



2024-2025 WEST HARBOUR SERIES SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Balmain Sailing Club (BSC). The series are run in conjunction with the Drummoyne Sailing Club (DSC), the Greenwich Flying Squadron (GFS) and the Parramatta River Sailing Club (PRSC).

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 2024 (AS)
 - (c) The Marine Safety (General) Regulation 2016
 - (d) These Sailing Instructions (SI) and Addendums A (Spring Series), B (Summer Series) or C (Winter Series).
- 1.2 The Race Committee (RC) shall be the West Harbour Sailing Committee (refer SI 33).
- 1.3 For the purpose of interpreting Part 2 of the RRS a “continuing obstruction” is confined to situations where a series of individual obstructions are to be treated together as one combined obstruction. Examples include a row of moorings or a group of pylons.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Entry is open to all monohull yachts with a minimum length of 6 meters.
- 2.2 Boats will have a minimum of 2 crew in any race.
- 2.3 Entrants 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.
- 2.4 Boats that do not have navigation lights permanently fitted are required to comply with AS Special Regulations 3.23.4 and carry portable navigation lights capable of being attached to the boat.
- 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 separate incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.
- 2.6 Skippers and crew must be financial members of either the BSC, DSC, GFS, PRSC or an AS recognised club, or apply for and receive a temporary membership using [SailPASS](#) to comply with the Australian Prescriptions of the RRS 46.
- 2.7 The Skipper or Person in Charge is required to enter crew contact details in the [Top Yacht Entry System](#) (TES).
- 2.8 The Skipper or Person in Charge is required to attend a compulsory Skippers Briefing during the 2024-2025 season - conducted by a club affiliated with AS.

3. SCHEDULE OF RACES

2024	Schedule	First Warning Signal
West Harbour Spring Series	7 Races: 8 Sep - 15 Dec	12:55
2025	Schedule	First Warning Signal
West Harbour Summer Series	6 Races: 12 Jan – 30 Mar	12:55
West Harbour Winter Series	7 Races: 1 June – 24 Aug	11:25

4. ENTRY FEES (includes GST)

Individual Series Entry Fees	BSC	Casual
	Members	
West Harbour Spring Series	\$140	\$33
West Harbour Summer Series	\$140	\$33
West Harbour Winter Series	\$140	\$33

- 4.1 Series entry fees to the 2024 West Harbour Spring Series, the 2025 West Harbour Summer Series and the 2025 West Harbour Winter Series are waived for boats from the Drummoyne Sailing Club (DSC), Greenwich Flying Squadron (GFS) or the Parramatta River Sailing Club (PRSC) who have entered and paid the 2023-2024 season race fees for their respective club.

5. ENTRY PROCEEDURE

- 5.1 Entrants must enter, and pay the appropriate fee, using the Top Yacht Entry System (TES) on the BSC's website (www.balmainsailingclub.com), at least 2 hours prior to competing in an event.
- 5.2 Entry fees will not be refunded if a race is not sailed.
- 5.3 When entering using TES, boats are required to 'upload' their Category 7 Equipment Audit Form and Certificate of Insurance as required by SI 2.3 & 2.5.
Please refer to the '[Guide to uploading safety audit form and insurance paperwork](#)'.
- 5.4 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 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. This changes RRS 49.1.
- 7.3 The use of powered winches on boats which compete in West Harbour 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 may be adjusted based on race performance or for changes in equipment skipper, crew, or ownership.
- 8.4 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, does not re-start and finishes a race shall have a Scoring Penalty (**ENP**) applied that shall be the score it would have received without that penalty, made worse by three (3) places. This changes RRS 29.1.
 - 9.1.2 A boat still racing when her finishing window expires will be scored points equal to the number of boats finishing within the time limit plus 1, but no more points than the number of starters. Such boats will be scored Time Limit Expired (**TLE**). This changes RRS 35, A4, A5 and A10.
 - 9.1.3 Prior to the time limit expiring, the RC may offer the score of TLE to boats still racing that the RC consider may not make the time limit. This changes rule 28.1, 35, A4, A5 and A10.
 - 9.1.4 When a race is abandoned after the start and not re-sailed, boats that started shall be scored **DNF**. Boats that did not start will be scored **DNC**.
 - 9.1.5 Upon prior written application to the RC, a boat which competes in an event of significant national or interclub importance, as determined by the RC, may receive average points (**AVG**) for any series race/s missed.

