



Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions 2026 V2

1. Notice of Race: Programme 2026

Event	Dates	Classes & Start Time	Flag	Handicaps	Time Limit	Race Area	Notes
Club Inshore Series							
Plymouth Gin Series	Sundays 5th – 26th April	Combined: 10:30	1/2	NHC + YTC <u>or</u> IRC	2 hours per race	Inshore	1 long or 2 shorter races per day
Dart Sails & Covers Friday Series 1	Fridays 24th April – 5th June	B: 18:25 A: 18:30	2 1	NHC + YTC NHC + IRC	20:30	Inshore	
Yacht Haven Friday Series 2	12th June – 24th July (Exc 17th July)	B: 18:25 A: 18:30	2 1	NHC + YTC NHC + IRC	20:30	Inshore	
Yacht Haven Friday Series 3	7th August – 18th Sept.	B: 18:25* A: 18:30*	2 1	NHC+ YTC NHC + IRC	20:30	Inshore	28th Aug – 18th Sep first start 30 mins earlier 17:55
South West Shopfitters Autumn Series	Saturdays 19th Sept – 31st October	Combined: 15:00 One race per day	1/2	NHC + YTC <u>or</u> IRC	17:00	Inshore	
Club Coastal Events							
Long Distance Race	Saturday 16th May	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	
Plymouth to Fowey	Saturday 30th May	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	With SSC
Fowey to Plymouth	Sunday 31st May	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	With SSC
Eddystone Race	Saturday 25th July	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	
Plymouth to Salcombe	Saturday 5th September	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	
Salcombe to Plymouth	Sunday 6th September	MOCRA: 10:25 YTC: 10:30 IRC: 10:35	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC (USPRS)	18:00	Coastal	



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Special Events- with Separate NoR and SIs							
Crawford Pursuit 1	Sun 29 th March	11:00 – first start, 2 races.	2	Dinghies & Yachts		Inshore	
Falmouth, Fowey Triangle	2 nd – 4 th May			(USPRS)			See RWYC
25 Miler	Sun 14 th June			(USPRS)			See RWYC
PYC Regatta	Sat 20 th – 21 st June	MOCRA: 11:00 YTC: 11:05 IRC: 11:10	M 2 1	MOCRA YTC IRC		Inshore	Separate NoR & SI's
Torbay Coastal	Sat 4 th – Sun 5 th July			(USPRS)			See RWYC
PPSA Regatta Pursuit	Fri 17 th July	18:30 first Start	2	Yachts	21:00	Inshore	With PPSA
PPSA Yacht Regatta	Sat 18 th July			Yachts			With PPSA
PPSA Yacht Regatta	Sat 18 th – Sun 19 th July			J/24			With PPSA
Derek Male Race	Sun 19 th July			(USPRS)			See TRSC
Nacra15 Worlds	26 th July -1 st August	Nacra 15 Catamarans		Dinghies		Inshore	Separate NoR & SI's
Wreck Race	1 st August			(USPRS)			See TMSC
Renneys Race	2 nd August			(USPRS)			See TMSC
Fowey Regatta Passage Race	15 th August	11:00		Yachts	18:00	Coastal	With RFYC
Crawford Pursuit 2	Sat 27 th December	11:00 – first start, 2 races.	2	Dinghies & Yachts		Inshore	

2. Notice of Race 2026 - General

- The organising authority is the Plym YC (acting with Saltash SC for the Fowey weekend races.)
- The races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), RYA prescriptions, the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, the rules of any one design class racing and the rules of any handicapping systems used.
- RYA rules disputes procedures will be available. The protest committee may apply a penalty less than disqualification, where appropriate and fair, for a minor infringement.
- The Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order (DPPO), Plymouth Local Notices to Mariners, and the rules of any other Harbour Authority in which racing occurs, shall apply. In particular, regulations regarding the safe navigation of large vessels must be strictly observed and the instructions of



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harbour officials must be complied with. Skippers are reminded of the necessity to maintain a good lookout at all times when racing.

