

## **AUTUMN LEAGUE**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September –  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

## **NOTICE OF RACE**

- The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG.
- The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

### **1. RULES**

- 1.1. The Event will be governed by the 'Rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Prescriptions of Irish Sailing and the rules of each Class concerned.
- 1.2. Boats racing in Classes 1, 2, 3 and Non-Spinnaker Cruisers (Cruisers 4 and 5) shall comply with the definition of a Cruiser as stipulated in the ICRA Constitution. Class 0 may be included, see 4.2 below. Sportsboats will race as part of Class 2.
- 1.3. Protest requirements: the exemption from displaying a protest flag for boats less than six meters shall not apply. This changes RRS 61.1 (a).

### **2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions (SI) will be made available on <https://hyc.ie/open-Events> on or before 11th September 2026.

### **3. COMMUNICATION**

- 3.1. The SI will specify the location of the official notice board.
- 3.2. It is strongly recommended that all boats carry VHF radios and keep a listening watch, Ch.77 for Offshore and Ch. 69 for Inshore committee boats. The Race Committee may broadcast advisory messages to competitors about the conduct of racing using the designated VHF channels for the respective course areas.
- 3.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4. Autumn League WhatsApp group is available in the HYC app, on the main noticeboard and in the members area of the Website. Accordingly, in advance of racing and to facilitate the WhatsApp message, boats will be required to join the WhatsApp group using the QR Code made available to competitors.

### **4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

- 4.1. Eligible boats are those in the Classes that comply with the relevant handicapping system, rules and the entry requirements.
- 4.2. Races will be provided for the following Classes and results will be calculated on the handicap divisions listed. If six or more boats are entered with an IRC Rating of 1.045 or above, a separate Class 0 will be provided for. If Class 0 Class is not raced, entered boats of that type shall be allocated to Cruiser Class 1. If there is a Cruiser Class 0 then all references below to Cruiser Class 1, 2, 3 and Non-Spinnaker shall apply to Cruiser Class 0.

## OFFSHORE COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

| Class                   | Flag  | IRC | HPH | ORC* |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| Cruiser 1               | No. 1 | X   | X   |      |
| Cruiser 2               | No. 2 | X   | X   | X*   |
| Cruiser 3               | No. 3 | X   | X   |      |
| Non-Spinnaker Cruiser 4 | No. 4 | X   | X   |      |
| Non-Spinnaker Cruiser 5 | No. 5 |     | X   | X    |

\* ORC only applies to Sportsboats Class

## INSHORE COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

| Class           | Flag | Scratch | HPH |
|-----------------|------|---------|-----|
| Pupeteer 22     | A    | X       | X   |
| Squib           | K    | X       | X   |
| Howth Seventeen | C    | X       | X   |

- 4.3. Eligible boats may enter the Event by registering online at <https://www.hyc.ie/> following the 'Autumn League' link.
- 4.4. A copy of the IRC certificate for each boat entered in an IRC Class shall be emailed to [results@hyc.ie](mailto:results@hyc.ie), if not available on [sailing.ie](https://www.sailing.ie), by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- 4.5. Classes 1, 2, 3 and Non-Spinnaker Cruisers entering for their IRC Class are automatically eligible for the HPH division. The OA will allocate an initial HPH number to boats that do not have one.
- 4.6. To be considered an entry in the Event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.7. The closing date for entries shall be 1700 on Wednesday, September 9th. After that time an additional late entry fee of 20% of the entry fee per Class shall apply. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the OA.

## 5. SAIL NUMBERS and IDENTIFICATION

- 5.1. Each boat shall show a distinguishing number on its spinnaker and on each side of its mainsail, which shall be the same number as declared on the entry details (unless otherwise required by the relevant One Design Class rules). Where required by the Equipment Rules of Sailing, the same number shall be shown on the genoa.
- 5.2. Should a boat wish to change its sail number for a race from that declared at the time of entering, written notice shall be given to the Race Committee 2.5 hours before the Warning Signal of that race. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the boat's disqualification. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 5.3. Classes 1, 2, 3 and Non-Spinnaker Cruiser shall fly the relevant class numeral pennant from the backstay. Any boat not doing so shall be scored DNS. This changes RRS 63.1.

## 6. FEES

6.1. The entry fees are as follows:

| Class                                      | Fee     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| Cruiser 0, 1, 2, 3, Non-Spinnaker Cruisers | €145.00 |
| Howth Seventeen and Puppeteer 22           | €120.00 |
| Squib                                      | € 95.00 |

## 7. CREW LIMITATIONS

7.1. 'Crew Limitation' rules shall NOT apply in IRC Classes.