10. RETIREMENT

- 10.1 A boat shall notify the RC if they Retire from a race (RET) using VHF Ch. 77 or by telephone: 0411 206 347. Infringements of this clause will result in disqualified (DSQ) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

11. SERIES SCORING

- 11.1 A minimum of 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 11.2 A boat shall discard her highest score after 4 races and her next highest score after 7 races. There will be a maximum of 2 discards in each series.
- 11.3 Tied point scores for 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the end of a series shall be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A Rule A8.
- 11.4 Casual entrants will be included in the race results but will have no impact on the series point scores.

12. RESULTS, TROPHIES & PRIZES

- 12.1 Provisional results will be published on the BSC website as soon as possible after the last boat has finished each race.
- 12.2 Errors must be directed to the RC (racing@balmainsailingclub.com) within 7 days of results being published.
- 12.3 Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third placed boats in each division, after each race.
- 12.4 Perpetual Trophies will be engraved with the boat name and skipper of the series winning boat in each division.

13. DIVISIONS

- 13.1 The number of Divisions will be detailed in Addendum A, B or C.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 Division Pennants can be collected from the BSC and shall be flown from the backstay or a starboard shroud.

14. WARNING SIGNALS AND START TIMES

- 14.1 The Starting Signals will be detailed in Addendum A, B or C.
- 14.2 The Start Times will be detailed in Addendum A, B or C.
- 14.3 The official time will be as per the Time and Date World Clock which can be accessed at: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/australia/sydney>
- 14.4 It is the responsibility of all boats to check their scheduled start times before each race.

15. RACING AREAS

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

16. COURSES & MARKS

- 16.1 The diagrams in 'Attachment A – West Harbour Series Courses' shows the course area and a course table, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 16.2 All marks are to be passed to Starboard unless the mark is suffixed (P), which indicates the mark is to be passed to Port.
- 16.3 For a detailed description of the rounding marks, see the 'Chart of Marks' in 'Attachment A – West Harbour Series Courses'.
- 16.4 All laid marks will be a red chequered flag mark.
- 16.5 The course to be sailed will be indicated by numbered pennants flown from the DSC committee boat and announced on VHF Channel 77.

17. THE START

- 17.1 The Start line will be set on the Parramatta River, east of Cockatoo Island in the area bounded by Clarkes Point (Woolwich), the entrance to the Lane Cove River, Greenwich Point Wharf (Greenwich) and Robinsons Point and will be between the orange flagstaff on a DSC committee boat and a mark displaying an orange flag.
- 17.2 The Start line for Course 0, as described in 'Attachment A – West Harbour Series Courses', will be in the vicinity of the transit line defined by triangular leading marks on the BSC's clubhouse deck and building.
- 17.3 Boats shall avoid the starting area until her scheduled start time.
- 17.4 The RC may disqualify any boat not complying with SI 17.3. This changes RRS 63.1.

18. LATE STARTERS

- 18.1 A boat that is towed or uses her motor to get to the start after the preparatory signal shall carry out a minimum 360 degree turn (including one tack & one gybe), keeping clear of all other boats, after ceasing to be towed or using her motor and before starting. This changes RRS 42.1.
- 18.2 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS).

19. RECALLS

- 19.1 Individual recalls will not be indicated. This changes RRS 29.1.
- 19.2 A boat that is on the course side of the starting line, no more than a one (1) minute before her start, and does not re-start, shall have a Scoring Penalty (**ENP**) applied as per SI 9.1.1. This changes RRS 30.1
- 19.3 A boat starting more than 1 minute before her start will be recorded as DNS.
- 19.4 In the case of a General Recall the re-start for that division will follow the start of all other divisions with the Warning Signal for the re-starting division corresponding with the Start Time of the previous division. This changes RRS 29.2.