- e. Racing is open to yachts which are capable of racing safely in strong winds without safety boat cover, which comply with the PYC Safety Requirements, which are skippered by a member of an RYA recognised club and have a valid handicap or class certificate for the event, as needed.
- f. For most events, boats may elect to race with Spinnakers or using 'White Sails' (main and single jib) only; they will not normally be permitted to change the election during a series of racing.
- g. Entries for racing may be made using the PYC Registration & Entry System, details of which are available on the club website plymyachtclub.org.uk
- h. Competitors should arrange to receive communications by email and the Plym Yacht Club WhatsApp Racing Updates group.
- i. **For all events**, all yachts must monitor Ch M/37 (or Ch 72 for Committee Boat starts.) Failure to receive a VHF communication shall not be grounds for redress. (If Ch M or 72 is unusable, then Ch M2 or 77 will be used in its place.) Racing will be managed according to part 3 of the RRS except that visual signals will be replaced by announcements on Ch M/37 (Ch72 for Committee Boat starts.) This changes RRS rule 26.
- j. **Race Committee Duties:** A skipper of a boat that enters 10 or more PYC races in 2026 should arrange to assist with race committee duties on (at least) one occasion during the season. Further details are on the PYC website.
- k. Risk Statement: 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:
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
 - (iii) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
 - (iv) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) The provision of patrol boat cover will not routinely be provided and when so provided is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
 - (vii) For offshore races and coastal races, they are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.
 - (viii) They agree to be bound by the by The Racing Rules of Sailing and by all other rules that govern each event.
 - (ix) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000.00 against third party claims.**



3. Notice of Race: Plym YC Safety Requirements for Racing

- a. It is strongly recommended that yachts have an effective working engine or other suitable means of alternative propulsion.
- b. All competitors under the age of 18 must wear a personal flotation device at all times when afloat. In addition, competitors are reminded that the Race Officer may decide to conduct any race under flag Y.
- c. For Inshore Races, yachts must comply with the current requirements of World Sailing Appendix B. Skippers are reminded that Yachts should have a 'Man Overboard' Lifebuoy ready at all times.
- d. For Coastal Races:
 - (i) yachts must comply with current requirements of World Sailing OSR category 4,
 - (ii) skippers must complete an WS Appendix F Inspection Card and retain on board.
 - (iii) a suitable liferaft and a SSSN stability number of 10 or greater are strongly recommended.
 - (iv) for the Eddystone Race, your attention is drawn to Section 11 a, in particular.
- e. The Club reserves the right to carry out checks of safety equipment, this in no way reduces the obligations of the owner or skipper.

4. Handicaps and Ratings

- a. In 2026 the PYC will use NHC, the RYA YTC scheme and the IRC rating scheme.
- b. Initial NHC handicaps will be calculated from performances in PYC races in 2025. Other available handicap data will be used for boats that did not race with PYC in 2025.
- c. For the PYC inshore race series, every boat will be entered into the NHC class. Provided it has a valid 2026 rating or yardstick, a boat may also be entered into either the IRC or YTC class, but not both.
- d. Note: Boats wishing to enter the YTC class must themselves apply for an official 2026 yardstick at <https://rorcrating.com/ryaytc>. (Yardsticks calculated for previous years cannot be used.)
- e. NHC numbers will be updated after every race using the standard NHC algorithm as implemented in Halsail.
- f. YTC classes will use a fixed yardstick for each boat. However, in the interests of fair racing and in line with YTC policy, the race committee may adjust YTC numbers for club racing.
- g. For Coastal events, provided it has a valid rating or yardstick, a boat may be entered into either the IRC or the YTC class, but not both.
- h. IRC Rule 22.4 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew while racing shall be the Crew Number printed on her certificate plus 1. There is no weight limit."

