



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2026 1884 TWILIGHT SERIES

For

**Devon Yawl and YTC or VPRS Rated
Yachts**

Wednesday Evenings

Part 1: 15th April to 17th June

Part 2: 24th June to 2nd September

Organising authority: Royal Western Yacht Club of England Ltd
Plymouth UK

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the RWYC 1884 Wednesday Race Series has enjoyed successful racing in Plymouth Sound with courses for both IRC and Cruiser Classes. Latterly, there has been a gradual decline in numbers of boats participating. This is down to many factors, not least that boats are not able to get, on a regular basis, the crew numbers required to race modern yachts.

The 1884 Twilight Series will be a new approach offering all yachts the opportunity to compete with reduced crew numbers. There will be no spinnakers allowed and boat handicapping will use YTC or VPRS White Sail Ratings.

Racing will be offered for YTC/VPRS White Sail and Devon Yawl classes.

The racing format will also be changed by just offering one longer race using a 'Round the Cans' course with proper up-wind committee boat start and finishing on the club line.

Competitors should note that the RWYC implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. See: <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Competitors and their families are invited by the Flag Officers of The Royal Western Yacht Club to be temporary members of the Club on Wednesdays for the duration of the series and to make full use of the bar, and catering facilities.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, RYA Prescriptions and class rules as applicable.
- 1.2 As a Naval/ Commercial Port, shipping movements can be frequent and must have priority. Boats, at all times, must keep clear of ships leaving or entering the port and obey instructions from the Race Committee where avoiding action is necessary. Failure to obey Race Committee instructions may be treated as misconduct.
- 1.3 The Exoneration Penalty and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules and Disputes procedures will be available. See: <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/rules-disputes> and SI 14
- 1.4 Racing rule(s) 35, 44, A2 & A4.2 will be changed as follows:
 - 35 Time Limit –The time limit for the first boat will be 120 minutes.
The race will be abandoned if no boats have finished within this time.
All boats not finishing within the specified time limits specified in SI 17.4 will be scored DNF.
 - 44.1 For all classes, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.
 - A2 Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores less one discard for each four (4) races completed.
- 1.5 Foresails must be attached by the Tack and Head and the Luff will be fixed to the forestay either by a bolt rope into a Furler or track, or shackled via its standard fittings to the forestay. It must not be free-flown.
- 1.6 Only 2 sails can be used at any one time. Peeling is not permitted.
- 1.7 All boats shall carry a VHF radio and monitor race broadcasts. See SI 19.
- 1.8 For safety reasons, boats shall not race with anchors mounted on, or in front of, their stem-head rollers or other bow fittings.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Club Series event webpage at <https://rwyc.org/race/1884-twilight-series-2026/> This shall be deemed to be the Official Notice Board.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Club Series event page at <https://rwyc.org/race/1884-twilight-series-2026/> and/ or emailed to competitors at least twenty-four (24) hours before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the RWYC Flagstaff.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal P. This changes the meaning of AP in Race Signals.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACING

5.1 Dates of racing:

The 1884 Twilight Series will be held on Wednesday evenings from 15th April to 2nd September inclusive, with Part 1 from 15th April to 17th June and Part 2 from 24th June to 2nd September (10 & 11 races respectively).

6 CLASS FLAGS & SIGNALS

6.1 The warning signal for the YTC/VPRS class start is scheduled to be given at 18.25 using Numeral 1

6.2 The warning signal for the Devon Yawl class start is scheduled to be given at 18.35 using Code Flag T.

7 COURSES

7.1 Devon Yawl & YTC/VPRS classes will sail one 'Round the Cans' (RTC) course using laid and/or navigational marks. Races will finish at the RWYC line (see SI 13.2).

7.3 Letter boards will be displayed on the side of the Committee Vessel indicating the course configuration in accordance with the chartlet in Appendix A. The background colour of the letter board (green or red denoting starboard or port) will indicate which side each mark should be rounded.

