race so affected. This alteration will be indicated by displaying Code Flag L on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge. If deemed necessary, the change will be notified by email or text message to all owners affected who have entered races so affected.

4. Race Times and Signals

- 4.1. Race days for specific Classes / Divisions are typically Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. On a number of days over the series, racing typically held on Tuesday and/or Wednesday will either be moved to a different day in the same week (or in a preceding one) or lost.
- 4.2. There will be no Club racing on Saturday, May 30th (Lambay Races).
- 4.3. On Saturday, August 15th, Club racing will be sailed in conjunction with the Gibney Classic Open Event. Details of that event will be available in the Notice of Race for it.
- 4.4. Appendix A shall take priority in the event of a conflict with other content of this SI or with the Notice of Race.
- 4.5. The Schedule of races and default times of Warning Signals is provided in the Notice of Race. Appendix A herewith identifies the dates when racing is scheduled, highlighting both the dates and the Warning Signal times that are atypical.
- 4.6. For Wednesday night Cruiser racing, the entrants using spinnakers will be assigned to either Division A or B and those not using spinnakers will be in Division C. The starting sequence will be in the order of Division A, B and C.
- 4.7. Class Flags used shall be as listed below.

Class	Class Flag
Howth 17	C
Puppeteer	A
Squib	K
Cruisers (Saturday)	1

Cruiser Divisions	Class Flag
Division A	1
Division B	2
Division C	4

5. Courses

- 5.1. Courses will be chosen by the Race Committee from the following course cards:
 - 5.1.1. TUESDAY COMMITTEE VESSEL COURSE CARD – **2026 REV 0 (20/04/2026)**
 - 5.1.2. WEDNESDAY COMMITTEE VESSEL COURSE CARD – **2026 Rev 0 (20/04/2026)**
 - 5.1.3. HYC PIER COURSE CARD - **2026 Rev 0 (20/04/2026)**
 - 5.1.4. These course cards, together with the procedure for displaying courses for Pier Starts shown on the Technical Sheet, **2026 Rev 0**, form part of these Sailing Instructions.
 - 5.1.5. The Wednesday Committee Vessel Course Card shall be used when the Tuesday and Wednesday night fleets that start off the Committee Vessel race together on Friday night, **July 10th**.
- 5.2. Courses for Cruiser Class Saturday races forming part of the Fingal Series and started from the Pier starting line will be decided on the morning of the race. The details of the courses will be broadcast to competitors on VHF Ch 69 prior to the Class Preparatory Signal – changes RRS 27.1. In addition to selected HYC Club racing marks, such courses may include other turning points – e.g. the Kish lighthouse and similar features.
- 5.3. RRS 27.1 is changed as follows:
 - 5.3.1. The course board(s) shall be displayed for each Class/Division following its Warning Signal and shall be displayed for not less than 4 minutes before the Start.
- 5.4. In the event of the Race Committee deciding to shorten a race on either a line 30 or line 40 course from the Tuesday or Wednesday Committee Vessel Course Cards but have a fleet (or fleets) finish at the finishing line (as opposed to at a mark in compliance with RRS 32.2(a)), a boat stationed at the last mark to be rounded shall display ICF F and make repeated sound signals as the boats round it. After rounding, the boats shall then proceed directly to the finishing line and finish. If ICF F is displayed on

its own, then all Classes/Divisions racing shall have their course shortened. Where the display of ICF F is accompanied by one or more Class flags then all Classes/Divisions whose flag(s) are displayed shall have their course shortened. When the boat displaying ICF F is in the vicinity of marks 1 and 2, the last mark rounded by Classes / Divisions whose course is shortened shall be mark 2. This changes RRS 32.

6. Howth Harbour & Sound Right of Way / Navigation Marks / Obstructions

- 6.1. Howth Harbour and the Sound are deemed to be confined channels; trawlers, ships and similar craft constrained in their ability to manoeuvre shall be kept clear of by sailing boats. Accordingly:
- 6.2. When entering and leaving the harbour, boats competing in Club racing shall pass other vessels PORT-TO-PORT.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. Any owner / skipper / boat in breach of the above shall be subject to protest (for breach of these SIs) and / or Club disciplinary action.
- 6.5. The navigation marks in and around Howth Sound shall be left as follows after a boat's starting signal:
 - 6.5.1. **South Rowan buoy**: to be passed to the south and west.
 - 6.5.2. **Finish mark**: pass to south, unless passing it on the first leg of any course while it is not being used as a start line mark.
 - 6.5.3. **Rowan Rocks buoy**: to be passed to the east and south.
 - 6.5.4. **Spit mark**: to be passed to the north and east (except when used as rounding mark on Pier Start Course Card)
 - 6.5.5. Where the **Thulla mark** is described as a mark on the course, it shall be passed to the south.
 - 6.5.6. **Howth mark**: not a mark on any course **except in accordance with the provisions of Cl 11 hereafter.**
- 6.6. Any part of Ireland's Eye capable of being touched by a boat while racing is designated as an obstruction to sea room.
- 6.7. The attention of competitors is drawn to the existence of many underwater hazards in the vicinity of Ireland's Eye, Balcadden Bay, Howth Sound and over the Spit Bank. Should they choose to sail amongst these hazards they do so at their own risk. The Club accepts no responsibility for the consequences to any boat of where its helmsperson chooses to sail.