5. General Sailing Instructions – all events.

- a. Competitors must note their obligations as given in the Notice of Race.
- b. Restricted Areas. Yachts shall not pass through 'The Bridges' between Drakes Island and the Cornwall shore and shall not enter the designated Bathing Area, east of Tinside Pool.
- c. Competing yachts should pass close to the starting control before the warning signal, with sail number clearly shown, in order that their intention to race is noted.
- d. Please assist the race committee by making sure that your sail numbers are in clearly contrasting colours to the sail, are easily visible and readable when set, and the correct sail number is shown



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- on each sail. (Red numerals on black sails are seldom readable.) A sail without the correct number may only be used with the explicit prior agreement of the race committee.
- e. Yachts should fly the class flag (as indicated in the NoR part 1) from the backstay, or suitable alternative.
 - f. All racing will be managed over VHF. Yachts shall monitor Ch M (37) for Club Line starts or Ch (72) for committee boat starts. Failure to receive a VHF communication shall not be grounds for redress.
 - g. Any changes to sailing instructions, details of the start line and course will be communicated by email, by WhatsApp or announced on VHF before the warning signal.
 - h. In an emergency, a yacht may use her engine and afterwards continue to race without penalty, providing that she does not gain by such use and she reports the circumstances to the race committee, who are satisfied with the explanation given.
 - i. Time Limits. For Coastal races, finish times will only be taken for yachts that finish within the prescribed time. For Inshore races, finish times will only be valid for boats that finish within the prescribed time, or within 30 minutes of the leading boat of the class, if that is later. This changes RRS 35.
 - j. Series scoring. Appendix A of the RRS will apply but with races to count as below:

Races Sailed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
To count	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	7	7

- k. Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the race committee. Race prizes will not necessarily go to the winning boats.
- l. The protest time limit shall be two hours after the last boat in the class finishes its last race of the day. Yachts intending to protest should inform the race committee by VHF to arrange delivery. Protest forms are available on the PYC website.
- m. Details of the start line, courses and finish line are given in the appropriate section below.

6. Additional Sailing Instructions: All PYC Inshore Series (Except Special events)

These Instructions apply to the Gin Series, the Friday Series and the Autumn Series.

Please see the program of racing on page 1 for start times and other details.

- b.** Before the start of each series, boats must elect to race with 'White Sails only' or 'With Spinnaker' and appropriate handicaps /ratings will be used. Boats will not normally be allowed to change the election during a series.
- c.** Scoring will be as RRS Appendix A, except with races to count as described in section 5 j.
- d.** Where only one boat starts a race that race shall not count towards that series.
- e.** In strong or gusty winds, the Race Officer may decide to restrict the use of spinnakers on grounds of safety. This will normally be communicated to competitors by an announcement on the race VHF Channel either before or during a race. Allocated handicaps/ratings for the series will not be affected by the this.



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- f.* Start Line. A transit of the PYC Flagstaff at Mount Batten and orange or black and white pole in front, with outer distance mark to be announced on VHF.
- g.* The course will be selected from the PYC list of courses, OR the course will be selected using the PYC list of marks as given on the course list and announced over VHF prior to the warning signal.
- h.* Finish Line. Between the PYC Flagstaff and the last mark on the course or as notified on VHF.
- i.* A boat may take a One Turn Penalty only when she may have broken one of more of the RRS Part 2 rules in an incident when racing. This changes RRS Rule 44.
- j.* If the Race Officer judges that a majority of boats in a class are unlikely to complete the course set within the time limit, then times from a previous round may be used as finish times. This action may be taken even if a number of boats have already completed that round, it is in addition to other provisions in the RRS and changes rules 32.2 and 35.