## 8. ADVERTISING

8.1. Competitors may be required to display Event sponsor's advertising material as prescribed under World Sailing Regulation 20.

## 9. SCHEDULE

9.1. Nine races are scheduled for classes Cruisers 1, 2 and 3, Puppeteers and Squibs. Six races are scheduled for classes Cruisers 4 and 5 and HYC 17.

9.2. First Warning Signal on all race days will be at 1300.

9.3. The schedule of races will be:

|                |                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 September:  | Two races both fleets                                 |
| 19 September:  | Two races inshore fleet. One race Off shore fleet     |
| 26 September:* | One race both fleets                                  |
| 3 October:     | Two races both fleets                                 |
| 10 October:*   | One race both fleets                                  |
| 17 October:    | One race inshore fleet. Two races Cruisers 1, 2 and 3 |

On days when two races are scheduled, Cruisers 4, 5 and HYC 17s will only sail one race.

The OA reserves the right to change this schedule during the series.

\*Tidal restrictions apply

## 10. VENUE

10.1. Races will be sailed in the waters north of Howth. Starts may be up to three miles north of Howth Harbour.

## 11. COURSES

11.1. The courses to be sailed will be defined in the SI.

## 12. HANDICAPS

12.1. The following handicap data shall be used: Cruiser Classes 1, 2, 3 and Non-Spinnaker Cruisers (4 & 5):

**HPH:** HPH ratings to be used shall be applied to all boats at the commencement of the series. Boats from fleets other than Howth YC's shall be given an initial 'special' HPH. Initial HPH ratings will be adjusted to reflect boats' performances as the Series continues.

**IRC:** TCC values of current certificate at closing date for entries. IRC handicap, as declared at the start of the series, shall remain in force for the series. A copy of the current IRC certificate shall be available on board for inspection as provided for within the IRC rules. IRC certificates shall not be dated later than 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**ORC:** ORC handicap, as declared at the start of the series, shall remain in force for the

series. ORC certificates shall be available in the ORC.org database no later than 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026. ORC will be available for boats competing under Class 5 and the Sportsboat Class as part of Cruiser Class 2. Qualifying Sportsboat entries are at the discretion of the Sportsboat Class.

For **One Design Classes**, the current handicap as notified by the Howth YC Class Captain shall be applied for the first race and these may be adjusted to reflect boats' performances as the Series continues.

In addition to performance-related HPH adjustments, there may be updating of handicaps during the series, as follows: Revision of HPH/ One Design Handicap should there be any material change to the boat including a change in helm

### 13. HPH / IRC CLASS DIVISIONS

- 13.1. Handicap Cruiser Class assignments will be made according to entries received. The entries for the Cruiser IRC and HPH divisions will be split into a minimum of three Classes named Cruisers 1, 2, 3. If entries warrant, the number of Classes may be increased. Non- spinnaker entries will be split into two Classes (Class 4 and Class 5), based on TCF.

The allocation of boats to Classes will be determined by the OA on receipt of the entries, having regard to the following criteria:

- i. The need for a reasonable number of boats in each Class.
- ii. Having as close a spread as possible in the range of handicaps in each Class.

The allocation of entries into provisional Classes will be posted on the HYC website by 1700 on Thursday, 10th of September. The OA reserves the absolute discretion, in the interests of fair sailing for all competitors, to allocate any boat to any Class.

- 13.2. Boats rating 0.010 or less below the lower limit for inclusion in the next fastest Class may request permission to move up to the Class above where their handicap would place them and race using the lower limit rating of that Class as their TCF, subject to its review during the series where an HPH TCF is involved. Application must be made in writing/email to results@hyc.ie by 1700 on Friday, 11th September for approval to change Class. The decision of the OA is final.

### 14. SCORING

- 14.1. Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing using the Low Point Scoring System shall be used. RRS A5.3 will apply.
- 14.2. When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When from four to nine races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 14.3. One race completed shall constitute a series

### 15. DATA PROTECTION

- 15.1. 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 Event. The OA reserves the right to uses or to license the use of any images and sound recording during the Event free of charge.

## 16. RISK STATEMENT

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:

- (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 omissions.
- (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 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.

## 17. INSURANCE

- 17.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid and adequate third- party liability insurance that extends to providing cover whilst racing.

