



NOTICE OF RACE

BALMAIN REGATTA

Sunday 25th of October 2026

First held in 1849 the Balmain Regatta is Australia's oldest sailing regatta and is a celebration of Balmain's place in the rich maritime history of Sydney Harbour.

Competitors race in fleets made up of Historical Sailing Skiffs, Classic Yachts, Cruising Yachts, Modern Racing Yacht &, Sports Boats.

The Balmain Sailing Club (BSC) is the Organising Authority who are pleased to invite sailors from all clubs to join with us for the 2025 Balmain Regatta that will include a full day of on-water racing. Onshore there'll be a post-race party with food, refreshments, and live music.

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing shall be governed by:
 - (a) The rules, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing (WS)
 - (b) The Prescriptions and Safety Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS)
 - (c) The Marine Safety (General) Regulation 2016
 - (d) This Notice of Race (NoR) and the Sailing Instructions (SIs)
- 1.2 The Race Committee (RC) shall be the BSC Sailing Committee (SI 23)

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Entry is open to all monohull yachts with a minimum length of six (6) meters and to Vintage Skiffs
- 2.2 Boats will have a minimum of 2 crew when racing.
- 2.3 Yachts must hold a valid AS Category 7, or higher, Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form and it shall be the responsibility of the boat owner to maintain this minimum standard of safety for the period of the event in which it is an entry.
- 2.5 Entrants must be covered by current Third-Party Property Liability insurance and Third-Party Personal Liability insurance of not less than \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.
- 2.6 Skippers and crew must be financial members of a club affiliated with AS or apply for and receive a temporary membership using [SailPASS](#) to comply with the Australian Prescriptions of the RRS 46.

3. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 3.1 The Warning Signal for all Divisions will be 1155hrs on Sunday the 25th of October 2026.

4. ENTRY FEES

- 4.1 The Entry Fee is \$55.00 including GST.

5. ENTRY PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Entrants must enter, and pay the appropriate fee, using the Sailsys Entry System on the BSC's website (www.balmainsailingclub.com), by no later than 1800hrs on Saturday the 24th of October 2026.
- 5.2 Skippers and crew must be financial members of the BSC or an AS recognised club, or apply for and receive a temporary membership using 'SailPASS' to comply with RRS 46.
- 5.3 Only boats nominated on the entry are allowed to race (boats are not interchangeable).

6. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1 Notices to competitors and changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the BSC Website (www.balmainsailingclub.com) and communicated to entrants via email and/or mobile telephone message no later than one (1) hour before the start of the event.

7. EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 Anchors shall not be carried at the bow or on the deck of any racing keelboat. The penalty for this will be disqualification. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 7.2 Hiking Aids, including trapezes and leg straps shall not be permitted to be used to assist crew members to hike outside of the gunnels of any boat unless these aids are permitted by the Class Rules for that keelboat or dinghy. This changes RRS 49.1.
- 7.3 The use of powered winches on boats which compete in BSC events is permitted. This changes RRS 52.

8. HANDICAPPING

- 8.1 The performance handicapping system (PHS) used by the BSC is the default handicap system.
- 8.2 The Race Officer (RO) will determine each boat's handicap.
- 8.3 A boat's handicap shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1 & 62.

9. RACE SCORING

- 9.1 The Low Point scoring system RRS Appendix A5 applies subject to the following amendments:
- 9.1.1 A boat that came to the starting area and was on the course side (OCS) of the starting line at her starting signal, and does not restart, and finishes a race shall have a Scoring Penalty (OCS) applied that shall be the score it would have received without that penalty, made worse by three (3) minutes. This changes RRS 29.1

10. RETIREMENT

- 10.1 A boat shall notify the Race Committee if they Retire from a race (RET) using VHF Ch. 73

11. RESULTS, TROPHIES & PRIZES

- 11.1 Provisional results will be published on the BSC website as soon as possible after the last boat has finished each race.
- 11.2 Errors must be directed to the RC (racing@balmainsailingclub.com) within 7 days of results being published.
- 11.3 Perpetual Trophies will be engraved with the boat name and skipper of the series winning boat in each division.

12. DIVISIONS

- 12.1 The number of Divisions will be detailed in the SIs.
- 12.2 The RO will determine the division to which a boat is allocated. This shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1 & 62.

13. RACING AREAS

- 13.1 Races will be conducted on Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) and the Parramatta River.

14. RACE CANCELLATION & ABANDONMENT

- 14.1 The Race Committee may cancel a race for any reason.
- 14.2 Notice of Cancellation will be communicated via email and/or via a text message.
- 14.3 Race Abandonment shall be advised by three long sound signals and announced on VHF channel 73.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protests may be handed to a member of the RC, in person, within 2 hours after the time limit for that race, or must be submitted by via email racing@balmainsailingclub.com before 1100 hours on the first working day following the day of the race protested.
- 15.2 Protest Committee hearings will be held during the week following receipt of a protest and will be held at the BSC Clubhouse at 1830hrs or as directed by the Protest Committee.

16. FLAGS AND PENNANTS

- 16.1 Where possible, boats shall display the burgee of the club at which the boat is registered.

17. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 17.1 The area of water between swing moorings and the shoreline shall be considered as prohibited water for all boats after the preparatory signal and throughout the race.
- 17.2 All navigation marks rank as obstructions and shall be passed on their designated side. The water between a navigation mark and the adjacent shore or hazard shall be considered Continuing Obstruction.
- 17.3 The area of water bounded by Snapper Island, Spectacle Island, and the pylons within, shall be considered as prohibited water (a continuing obstruction).
- 17.4 Infringements under SI rules 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 cannot be exonerated. The penalty will be disqualification. This changes RRS 63.1.