7. Additional Sailing Instructions: COASTAL RACES - General

- a. Start times and classes for all events are given in the NoR Programme of Racing on page 1.
- b. In line with the PPSA Ullman Series, boats may enter for either the YTC or IRC class. In the YTC class, two-handed and fully crewed options are available.
- c. Boats using White Sails only, will normally race with YTC class.
- d. VHF Ch M(37) will be used to manage the racing.
- e. To assist with Race Management, boats should advise their intention to race and number of persons on board via the PYC Racers Chat WhatsApp group, at least 30 minutes before their warning signal.
- f. In the interests of safety all yachts are required to ensure that their finish is recorded with the Race Officer on **Ch M(37)**. In the event of retirement, yachts must notify the race officer of the retirement on **Ch M(37)**, or if this fails telephone the Plym Yacht Club on 01752 404991 or other designated phone number as promulgated.
- g. All boats must have a designated shore contact, as given on the entry form, who will have up to date names and contact details for all persons on board.
- h. If the planned start sequence needs to be modified, competitors will normally be notified via WhatsApp in the first instance.
- i. When appropriate, Yachts are requested to contact Plym Race Control on VHF Ch M as they pass the main Plymouth breakwater on the way to the finish.

8. Event Sailing Instructions: The PYC Long Distance Race:

- a. The **start line** will be between the PYC Flagstaff at Mt Batten breakwater and West Mallard Buoy or as announced on VHF.
- b. The **course** will be selected using the PYC list of marks as given on the Course list and announced over VHF prior to the warning signal.
- c. The **finish line** will be between the PYC Flagstaff and the last mark of the course, unless otherwise notified on VHF.

9. Event Sailing Instructions: PLYMOUTH to FOWEY:

- a. The start line will be between the PYC Flagstaff at Mt Batten breakwater and West Mallard Buoy or as announced on VHF.
- b. The course(s) will be announced on VHF prior to the first warning signal.
Course 1: From the Start line direct to the Finish Line of the RFYC
Course 2: Start, L4 Buoy (S), Cannis Rock Buoy (S) to Finish Line.
Course 3: Start, Hand Deepes Buoy (S), Cannis Rock Buoy (S) to Finish Line.
- c. **Course 2 or 3** may be shortened by announcement on **Ch M(37)** to finish at Cannis Rock Buoy, in this case Yachts should record their finish time when rounding (when due West of) the Buoy and also record the sail numbers of boats immediately ahead and astern.



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- d. The **finish line** is an extension of the line joining the RFYC flagstaff and the white line on the building behind the staff and leaving the silver turning buoy to starboard.

10. Event Sailing Instructions: FOWEY to PLYMOUTH:

a. **Start line: Either**

Committee Boat Start Line: between a mast on the Committee Boat displaying an Orange Flag and an orange cylindrical inflatable.

Or RFYC Start Line: The start line will be an extension of the line joining the RFYC flagstaff and the white line on the building behind the staff with ODM to be announced.

- b. **The course** will be from the start line direct to the finish at Plymouth.
- c. The **finish line** will be between the Flagstaff on the PYC Start box at Mount Batten and West Mallard Buoy.

11. Event Sailing Instructions: EDDYSTONE RACE

- a. Skippers of Yachts taking part must familiarise themselves with the dangers in the vicinity of the Eddystone lighthouse and rocks in particular. They must take appropriate precautions and ensure that the marks and rocks are rounded safely, bearing in mind the conditions of wind, sea, current and visibility, and in accordance with the principles of good seamanship. (Breach of this rule would render a yacht liable to disqualification.)
- b. The **start and finish** lines will be between the PYC flagstaff at Mountbatten breakwater and West Mallard buoy.
- c. **Courses.** The course will be announced on VHF Ch M.
 - A. From the start line, round the Eddystone Lighthouse and all off-lying rocks and dangers well to Port, and then to the finish line.
 - B. From the start line, round Hand Deep's buoy to Port and then to the Finish line.
 - C. Course to be announced on VHF Ch M, which will typically use fixed navigation or other marks in the vicinity of Plymouth.

12. Event Sailing Instructions: PLYMOUTH to SALCOMBE:

- a. The **start line** will be between the PYC Flagstaff at Mt Batten breakwater and West Mallard Buoy or as announced on VHF.
- b. **The course** will be announced or displayed before the start.
 - Course 1.** From the Start line, leave L4 buoy to Port, then direct to the finish at Salcombe.
 - Course 2.** From the Start line direct to the finish line at Salcombe.