7. Description of Marks

- 7.1. The marks are as specified on the **TECHNICAL SHEET 2026 Rev 0**

8. Starting Area - COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS

- 8.1. [NP] The starting area is enclosed by an imaginary line drawn from the Island mark to the Cush mark to the West mark to the Viceroy mark to the Island mark.
- 8.2. Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their warning signal. Boats having started shall keep clear of the starting line while other starts are in progress.

9. Starting Area – PIER STARTS

- 9.1. The starting area is defined as being bounded by an imaginary line drawn from the new lighthouse to the South Rowan buoy, to the Howth mark, to the elbow of the East Pier.
- 9.2. Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their Warning Signal.

10. Start Line - COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS

- 10.1. The starting line shall be between a red and white pole displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel and an Outer Distance mark, a red Dan-buoy, which shall be left to port when starting. The Race Committee may adjust the starting line up to **three minutes** before the start of a race. This changes RRS27.2.
- 10.2. Following a general recall, the recalled Class/ Division shall immediately sail clear of the starting area. The new warning signal for the recalled Class / Division shall be the starting signal of the last Class/Division in the published sequence. Where a number of Classes/Divisions have had general recalls, their new warning signals shall be made as per the original scheduled sequence. This changes RRS 29.2
- 10.3. Should flag D be displayed at the East Pier Starter's Hut, the Committee Vessel and/or the marina bridge, accompanied by one sound signal, Pier starts and relevant instructions will be substituted for scheduled Committee Vessel starts.

11. Start Line - PIER STARTS

- 11.1. The starting line shall be one of the following, identified by a letter A, B or C displayed on the Starter's Hut/Committee Vessel:-
 - 11.1.1. **Starting Line A:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the South Rowan buoy.
 - 11.1.2. **Starting Line B:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and Finish mark F or the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel.
 - 11.1.3. **Starting Line C:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the Howth mark.
- 11.2. For all west going starts, boats can pass either side of the Finish mark F unless it is being used as a start line mark and boats shall pass to the south of the South Rowan buoy.
- 11.3. For all east going starts, boats can pass either side of the Finish mark F unless it is being used as a start line mark. Should mark F be missing, flag H will be displayed and boats shall pass south of the Howth mark.
- 11.4. Following a general recall, the recalled Class / Division shall immediately sail clear of the starting area. The new warning signal for the recalled Class shall be the starting signal of the last Class/Division in the published sequence. Where a number of Classes / Divisions have had general recalls, their new warning signals shall be made as per the original scheduled sequence. This changes RRS 29.2.

12. Finishing Line – COMMITTEE VESSEL

- 12.1. Unless the course is shortened to finish at a mark of the course rather than at the finishing line, the finishing line shall be a line between a red and white pole displaying a blue flag on the Committee Vessel and an orange outer distance mark. Where a course is shortened at a mark of the course that is to be rounded prior to finishing, the red and white pole displaying an S flag on the Committee Vessel shall be the Committee Vessel end of the finish line.
- 12.2. For Cruiser Divisions, unless the race is shortened, the finish line shall be located approximately upwind of the last fixed mark on the course.
- 12.3. For One Design Classes starting off a Committee Vessel, unless a Line 30 or 40 course is in use or the race is shortened, the finish line shall be situated in the area marked Tuesday Night Finish Area on **TECHNICAL SHEET 2026 Rev 0**. The Puppeteer Class finishing line on Friday, July 10, shall be as per 12.2 above.
- 12.4. In all circumstances, boats finishing shall cross the line from the direction of the last mark of their course.

13. Finishing Line - PIER

- 13.1. The finishing line shall be between the Finish mark F and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.