7.4 A separate board may indicate the bearing and distance to the first mark.

7.4 The course to be sailed may be announced before each class warning signal on VHF Ch 77. Failure to receive a VHF message shall not constitute grounds for redress.

8 START LINE

8.1 The Start Line will be between the Committee Boat mast displaying an orange flag and an orange pillar buoy or as designated by the race committee on its port side.

9 THE START

9.1 Start Times will be as follows:

a) The warning signal for the YTC/VPRS Class will be 1825.

b) The warning signal for the Devon Yawl class will be 1835 with 3,2,1 go countdown.

9.2 All boats shall pass close to the Committee vessel on the side opposite to the start line before the warning signal with mainsails hoisted for identification.

9.3 Courses will be displayed using course boards on the side of the Committee Vessel.

9.4 Races shall be started by using RRS 26. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

10 INDIVIDUAL RECALLS

10.1 In the event of an individual recall, competitors' attention may be brought to the signal on VHF Ch 77. Such communication may not be transmitted until one minute after the start. The failure to receive any Race Committee transmissions shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 29.1.

11 CHANGE OF COURSE

11.1 Courses will not be changed after the start signal.

12 SHORTEN COURSE

12.1 Races may be shortened and finished at any mark.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 Races are scheduled to finish at the RWYC club line unless a shortened course is signaled. Boats shall finish by sailing in an easterly direction to pass an extension of a transit from the RWYC flag mast and a yellow and black striped transit staff on the shore below it. The outer distance limit of the line will be the yacht mooring buoys on the south side of the main Cattewater channel.
- 13.2 Whilst racing, boats are prohibited from entering the Controlled Mooring Area located north of Mountbatten peninsula and south of the Plym navigation channel. Boats must remain north of a line extending from the westerly mooring buoy positioned on the south side of the Plym navigation channel, east through each mooring buoy on the northern boundary of the Controlled Mooring Area and west of a line extending from the most westerly mooring buoy on the south side of the Plym navigation channel due south to the Mountbatten peninsula. The prohibited area defined above ranks as an obstruction to sea room under RRS.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Exoneration Penalty and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules and Disputes procedures will be available. This is the preferred method of resolving disputes. See NOR 1.3 & SI 1.3.

15 HEARING REQUESTS

- 15.1 The Hearing Request time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to the race committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress.

16 RETIREMENTS

- 16.1 Boats retiring shall report their retirement to the Race Committee as soon as possible but no later than 60 minutes after finishing or retiring.
- 16.2 Retirements shall be reported via VHF Ch 77 to the Committee Vessel, or to RWYC telephone: 01752 660077

17 TIME LIMIT (see also SI 1.4)

- 17.1 For all races the time limit for the first boat shall be 120 minutes.
- 17.4 Boats not finishing within 40 minutes of the second boat in their class for RTC races will be scored DNF.
- 17.5 The race committee may advise competitors of the expiry of the time limit on VHF 77

18 SCORING

- 18.1 Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores less one discard for every four races. All boats will be scored using their YTC/VPRS white sail rating and dual scored under NHC performance handicap.

19 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1 All boats shall carry and operate a VHF radio and monitor Race Committee broadcasts.
- 19.2 The Race Committee will use VHF Ch 77, or an alternate VHF channel as advised.
- 19.3 The failure to receive any Race Committee transmissions shall not constitute grounds for redress.

20 INSURANCE

- 20.1 Each participating boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third-party claims in the sum of at least £3m.

21 **POST RACE BERTHING STOPOVER**

Free berthing (subject to space) at QAB Marina will be available for up to 3 hours to all competitors taking part in the 1884 Twilight Series, Autumn and Icicle Series to participate in the post-race prize giving's and receptions. Please contact QAB Marina direct on the day if you wish to use this facility informing them you are part of these RWYC races.

APPENDIX A: Plymouth Race Marks Chartlet

