



Irish Fireball Association Championship of Ireland

June 19th – 21st, 2026

Sailing Instructions

1) Rules

- 1.1 The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club (HYC)
- 1.2 The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of Irish Sailing, the Fireball Class Association Rules, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions shall apply.
- 1.3 In the event of a conflict between the NoR and the Sailing Instructions the Sailing Instructions shall apply.
- 1.4 The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

2) Communication with competitors

- 2.1 All communications will be via the official notice board at <https://www.hyc.ie/open-events>
- 2.2 Information may also be circulated on the event WhatsApp group as a courtesy to competitors
- 2.3 An official briefing for competitors shall take place on Friday, June 19th, at 1300 hours on the HYC forecourt.
- 2.4 Signals made ashore shall be displayed on a flagpole beside the marina bridge.
- 2.5 When International Code Flag (ICF) AP is displayed on the flagpole adjacent to the marina bridge, 1 minute is replaced by 45 minutes in the Race Signals.
- 2.6 The Class flag for the Fireball fleet shall be ICF numeral 1

3) Changes to sailing instructions

- 3.1 Changes to the SIs shall be communicated to the participants at least one hour prior to the scheduled start of the first race on the day in which the change comes into effect.
- 3.2 Changes to the schedule shall be communicated to participants by 2100 on the day before they come into effect.

4) Schedule

4.1

Friday, June 19 th	Registration	1200 – 1300
	Briefing	1300
	First Warning Signal	1500 - 3 races
June 20 th	First Warning Signal	1055 - 3 races
June 21 st	First Warning Signal	1055 – 3 races
	Prizegiving	ASAP

- 4.2 On the last day of the regatta no race shall start after 1500 except for a race that has been subject to a general recall or abandonment.

- 4.3 Nine races are scheduled for the event. One race is required for a series. After four races a boat may discard her worst excludable score and after eight races she may discard her next worse excludable score.
- 4.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of SI 3, the Race Committee may run an extra race on any day but may not be more than one race ahead of the cumulative schedule. In the event of a race additional to those scheduled for the day being intended, the Race Committee will display ICF R at the finish of the last scheduled race on the particular day.
- 4.5 in the event of a weather forecast adverse for racing (Met Eireann only), the Race Committee may elect to run additional races on any day, subject to compliance with SI 3.2. The maximum number of races sailed in any day shall be five.

5) Measurement

- 5.1 All boats will have a measurement certificate available for inspection - a boat and its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class rules and the corrector weights shall be as per the measurement cert. A boat not in compliance with the measurement rules may be barred from the event and/or scored DNE for all races in which she has competed.

6) Race area

- 6.1 The race area is north of Howth Harbour and south of Malahide estuary. Boats shall launch in good time to reach the race area which may be at least forty minutes sailing from the slipway.

7) Courses

- 7.1 Courses may be 'Olympic' triangle or windward-leeward type. See Appendix A for course configuration choices and flags displayed to identify the course to be used.

8) Marks

- 8.1 Turning marks will be large orange inflatable buoys. The start line pin end will be a dan-buoy with a pole and the finishing mark will be a red cherry mark.

9) The start

- 9.1 The start line shall be between the course side of a red and white striped pole on the Committee Vessel and the pin end mark.
- 9.2 The Committee Vessel shall display an orange flag with one sound signal at least one minute before the first Warning Signal each day to indicate that a start sequence is imminent.
- 9.3 A boat that starts more than four minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS. This changes RRS A4.

10) Changing the next leg of the course

- 10.1 To change the next leg of the course the Race Committee shall move a mark or finishing line to a new position before the leading boat has commenced that leg. A Committee Vessel at the beginning of the leg shall display ICF C and a red or green flag (mark moved to port or to starboard respectively) along with making repetitive sounds. Minor changes will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.
- 10.2 No further signals will be made at subsequent marks of a race to indicate a course realignment.

11) The finish

- 11.1 The finish line, except where a race is shortened at a mark of the course, shall be between a red and white striped pole on the Committee Finishing Vessel and the finishing mark.
- 11.2 Boats shall not sail through the finish line in either direction other than to finish when the Committee Finishing Vessel is displaying a blue flag.

- 11.3 A Committee Vessel displaying ICF F and making repeated sound signals indicates that boats shall round the adjacent mark, proceed directly to the finish line and cross it from the direction of the last mark. This changes RRS 32.2 and 33.
- 11.4 In the event of a race being finished at a mark of the course, the finish line shall be between a pole or staff displaying ICF S and the mark of the course that the race is being shortened at.
- 11.5 A Committee Vessel displaying ICF W may finish boats in their position on the water after the first boat has finished. The last boat on the water shall be first awarded its position on the water and the process shall be repeated up through the fleet until all boats seeking a finish are finished either at the finish line or by the use of ICF W.
- 11.6 Boats which are deemed to be overlapped by the Race Committee shall be awarded the same position.
- 11.7 Boats that are finished using the ICF W provision shall proceed directly to the start area for the next race or to shore as appropriate.
- 11.8 Finishing positions awarded under ICF W are not subject to protest or request for redress and this changes RRS 60.1.