18. PROPULSION

- 18.1 In accordance with RRS 42.3(i), a boat may briefly use an engine or any other method of propulsion while racing, to avoid interfering with commercial traffic, or if she has run aground, or to avoid running aground or to avoid a collision, provided the boat does not gain a significant advantage.

19. RISK WARNING

- 19.1 The Organising Authority advises owners, skippers and anyone who participates in yachting events conducted by the Organising Authority that participation in the sport of yachting, whether racing or otherwise, can be dangerous and can result in harm, personal injury, and property damage. The Organising Authority is not responsible for any harm or injury suffered by any person in any yachting event of whatever nature conducted by the Organising Authority. All participants acknowledge that competing in yachting events may be dangerous and may result in harm or personal injury and they participate in such events aware of such dangers and voluntarily accept any risk of harm.

20. COMPETITORS DECLARATION

It is the responsibility of owners and skippers to ensure that each boat nominated on the entry complies with the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024. Each competitor who enters the event declares to the Organising Authority that the nominated boat will at all times while racing comply with the requirements of Australian Sailing, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, including:

- (a) RRS 46;
- (b) the Australian Sailing Special Regulations.
- (c) be covered by current Third-Party Property Liability insurance and Third-Party Personal Liability insurance of not less than \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each separate incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.
- (d) the person who enters the boat with the Organising Authority warranting to the Organising Authority that he or she will draw the attention of any person who competes on the boat the subject of the entry in any event conducted by the Organising Authority to the risk warning above.
- (e) the person who enters the boat with the Organising Authority acknowledging receipt of the risk warning above and releasing the Organising Authority from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury suffered by him, or by any person claiming through him, in any event conducted by the Organising Authority.

21. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- (a) All those taking part in these races do so at their own risk and responsibility. Specific attention is drawn to **RRS 3**, which states; "*The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone*".
- (b) The BSC, the Race Committee and other race officials are not responsible for any damage or injury either afloat or ashore.
- (c) The BSC, the Race Committee and other race officials are not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.
- (d) All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the Australian Sailing Special Regulations clause 1.02 Owner's Responsibility.

22. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 22.1 It is a requirement of NSW RMS that all boats competing keep 200 meters from the bow and at least 30 meters from the sides or stern of any ferry underway and 500 meters from the bow and at least 60 meters from the sides or stern of any large commercial vessel underway (refer to the diagram on the last page of these SIs).
- 22.2 Yachts shall not interfere with the Commercial or Defence shipping of the Port.
- 22.3 The attention of skippers is drawn to NSW Roads and Maritime Services (NSW RMS) regulations regarding the right of way of vessels entering or leaving port, ferries displaying orange diamonds and vessels engaged in towing.
- 22.4 NSW RMS regulations specify "Priority over Sail – some Commercial Ferries on Sydney Harbour display an orange diamond shape which grants priority of way over sailing vessels. Do not attempt to cross the path of an approaching ferry displaying this signal".
- 22.5 Boats found to have interfered with commercial shipping may be subject to action by the race committee in accordance with RRS 60.2.
- 22.6 All yachts must abide by traffic directions of NSW RMS Boating Service Officers and the NSW Port Authority. Any yacht directed to stop or alter course by NSW RMS Boating Service Officers as a result of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
- 22.7 Any yachts reported by NSW RMS as having contravened NSW RMS regulations shall be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1. Any alleged infringement of this clause shall not be grounds for protest by another competitor. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 22.8 The attention of any competitors involved in an accident is drawn to NSW RMS Requirements posted on the BSC website. Competitors are required to notify the BSC of any contact incident occurring during racing whether or not it results in a race protest or a report to NSW RMS.
- 22.9 The BSC is obliged under the NSW RMS Requirements to prepare a report of all contact incidents occurring during racing whether or not injury or an insurance claim results.

23. RACE COMMITTEE

- 23.1 The Race Committee (RC) shall be the West Harbour Sailing Committee as detailed below:
 - i) Race Officer – Chris Price (Vice-Commodore, BSC)
 - ii) Race Officials – Kathie Myers, Sue Fletcher, Marilyn Richardson (BSC)

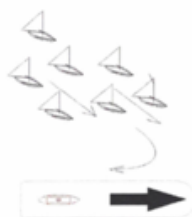
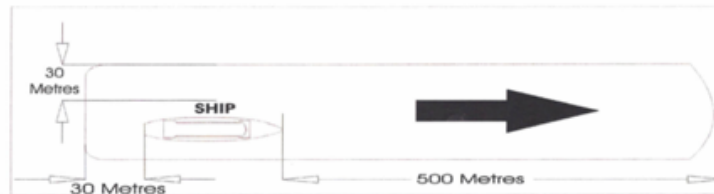
24. CONTACT

- 24.1 For more information please contact the Balmain Sailing Club via email:
racing@balmainsailingclub.com.

Condition 100

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS SAILING EVENTS

- All competitors **must** maintain a minimum distance of **500m** from the bow of any ship¹ and **200m** from the bow of any ferry² and no less than 30m from the sides/stern of any ship or ferry underway.
- The Aquatic Licensee must ensure that all competitors receive a briefing in relation to the requirement to keep clear of ships and ferries.
- Vessels are not to navigate between moorings whilst competing.



SHIP & FERRY ACTIVATED EXCLUSION ZONE

¹ Oil tankers & Seagoing Cruise Ships

² Other seagoing commercial vessels such as the James Craig or a ferry operating in accordance with an approved timetable