



FEATURE RACE

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



ORGANISING AUTHORITY

MIDDLE HARBOUR YACHT CLUB

75 Lower Parriwi Road, The Spit Mosman, NSW 2088

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Christmas in July

Saturday 18 July 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the current versions of:
 - the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”);
 - the Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (“Special Regulations”);
 - the Middle Harbour Yacht Club Season Notice of Race 2025–2026 (“MHYC NOR”) except as any of these are modified by these Sailing Instructions (“SI”).
- 1.2 Attention of competitors is drawn to the MHYC Notice of Race including their responsibilities under the applicable NSW Maritime legislation.
- 1.3 The Sailing Office of Middle Harbour Yacht Club (“MHYC”) shall be the Race Committee (“RC”) for the purposes of, and with, the powers and discretions contained in RRS 90.1. This amends MHYC NOR 4.2.
- 1.4 A boat shall comply with the Special Regulations Part 1 for Category 7. An audited Special Regulations Form for the relevant Category (or higher) shall be submitted with the entry if not already held by MHYC.
- 1.5 A boat shall comply with the RRS Appendix G, Identification on Sails.
- 1.6 Fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits will be permitted for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers. This amends RRS 50.2 and 50.3.
- 1.7 Boats with movable or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability. This amends RRS 51.
- 1.8 RRS 52 does not apply to the adjustment and operation of sails or the adjustment of movable appendages on any boat.
- 1.9 Each yacht is required to register all members of its crew via SailSys or the MHYC POB Register – [click here](#).

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the [Official Notice Board](#) on the website.

3 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Changes to these Sailing Instructions, if any, will be posted not later than 2 hours prior to the warning signal of the race.

4 SIGNALS

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the MHYC Race Official's Box or the Race Committee Vessel berthed near the B-Arm T-Head.
- 4.2 Signals will be as follows:
 - 1220 Hrs Attention Signal & Course Number displayed
 - 1230 Hrs Start Signal
- 4.3 The display of the course board and the race start may each be accompanied by a sound signal.

5 DIVISIONS

- 5.1 Divisions will be as per the published List of Entries.

6 THE COURSE

- 6.1 The Courses are those annexed to these Sailing Instructions (Annexe A). Division 2 shall omit marks prefixed (x).
- 6.2 Courses may be shortened prior to the Start at the discretion of the RC. Should Code Flag "S" be flown with or prior to the display of the Course Board, the race will automatically be shortened and all yachts should proceed to the finish line after having rounded the mark indicated by an asterisk (*).
- 6.3 If a Committee Vessel displaying Code Flag "S" is stationed to the West or South of Grotto Point Lighthouse, AS Mark Edwards Beach shall be omitted (if applicable) and boats shall finish between the Committee Vessel and Grotto Point Lighthouse.
- 6.4 Courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.
- 6.5 The attention of competitors is drawn to the MHYC NOR and those areas which are designated obstructions and prohibited areas in the vicinity of the Start and Finish lines, the Gowlland Bombora and the Sow and Pigs Reef. A boat shall not sail into an area designated a prohibited area.

7 HANDICAP PURSUIT RACE

- 7.1 The race shall be a Handicap Pursuit Race per MHYC NOR 22 except that time of day will be displayed on the race management vessel start clock .
- 7.2 For boats that have entered as non-spinnaker, only a mainsail and headsails as defined in RRS 55.4 shall be used. Headsails shall not be set flying. (No sail shall be set forward of a point of attachment of the permanent forestay.)
- 7.3 Pursuit start times will be based on time correction factors (TCFs). A boat's TCF shall be determined by the RC or its nominee.
- 7.4 Boats shall notify the MHYC Sailing Office not later than 2 days prior to a race of any change, addition or alteration to a boat's hull appendages, equipment, sail inventory or skipper/crew that may affect its performance.
- 7.5 The TCF, and a boat's start time based upon it, shall not be subject to protest or constitute grounds for redress (amends RRS 60.1 and 62).

8 THE START

- 8.1 The start line shall be between an MHYC Race Management Vessel berthed near the B-Arm T-Head and a laid yellow buoy to the east of the Spit Channel with a transit bearing approximately 065° / 245° magnetic. This changes the 2025-2026 MHYC Feature Event Series NOR 7.
- 8.2 Boats may start once their allocated start time has been displayed on the race management vessel start clock. In the absence or failure of the start clock, competitors shall refer to GPS or Internet time.
- 8.3 There will be no recall signals. A boat recorded as OCS will be penalised 5 minutes plus the difference between her nominated start time and actual start time. This amends RRS 28.1 and 29.1.

9 THE FINISH

- 9.1 The finish line shall be between an MHYC Race Management Vessel berthed near the B-Arm T-Head and a laid yellow buoy on the eastern side of the Spit Channel with a transit bearing approximately 065° / 245° magnetic unless shortened in accordance with SI 6.3 or 6.4. This changes the 2025-2026 MHYC Feature Event Series NOR 9.
- 9.2 A boat's finish time shall be used for the calculation of its racing division results. The boat with the earliest finish time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.
- 9.3 All times will be recorded in minutes and whole seconds. Boats with equal finishing times shall be scored as dead heated.
- 9.4 All results will be subject to the application of Alternate Penalties, if any.

