MHYC

MARCH CUP

Saturday 14th March 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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1.0 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 prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing ("Special Regulations");
- the Middle Harbour Yacht Club Requirements ("MHYC Requirements")
- the Notice of Race,

except as any of these are modified by or inconsistent with these Sailing Instructions.

1.2 The attention of competitors is drawn to the MHYC Requirements which are referenced throughout the NoR and these SIs including their responsibilities under the applicable NSW Roads & Maritime legislation.

1.3 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.

1.4 Boats with movable or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the AS Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability. This amends RRS 51.

1.5 RRS 52 does not apply the adjustment and operation of sails or the adjustment of movable appendages on any boat.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which is located in the Reception Area of the Clubhouse and on the Keelboat Racing Noticeboard on the website.

3.0 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 display of the Course Board for the race.

4 THE MARCH CUP

4.1 The March Cup shall be a Handicap Pursuit Race per MHYC NOR 22 with a Count-Up start sequence.

4.2 Start numbers will be based on time correction factors (TCFs). A boat's TCF shall be determined by the RC or its nominee.

4.3 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. At the discretion of the RC, a boat that fails to comply may be either disqualified after a hearing or have its results retrospectively adjusted by applying a new TCF based on the effect on the boat's performance.

4.4 The TCF, and a boat's start number based on it, shall not be subject to protest or constitute grounds for redress (amends RRS 61.4b).

4.5 When only one boat starts and sails the course within the time limit, the RC shall not abandon the race (amends RRS 32).

5.0 DIVISIONS

5.1 Divisions may be formed or abandoned at the discretion of the Sailing Manager or their nominee.

5.2 Non Spinnaker entries may be included in any division.

5.3 For boats entered as non-spinnaker, only a mainsail and headsails as defined in RRS 50.4 shall be used. Headsails shall not be set flying. (No sail shall be set forward of a point of attachment of the permanent forestay).

5.4 Class Flags shall be:

Division 1 Code Flag D
Division 2 Code Flag E

6.0 SIGNALS

6.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the MHYC Race Official's Box on the north-eastern perimeter of the Club premises.

6.2 Signals will be as follows:

1220 Hrs Course Displayed
1230 Hrs Start Count-up Sequence Commences

6.3 The display of the course board and the start of the count-up sequence may each be accompanied by a sound signal.

7 THE COURSE

7.1 The Courses are those annexed to these Sailing Instructions (Annex A).

7.2 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, the race will automatically be shortened and all yachts should proceed to the finish line after having rounded the mark indicated by an asterisk (*).

7.3 Courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.

7.4 The nominated helmsperson of each boat shall be at the helm during the period prior to starting and until the yacht is abeam of Grotto Point. Similarly, the nominated helmsperson shall be at the helm from the time the yacht is abeam Grotto Point and until it finishes and clears the finish line. This amends RRS 46.

7.5 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.

8 THE START

8.1 The Start Line shall be as MHYC NOR 16, Club House Start Line.

8.2 The RC or his nominee will allocate a boat's start number in whole minutes to a boat, this number will be a count up number.

8.3 For Count Up Start races a boat's Start Number is the time at which her allocated starting time appears in view on the start clock.

8.4 There will be no recalls. Any yacht deemed to have started prematurely and that has not returned and started correctly shall be penalised 5 minutes plus the difference between her starting number, applied to her finish time. This amends RRS 29.

9 THE FINISH

9.1 The Finish Line will be the Clubhouse Finish Line in MHYC NOR 17.

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 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.

9.5 All results will be subject to the application of Alternate Penalties, if any.

10 TIME LIMITS

10.1 The time limit will be 1600hrs on the day of racing. However, if the leading yacht finishes within the time limit, then other yachts will be timed in until 1630 hours.

10.2 A boat that does not finish within the time limit shall be scored DNF. This amends RRS 35.

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.

13 PROTESTS

13.1 Protests shall comply with MHYC NOR 24.

14 ADVERTISING

14.1 Boats may be required to display backstay flags, bow and/or boom stickers if provided.

15 RADIO COMMUNICATION

15.1 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data communication and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

15.2 Yachts shall maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 72 for the duration of the race.

16 PRIZES

16.1 The March Cup Perpetual Trophy shall be jointly awarded to the winning boats in each division.

17 RESPONSIBILITY

17.1 Competitors participate at their own risk. Special attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states*:*
"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

17.2 The Organising Authority, Event Sponsors (if applicable), and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members accept no liability for any injury, loss or damage that may be suffered by any competitor, and any liability for harm to persons that results from breach of an express or implied warranty that the MHYC Feature Race Program and all services relating thereto will be conducted or rendered with reasonable care and skill is excluded.

17.3 Neither MHYC, nor the event sponsor (if applicable), are responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.

18 SAFETY

18.1 Each yacht is required to complete crew registration via SailSys or complete the POB register online prior to the boat's start time.

18.2 All keelboats shall monitor the race management channel VHF 72.

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ANNEX A – COURSES

COURSE 1 (10.0nm / 8.8nm approx.)

1.	Start MHYC		
2. (x)	AS Mark Manly West	6. *	AS Mark East Channel
3. (x)	AS Mark Manly East	7.	AS Mark Grotto Point
4.	AS Mark Cannae Point	8.	AS Mark Cannae Point
5.	AS Mark Lady Bay	9.	Finish MHYC

COURSE 2 (10.7nm / 9.5nm approx.)

1.	Start MHYC	5. (x)	AS Mark Point Piper
2.	AS Mark Cannae Point	6. (x)	N3
3.	AS Mark Shark Island	7.	Finish MHYC
4. *	Shark Island		

COURSE 3 (12.1nm / 9.5nm approx.)

1.	Start MHYC	5. (x)	AS Mark Grotto Point
2.	AS Mark Cannae Point	6. (x)	AS Mark Lady Bay
3.	AS Mark East Channel	7.	Finish MHYC
4.*	AS Mark Rose Bay		

COURSE 4 (12.8nm / 8.4nm approx.)

1.	Start MHYC	7	AS Mark Cannae Point
2. (x)	AS Mark Cannae Point	8. *	AS Mark Lady Bay
3. (x)	AS Mark Rocky Point	9.	AS Mark Rocky Point
4. (x)	AS Mark Edwards Beach	10.	AS Mark Edwards Beach
5.	AS Mark Manly West	11.	AS Mark Cannae Point
6.	AS Mark Manly East	12.	Finish MHYC

COURSE 5 (13.2nm / 11.7nm approx.)

1.	Start MHYC	6. (x)	Fort Denison (P)
2.	AS East Channel	7.	AS Mark Shark Island
3.	AS Mark Shark Island	8.	Shark Island
4.	Shark Island	9.	AS Mark Chowder Bay North
5. *	N3	10.	Finish MHYC

COURSE 6 (14.6nm / 12.0nm 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.	Finish MHYC
4. *	N3		

Notes:

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