12) Time limits

- 12.1 The time limit for the first boat to complete the course and finish each race is 75 minutes.
- 12.2 Boats which finish more than 15 minutes after the first boat shall be scored DNF and this changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 12.3 Boats finished by a Committee Vessel displaying ICF W shall be deemed to have finished within the time limit.
- 12.4 If no boat has rounded the first mark within 20 minutes of the starting signal, the race may be abandoned

13) Protests, requests for redress and scoring enquiries

- 13.1 Protests, requests for redress and scoring enquiries shall be lodged using the Racing Rules of Sailing online links, as follows:

Protests and Requests for Redress:

https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests/new?event_id=13707

Scoring Enquiries:

https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/scoring_inquiries/new?event_id=13707

- 13.2 The protest time limit is **60 minutes** after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 13.4 Notices will be posted online no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 13.5 Notices of protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee or Protest Committee will be posted online to inform boats under RRS 60.3.
- 13.6 Penalties for breaches of Class rules, RRS 55 or rules in the NOR and SIs marked [DP] are at the discretion of the Protest Committee.
- 13.7 Breaches of SI 14, Safety Regulations, will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 13.8 Appendix T arbitration shall apply.

14) Safety Regulations [NP]

- 14.1 Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices at all times whilst afloat, except briefly while adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Flag Y shall not be displayed, this changes RRS 40 and Race Signal Y.
- 14.2 A boat that retires from a race, or does not intend to start a race, shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.
- 14.3 All boats shall launch and return to shore via the HYC slipway.

14.4 Competitors must obey the reasonable instructions of safety boats and the beachmaster at all times.

14.5 Details of the safety tally system and its operation will be provided at the briefing. A discretionary penalty shall apply to boats failing to comply with the safety tally requirements.

15) Substitutions

15.1 Changes to the crew or helm may only be made with the approval of the Race Committee. A request to make such a change must be submitted to, and approved by, the Race Committee before the change is made.

15.2 Changes to sails or equipment may only be made with the approval of the Race Committee. A request to make such a change must be submitted to, and approved by, the Race Committee before the change is made.

16) Support boats

16.1 Support boats and support personnel shall remain more than 100 metres from the course area from the time of the preparatory signal for a race until all boats have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

16.2 [DP] The penalty for failing to comply may be the disqualification of boat(s) associated with the infringing support boats / personnel in that race.

17) Radio Communication

17.1 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that are not available to all boats.

18) Risk statement

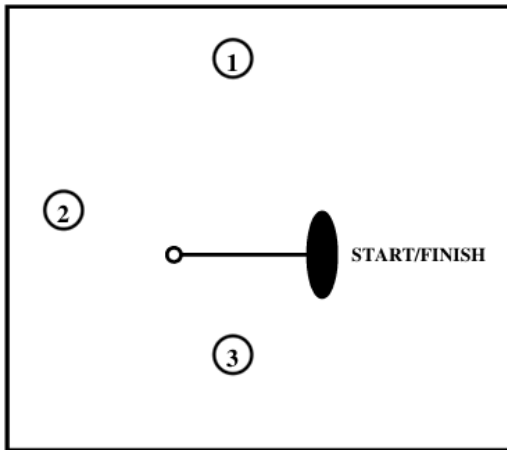
18.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:


- 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.
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g) It is their responsibility to familiarize 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.
- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least €3 million against third party claims, or the equivalent in other currencies.

Appendix A - COURSES

COURSE 1

Olympic Triangle



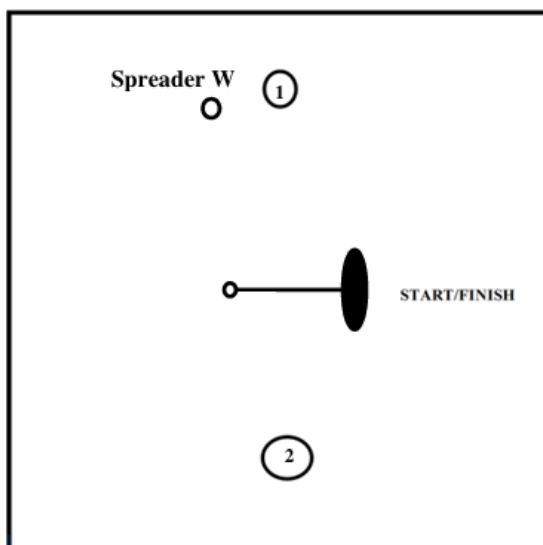
Course Flag – Code Flag "O" 


All marks to be rounded to port in the following order

START-1- 2- 3 -1 -3 -1 -2 -3 –FINISH

COURSE 2

Windward-Leeward



Course Flag – Code Flag "W" 

All marks to be rounded to port.

START-1-W-2-1-W-2– FINISH