- 13.2. If the Finish mark F is not in place, the finishing line shall be between the South Rowan buoy and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.
- 13.3. For Saturday Cruiser Division racing, boats may be required to record their own finishing times. Where this is to be done, competitors shall be advised of the requirement prior to their Warning Signal. Such times shall be emailed to results@hyc.ie promptly after a boat has finished. Any boat retiring from the race or otherwise not finishing shall confirm it to the same address. Finishing times and confirmation of retirement received after **20:00** on the day of the race will not be considered in the tabulation of results and boats for which a finish time or confirmation of retiral are not received by the deadline shall be scored as DNC. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

14. Sail Numbers

- 14.1. RRS 77 is changed as follows: - Every boat shall show the number under which it is entered on each side of its mainsail, genoa (if relevant) and on its spinnaker (except Howth 17). The colour of the sail numbers on each sail must present a clear contrast with the colour of the sail cloth.
- 14.2. Should an owner wish to sail under a sail number different to the one on their entry form, notice shall be given to the Race Committee before the Warning Signal of the race concerned. Notice shall be given for every race in which a changed number is in use. After the first such request by a boat, the Race Committee may decline further requests from that boat.
- 14.3. Failure to comply with the requirements of this Instruction may result in the boat being treated as a non-starter. This Instruction shall constitute 'prior warning' as required by RRS Appendix G4. This changes RRS 63.1, 90.3 and Appendix A5.

15. Cruiser Class Identification

- 15.1. Cruisers competing in mid-week racing shall fly the pennant of their Division on the backstay while racing. Those not doing so from their Warning Signal may be scored as non-starters. Those not doing so as they finish may be deemed to have retired. This changes RRS 63.1, 90.3 and Appendix A5.

16. Time Limits

- 16.1. A boat shall not start later than 15 minutes after her valid Starting Signal.
- 16.2. Provided a keelboat finishes within the time limit, the limit shall be extended by 15 minutes (Saturdays 30 minutes) for that Class/Division. Any boat not finishing within the time limit, extended where relevant, shall be scored as 'DNF'. This changes RRS 35.
- 16.3. The time limit for each keelboat race is as follows, unless otherwise specified in Appendix A:

Weekdays	Time Limit
May	2115
June, July	2130
August – up to & incl Aug 12 th	2100
August – after Aug 12 th	2030
Saturday AM starts	1300
Saturday PM starts	1700

Fingal Series Races (Cruisers) One Hour added to Sat Time Limits (AM & PM) stated above for Fingal races started off the Pier.

17. Abandonment / Postponement prior to starting a race

- 17.1. Flag signals will be made from the Committee Vessel, Starter's Hut or the top of the marina bridge, as relevant.

18. Finishing a Race

- 18.1. Boats, having finished, shall not recross their own finishing line in the opposite direction except for some unavoidable cause. Any so doing may be penalised. An alleged breach of this SI is not grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 63.1(a) and Appendix A5.

19. Shortening Course

- 19.1. For courses that prescribe a leg passing up or down the Sound, the Race Committee may decide to shorten the race using the East Pier finishing line. Flag S will be displayed and two sound signals made as the leading boat approaches the finishing line. Flag S displayed alone signals that all races not finished are shortened. Flag S over Class/Division flags signals that races for the relevant Classes/Divisions are shortened.
- 19.2. When courses from line 30 and 40 are in use, special procedures for shortening course are detailed in 5.4 above.

20. Scoring System

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

21. Scoring Enquiries and Hearing Requests (protest and redress)

- 21.1. **Scoring enquiries** shall be submitted via the online portal at: -
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/scoring_inquiries/new?event_id=13559
- 21.2. **Protests and Redress requests** shall be submitted via the online portal at: -
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests/new?event_id=13559
- 21.3. Unless otherwise specified for a particular race, for each Class/Division the Protest Time Limit for an incident relating to a race is 20:00 on the day after the race was started or the Race Committee signalled no more racing.
- 21.4. Protests for keelboat Classes/Divisions will normally be heard in the Clubhouse on the evening of the Thursday in the week next after the race concerned, the time to be advised. Where this is not possible, an alternative arrangement will be notified to the parties.

22. Risk Statement

- 22.1. Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states:
 - 22.1.1. 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'
- 22.2. 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.

23. Class Assisting

- 23.1. The Sailing Committee shall designate a Class/Division to provide suitable and knowledgeable adults as Assists for each race. The Class / Division Captain shall be responsible for rostering boats from their Class / Division for the races assigned to the Class / Division and shall provide the Honorary Sailing Secretary with a list specifying the particular boats providing the Assists for each specific race, together with a name and contact number for its owner / skipper.
- 23.2. For Committee Vessel starts the assigned Assists shall be aboard the Committee Vessel and ready to leave the marina not later than one hour before the first scheduled warning signal.
- 23.3. For Pier starts, the Assists shall be present at the East Pier Starter's Hut at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal.
- 23.4. Class / Division Assists shall remain on duty until released by the Race Officer.