For courses 1 and 2 The **finish line** will be in the entrance to Salcombe Harbour, details to be announced over VHF **Ch M(37)** at the start.

Course 3. Should the weather prove unsuitable for a visit to Salcombe then a coastal race of a similar distance, both **starting and finishing** from the PYC Line at Mountbatten, may be used. In this case the course will be notified to competitors over VHF prior to the first warning signal using the marks indicated in the current PYC Course List.

13. Event Sailing Instructions: SALCOMBE to PLYMOUTH:

- a. The **start line** will be in the entrance to Salcombe Harbour, details to be announced over VHF **Ch M(37)**.
- b. **The course** will be from the Start Line direct to the finish at Plymouth.
- c. The **finish line** will be between the Flagstaff on the PYC start box at Mount Batten and West Mallard Buoy.

14. Plym Yacht Club Emergency Action Plans.

The following Emergency Action Plans are to be used by Yachts and Race Officers for emergencies during Plym Yacht Club Racing. The emergency plans give standard actions, but these may need to be modified depending upon the actual nature of the emergency. Skippers should familiarise themselves with the action plans prior to racing.



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Plymouth Sound and Port of Plymouth Area Racing - Mt Batten Starting Line.

Yachts with a Man Overboard (MOB), Serious Injury or Serious Damage requiring assistance are to carry out the following actions.

- Yacht to inform Race Officer on Ch 37 if they can recover the MOB, or if more serious inform Port Control at Plymouth VTS of position and emergency on VHF Ch 14 and request assistance or relay to Falmouth Coastguard. If necessary, contact Falmouth Coastguard directly on VHF Ch 16 or by telephone.
- Race Officer to acknowledge the emergency to Yacht and to Plymouth VTS.
- Race Officer to broadcast the emergency to the racing fleet on VHF Ch 37 giving Yacht name, position and emergency with '**Code Red**' to signify a serious emergency. Request the nearest yachts switch to VHF Ch 14, contact distressed Yacht and Plymouth VTS and give all assistance.
- Race Officer to monitor the situation and provide the communications link for an ambulance, other rescue facilities and to the Marinas for berthing assistance as necessary. Injured people to be taken to Queen Anne's Battery Marina Slip for transfer to an Ambulance.

Plymouth Sound and Port of Plymouth Area Racing - Committee Boat Starting Line.

Yachts with Man Overboard (MOB), Serious Injury or Serious Damage requiring assistance are to carry out the following actions.

- Yacht to inform Race Officer of position and emergency on VHF Ch 72 using '**Code Red**' to signify a serious emergency and request assistance
- Race Officer to immediately send the Mark Laying Rib to provide assistance and informs the Yacht with the emergency.
- Race Officer to inform the racing fleet of the emergency using '**Code Red**' to signify a serious emergency and request that the nearest yachts give assistance.
- Race Officer to inform Port Control at Plymouth VTS of the emergency and the actions taken on Ch 14.
- Race Officer to monitor the emergency and as necessary consider using the Committee Boat to provide further assistance as necessary and to abandon the race.
- If further assistance is considered necessary, Race Officer to request assistance from Plymouth VTS on Ch 14 or relay to Falmouth Coastguard. If necessary, contact Falmouth Coastguard directly on VHF Ch 16 or by telephone.
- Race Officer to monitor the situation and provide the communications link for an ambulance, other rescue facilities and to the Marinas for berthing assistance, as necessary. Injured people to be taken to Queen Anne's Battery Marina Slip for transfer to an Ambulance.

Coastal Racing Outside Port of Plymouth Area.

Yachts with Man Overboard, Serious Injury or Serious Damage requiring assistance are to follow standard marine emergency procedures, such as PAN PAN and MAYDAY, and call Falmouth Coastguard on VHF Ch 16 or by telephone. Yacht to inform the Race Officer if possible.