10 TIME LIMITS

- 10.1 The time limit will be 1600 hours on the day of racing. However, if the leading yacht finishes within the time limit, then other yachts will be timed in and scored until 1630 hours.
- 10.2 A boat that does not finish within the time limit shall be scored DNF.

11 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- 11.1 For an infringement of RRS Part 2, the Two-Turns Penalty (RRS 44.2) shall apply.
- 11.2 For an infringement of any other rule or requirement, the Scoring Penalties of RRS 44.3 shall apply. The penalty shall be computed as a percentage of the number of entries in the relevant division.

12 ABANDONED RACES

- 12.1 Abandoned races will not be resailed on another date.

Annexe A – Courses

COURSE 1 (10.0 nm / 8.9 nm approx.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 5. * AS Mark East Channel |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Manly West | 6. AS Mark Manly West |
| 3. (x) AS Mark Manly East | 7. AS Mark Manly East |
| 4. AS Mark Cannae Point | 8. Finish MHYC |

COURSE 2 (10.1 nm / 8.7 nm approx.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 4. Naval Mark N3 |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Cannae Point | 5. Finish MHYC |
| 3. * AS Mark Point Piper | |

COURSE 3 (10.3 nm / 7.6 nm approx.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 5. (x) AS Mark Grotto Point |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Rose Bay | 6. (x) AS Mark Lady Bay |
| 3. AS Mark Shark Island | 7. Finish MHYC |
| 4. * Shark Island | |

COURSE 4 (12.3nm / 10.3nm approx.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 5. AS Mark Manly East |
| 2. * AS Mark Rose Bay | 6. AS Mark Cannae Point |
| 3. (x) Naval Mark N3 | 7. Finish MHYC |
| 4. AS Mark Manly West | |

COURSE 5 (13.3nm / 11.4nm approx.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 5. AS Mark Shark Island |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Rose Bay | 6. (x) Naval Mark N3 |
| 3. * Fort Denison (P) | 7. Finish MHYC |
| 4. Shark Island | |

COURSE 6 (15.4nm / 13.0nm approx.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 5. AS Mark Manly West |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Manly West | 6. AS Mark Manly East |
| 3. (x) AS Mark Manly East | 7. AS Mark Lady Bay |
| 4. * Naval Mark N3 | 8. Finish MHYC |

COURSE 7 (16.1 nm / 13.5 nm approx.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Start MHYC | 6. Fort Denison (P) |
| 2. (x) AS Mark Manly West | 7. AS Mark Manly West |
| 3. (x) AS Mark Manly East | 8. AS Mark Manly East |
| 4. AS Mark Rose Bay | 9. (x) AS Mark Cannae Point |
| 5. * Naval Mark N3 | 10. Finish MHYC |

Notes:

- All Marks are to be rounded or passed to Starboard except those suffixed (P) which shall be rounded or passed to Port.
- Division 2 shall omit each mark prefixed (x).
- If Code Flag "S" is displayed prior to or with the attention signal all yachts should proceed directly to the finish after having rounded the mark prefixed *.



Notice to Competitors

NTC-2026-07-03-1

Clubhouse Start and Finish Line

Commencing 8 July 2026, the MHYC Starters Box will no longer be in use. The MHYC 2025-2026 Season Notice of Race sections 16 & 17 are amended as follows:

16 CLUBHOUSE START

- 16.1 The Clubhouse Start line shall be between a staff displaying an Orange Flag on a MHYC Race Management Vessel berthed near the B-Arm T-Head and a laid yellow buoy to the east of the Spit Channel with a transit bearing approximately 065° / 245° magnetic.
- 16.2 The Clubhouse Pre-Start area is defined as the area between the start line and the extension of the D-Arm outer walkway (northern marina arm).
- 16.3 When the Clubhouse Start Line is in operation, no boat shall enter the Pre-Start Area before her Preparatory Signal unless transiting the area under motor.
- 16.8 Any boat observed to breach NOR 16.5 shall be awarded a 45% scoring penalty (SCP).

17 CLUBHOUSE FINISH

- 17.1 The Clubhouse Finish Line shall be between a staff displaying an Orange Flag on a MHYC Race Management Vessel berthed near the B-Arm T-Head and a laid yellow buoy to the east of the Spit Channel with a transit bearing approximately 065° / 245° magnetic.
- 17.2 After finishing and before lowering her sails a boat shall proceed immediately to the north of the extension of the D-Arm outer walkway (northern marina arm). When returning to a berth or mooring a boat shall not cross to the south of this transit unless under motor and with her sails stowed and any boat observed to breach this shall be awarded a 45% scoring penalty (SCP).
- 17.3 Boats are reminded of their obligation under RRS 23 and, in particular once finishing, to keep clear of boats that are still racing. A boat that is observed to interfere with a boat still racing or with the operation of the Clubhouse Finish Line may be disqualified without a hearing.

David Staley
MHYC Sailing Manager
3 July 2026 at 1100hrs