## 18. PRIZES

- 18.1. Race prizes will be awarded to the winner of each Class of the Autumn League and will be presented as soon as possible after racing on the following week. Prizes for racing on the final day will be presented on that day.
- 18.2. Boats taking first place in an individual race prize on ORC/IRC or Scratch are not eligible for a handicap prize for that race. A boat that wins an overall series prize on ORC/IRC or Scratch shall not be eligible for a prize in the HPH event for its Class
- 18.3. Overall prizes will also be awarded on the basis of number of entries as follows:  
2 boats = 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 boats = 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>. 8 boats = 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>. 11 or more boats = 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 18.4. The following perpetual trophies will be awarded:

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Heineken Trophy       | Overall Winner                    |
| Olympus Trophy        | Team Trophy                       |
| Cronin Trophy         | Howth 17 Scratch                  |
| Alphida Cup           | Howth 17 Handicap                 |
| Sleater Salver        | Cruiser Class 1 IRC               |
| Joliba Cup            | Cruiser Class 1 HPH               |
| Cuffe-Smith Trophy    | Cruiser Class 2 IRC               |
| Volvo Trophy          | Cruiser Class 2 HPH               |
| Habu Trophy           | Cruiser Class 3 IRC               |
| PAB Travel Trophy     | Cruiser Class 3 HPH               |
| Evora Trophy          | Non-Spinnaker Cruiser Class 4 IRC |
| Nissan Trophy         | Non-Spinnaker Cruiser Class 4 HPH |
| Impala Regatta trophy | Non-Spinnaker Cruiser Class 5 ORC |

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Denis Wickham Trophy | Non-Spinnaker Cruiser Class 5 HPH |
| TBC                  | Sportsboat Class ORC              |
| Duropol Trophy       | Pupeteer 22 Scratch               |
| Snowgoose Trophy     | Pupeteer 22 Handicap              |
| Gilmour Cup          | Squib Scratch                     |
| Hot Irish Trophy     | Squib Handicap                    |
| Mildly Cold Trophy   | J24 Scratch                       |

18.5. The **Heineken Trophy**, which is perpetual, will be awarded to the boat that wins its Class by the greatest margin of points over the second placed boat in the main series. For Cruiser Classes 0, 1, 2, 3 and non-Spinnaker it shall be based on IRC results and for one-design classes on Scratch results – the calculation to be made by multiplying a boat's winning points margin, having taken discards into account, by 50% of the average number of starters in its Class for each race completed, in all cases the 50% calculation to be rounded down to the nearest whole number. The boat with the highest score will be the winner.

18.6. The **Olympus Team Trophy**, which is perpetual, shall be for teams of three boats that are racing under IRC / Scratch subject to there being a minimum of six entries for the Class that any team member is competing in. Any combination of boats from any IRC and or Scratch Division is acceptable for a team, providing there is not more than one boat from each Class on the same team. No boat shall be a member of more than one team. Boats were members of a winning team in the two years prior to the current year's event shall NOT be members of the same team for the current year's event.

Following the final race of the Autumn League, and taking into account discards, the combined scores of the three boats from the full series shall be calculated and the winning team will be that with the lowest total number of points.

Competitors should advise the Race Office (results@hyc.ie) of their teams before 0930 on Saturday 13th September.

18.7. The OA will have the discretion to award additional prizes.

## 19. FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1. Enquiries should be addressed to: email: office@hyc.ie, website: <http://www.hyc.ie> .

### 19.2. MARINA BERTHS / DRY SAILING

A limited number of Marina berths and Dry Sailing will be available for competitors at a reduced rate. These will be allocated in order of application and subject to suitable space availability, the period being Friday 11th September to Sunday, 18th October 2026. The OA reserve the right to retract these offers in the event of a boat's non-participation in the event. Overstays on the Marina or hard standing will be charged at the current applicable visitor rate per day.

Howth Marina will offer event berthing to visiting Autumn League entrants at €145 (<9m) or €195 (>9m). For entries after 31st August the fees will be €195 and €245.

Winter berthing is also available at €124 per metre. Both offers are subject to the boat competing in and recording all non-discardable finishes in the Autumn League.

### 19.3. SOCIAL

Eligible competitors are granted temporary membership of Howth Yacht Club for each race day, subject only to the provisions of the Club rules for withdrawing or withholding such membership. All competitors are invited to avail of the facilities of the Club on the days of the event.

### 19.4. CAR PARKING

The attention of all participants is drawn to the car parking regulations in the vicinity of the Club. The Harbour Authority rigidly enforces these regulations.