



**Puppeteer 22
National Championships
19th & 20th Sept. 2026**



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – UPDATED

The Organising Authority is Howth Yacht Club CLG

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing and the rules of the Puppeteer 22 Class.
- 1.2 All boats shall carry a working VHF radio.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions (SI) will be posted on the “Puppeteer Fleet” WhatsApp at least 2 hours before the start on the day it will take effect except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 These Sailing Instructions supersede all previous versions published for the event.

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS:

- 3.1 The official notice board is located outside the Marina Office in HYC.
- 3.2 The on-line notice board is at:
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/messages?event_id=15357&klass=Event
- 3.3 Notices relating to the management of racing will be posted on the Puppeteer Class WhatsApp.
- 3.4 Competitors are advised to keep a listening watch on VHF **Ch 68** where information relevant to racing may be broadcast. Should this information be broadcast, it shall not constitute outside assistance and shall not be the subject of any protest. Failure to broadcast, or to receive, this information shall not be the basis for any claim for redress.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of HYC Marina Bridge
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 60 minutes” in Race Signals AP

6. BRIEFING AND SCHEDULE OF RACES

A briefing will be held beside the Howth YC Marina office at 09:30 on Saturday, September 19th		
Race	Date	Warning Signal
1	Saturday 19 th September	11:30
2	Saturday 19 th September	13:00
3	Saturday 19 th September	As soon as possible after Race 2
4	Sunday 20 th September	10.30
5	Sunday 20 th September	As soon as possible after Race 4
6	Sunday 20 th September	As soon as possible after Race 5

- 6.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of SI 2.1, in the event of an additional race being sailed on either day of the event, the Race Committee will display **ICF Q** at the finish of the last scheduled race.

7. CLASS FLAGS

The Class Flag for the Puppeteer 22 Class is ICF A.

8. RACING AREA

The race area will be North of Ireland's Eye.

9. COURSES

- 9.1 Race 1 on Saturday, Sept 19th will be a Windward Leeward (WL). Races 2 and 3 will be sailed in conjunction with, and results for those races will count for, the Autumn League Series for boats also entered in that event. Races 4, 5, and 6 - planned for Sunday 20th - may be either Windward Leeward or Round the Cans (RTC), as per the flag displayed on the Committee starting vessel in accordance with SI 9.3.
- 9.2 Windward / Leeward courses will be laid approx. as shown in the diagram in the Addendum to these SI and with marks rounded in the sequence listed.
- 9.3 The type of course to be sailed will be indicated by the display on the Committee starting vessel, no later than the Warning Signal for the relevant race, of a flag indicating the type of course to be sailed in the upcoming race, as follows:

Course Type	Flag
Windward / Leeward	ICF W
Round the Cans	ICF R

- 9.4 The course selection, starting and finishing arrangements for the Saturday races (those with first gun from 13.00 onwards) sailed in conjunction with the Autumn League Series will be as provided for in the relevant Sailing Instructions for that event, specifically those relating to the Inshore Fleet and to the Puppeteer Class.
- Competitors are referred to the Autumn League Sailing Instructions, Inshore Course Card, Technical Sheet and published amendments to the Sailing Instructions for relevant information – all available to download from the Howth YC website, Open Events section - <https://www.hyc.ie/open-events?year=2026#event-596>.
- 9.5 Where a RTC race is signalled, the course reference will be displayed on the Committee starting vessel and the marks to be rounded, including the side they are to be left on, shall be as required for that course reference on the Autumn League Inshore Course Card.
- 9.6 The attention of competitors is drawn particularly to the Howth YC Autumn League Sailing Instructions SI 7 with respect to *Recrossing Start/Finish Lines*.

10. MARKS

The windward on all courses will be a yellow inflatable, as will the leeward mark on Windward Leeward courses. The Start Mark will be a red Dan Buoy displaying an orange flag. The Finish Mark will be an orange spherical mark. On Windward Leeward courses, a small orange spherical offset mark shall be laid adjacent to the Windward.

The marks on Round the Cans courses, apart from the first windward, shall be as described and located on the Technical Sheet forming part of the Sailing Instructions for the Autumn League and shall be rounded as per the requirements of the relevant Course Card. Unless a RTC course is shortened at a mark of the course, all listed courses for RTC races require boats to leave Spit mark to starboard between the last listed mark and the finish line.