20. SHORTENED COURSES

- 20.1 When the 'S' Flag is displayed with the Warning Signal for a Division, the course for that division will be shortened as indicated in Attachment A, 'Courses'.
- 20.2 The Clubhouse Finish Line as described in SI 21.2 will be deemed a Gate.
- 20.3 Times recorded at the Clubhouse Finish Line may be used as Finish Times at the discretion of the RC. Where this is applied, the first lap or second lap will be considered a shortened course. This changes RRS 32.2.

21. THE FINISH

- 21.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of the finishing mark with an orange flag.
- 21.2 The BSC's Clubhouse Finish Line is the transit line defined by the triangular leading marks on the BSC clubhouse deck and building.
- 21.3 If the committee vessel is absent when a boat finishes, the finish line will be the BSC's Clubhouse Finish Line.
- 21.4 Boats are reminded of their obligation under RRS 23 and once finished, to keep clear of boats that are still racing and so as not to obstruct the race officials view of the finish line and the BSC's Clubhouse Finish Line.

22. TIME LIMIT

- 22.1 The time limit will be detailed in Addendum A, B or C.
- 22.2 If the time limit has expired, the RC *may*, at their sole discretion, record the finish time of a boat who has passed the last laid mark of the course before the time limit has expired, taking into consideration the wind conditions, time constraints, safety, and visibility.

23. RACE CANCELLATION

- 23.1 The RC may cancel a race for any reason.
- 23.2 Notice of Cancellation will be communicated via email and/or via a text message.

24. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 24.1 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.
- 24.2 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.

25. SAIL NUMBERS

- 25.1 The use of a sail displaying a sail number different to the sail number used when entering shall be notified to the RC before the start of a race.
- 25.2 A boat which displays an incorrect sail number and has not notified the RC may not be recorded as starting or finishing.
- 25.3 A boat whose sail numbers are not clearly legible or are not of a contrasting colour to the body of the sail may not be recorded as starting or finishing.

26. FLAGS AND PENNANTS

- 26.1 The BSC burgee shall be displayed by a BSC member's boat while competing in a West Harbour sailing event.
- 26.2 Boats from the DSC, the GFS and the PRSC who are competing in the 'West Harbour Series' will display the burgee of the club from where they are registered.
- 26.3 Visiting boats shall display the burgee of the club at which the boat is registered.

27. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 27.1 The following areas or objects will be regarded as obstructions for the purposes of Part 2 of the RRS but the list is not exhaustive. Obstructions include:
- a) 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.
 - b) All navigation marks rank as obstructions and shall be passed on their designated side. In circumstance where a navigation mark is located at or near the junction of two channels, this clause shall apply to both channels. The water between a navigation mark and the adjacent shore or hazard shall be considered a continuing obstruction.
 - c) The area of water bounded by Snapper Island, Spectacle Island, and the pylons within, shall be considered a continuing obstruction.
 - d) The area of water between the pylons located to its north and the shore of Spectacle Island shall be considered a continuing obstruction.
- 27.2 Infringements under SI rules 27.1 cannot be exonerated. The penalty will be disqualification. This changes RRS 63.1.

28. PROPULSION

- 28.1 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.

29. RISK WARNING

- 29.1 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/or 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 32.1 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).
- 32.2 Yachts shall not interfere with the Commercial or Defence shipping of the Port.
- 32.3 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.
- 32.4 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".
- 32.5 Boats found to have interfered with commercial shipping may be subject to action by the RC in accordance with RRS 60.2.
- 32.6 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 because of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
- 32.7 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.
- 32.8 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 it results in a race protest or a report to NSW RMS.
- 32.9 The BSC is obliged under the NSW RMS Requirements to prepare a report of all contact incidents occurring during racing whether injury or an insurance claim results.


33. RACE COMMITTEE

The Race Committee (RC) shall be the West Harbour Sailing Committee as detailed below:

- i) Race Director – Chris Price (Vice-Commodore, BSC)
- ii) Race Officer – David Stenhouse (Manager, BSC)
- iii) Committee Boat – Alex Palmer (DSC)
- iv) Race Officials – Kathie Myers, Sue Fletcher, Marilyn Richardson (BSC)
- v) DSC Representative – Ivan Fitzgerald
- vi) GFS Representative – Phil Hare

34. CONTACT




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

 **Transport**
Roads & Maritime
Services

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