11. THE START

- 11.1 The starting line is between a red and white staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel (Sea Wych on Saturday, North Star on Sunday) at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 11.2 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored as Did Not Start, without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 The Race Committee may change the position of any mark to maintain the course alignment with respect to the wind direction. The change will be made before the leading boat has begun the leg to the mark.
- 12.2 For major changes only, the change may be signalled as per RRS 33 using RED/GREEN flags or boards and or (+) / (-) as appropriate. Where more than one mark is being changed to maintain the configuration only the first mark to be changed will be signalled. This changes RRS 33
- 12.3 Minor changes to the course will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line, except where a race is shortened at a mark of the course, will be between a pole or main mast displaying a blue flag on the Committee Finishing Vessel, and the Finish Mark as described in SI 10 above. Note: the Starting Mark for the next race may be in position during the finish.
- 13.2 Races may be shortened at a mark of the course in accordance with RRS 32.2.
- 13.3 Where a race is being finished from a RIB, the line shall be between a vertical staff on the Finishing RIB and the mark forming the outer end of the finish line.
- 13.4 In addition to the normal procedure of shortening the course at a mark, the Race Committee may also shorten the course by requiring boats to sail directly from a mark to the finishing line. As boats round a mark, flag '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 rounded. This changes rule 32.2. Where a WL course is in use and the RIB is in the vicinity of marks 1 and 1a, the flag shall be deemed to be flown beside mark 1a.

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 The Race Time Limit (see RRS 35) and the Finishing Window for different course configurations are shown in the table below. **Time limits for Saturday races sailed in conjunction with the Autumn League (AL) event shall be as per the AL Sailing Instructions.**

Time limits for 'Puppeteer only' races (those not shared with Autumn League)

Race Time Limit	Finishing Window (see below)
W/L Race – 60 minutes	10 minutes
RTC Race – 90 minutes; 20 minute extension where a boat finishes within the limit	20 minutes

- 14.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. A boat which fails to finish within the time limit, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored as 'DNF' without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

15. HEARING REQUESTS AND SCORING ENQUIRIES

- 15.1 The Protest Time Limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race started on a day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. For days where racing is in conjunction with the Autumn League, the Protest Time Limit shall be determined in accordance with Autumn League SI 9, including any amendments posted to it.
- 15.2 Hearing requests shall be submitted online at:
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests?event_id=15357
- 15.3 The time of expiry of the Protest Time Limit shall be published at:
<https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/schedules/15357/event>
- 15.4 Notices of protests, including those by the Race Committee or Protest Committee, to advise parties of protests to which they are a party will be posted within 30 minutes of the expiry of the Protest Time Limit. Hearings will be held in the Centenary Room on the top floor of the Clubhouse.
- 15.5 Notices shall be posted at:
<https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/schedules/15357/event>

- 15.6 The listing of a boat on this schedule shall constitute informing her of a hearing under Rule 63.1(a)(1)
- 15.7 Parties involved shall be present with their witnesses at the time and place indicated on the schedule.
- 15.8 On the last scheduled day of racing a request to reopen a hearing shall be delivered to the Protest Committee not later than 30 minutes after the party was informed of the decision. This changes Rule 63.7.

15.9 Scoring enquiries shall be submitted online at:

https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/scoring_inquiries?event_id=15357

- 15.10 Hearing Requests, Scoring enquiries and notifications of Protest Time Limits and Hearing Schedules are managed in the RRS App for this series. To receive this functionality, download and join the RRS app on your smart phone and select the Race Series 'HYC Puppeteer National Championship' or alternatively log into the RRS website - see RRS App or www.racingrulesofsailing.org

16. SCORING

When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

- 16.1 When from 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score, except as provided for in Rule 90.3(b).
- 16.2 Two races are required to be completed to constitute an event.
- 16.3 Only boats entered for the Puppeteer National Championships shall be scored for the event.
- 16.4 The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply for the event and RRS A5.2 shall apply to all Championship races.

17. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the Race Committee.

18. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as stated in NOR 15

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."
- 19.2 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."

20. INSURANCE:

Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate valid third-party liability insurance.

ADDENDUM - COURSE

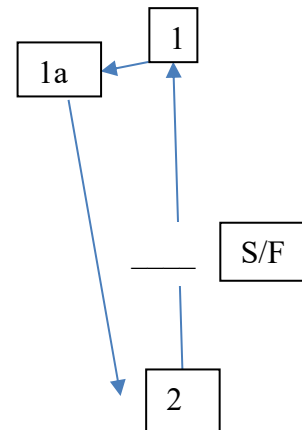
Windward / Leeward – ICF W

Diagram is indicative only.

All marks shall be left to Port. The numbers indicate marks and S/F indicates the start / finish line approximate area.

Course (unless shortened)

Start - 1 – 1a – 2 – 1 – 1a – 2 – Finish



Round the Cans – ICF R

Courses shall be taken from the Inshore Course Card for the 2026 Howth YC Autumn League, which shall be deemed to form part of the Sailing Instructions for the Puppeteer National Championships.

Unless a race is shortened at a mark of the course, boats shall finish at the finishing line laid in Howth Sound. Boats shall leave the Spit mark to starboard after passing the last mark listed for the designated course and before crossing the finish line.