



2026 Autumn and Icicle Series

Sailing Instructions

IRC, VPRS, YTC & Devon Yawl Classes

Sunday Mornings

Autumn Series: 6th September to 25th October 2026

Icicle Series: 1st November to 13th December 2026

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

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.

Competitors should note that the Royal Western Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter, and they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules .

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing. Where there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions will prevail.
- 1.2 Where boats are racing within the boundaries of the Port of Plymouth they are referred to the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 2020, a copy of which can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1261/made> and Local Notices to Mariners. When the Race Committee believes that such regulations have been broken so as to bring the sport into disrepute it will act under RRS 60.2(c) requesting the Protest Committee to act under RRS 69.1(a), Allegation of Misconduct.
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 An engine or other alternative means of propulsion can be used when appropriate to avoid risk of collision with another vessel that is underway but not racing, or in an emergency. The facts shall be reported by radio to the Race Committee at the finish with written details submitted to the race office before the end of protest time. The protest committee may impose a penalty if it thinks fit. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 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 90 minutes.
The race will be abandoned if no boats have finished within this time.
All boats not finishing within the specified time limits in SI 17.3 and 17.4 of W/L and RTC races 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 Under rule 87, IRC Rule 22.4.2 of the IRC class rules is replaced with:
“The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the crew number printed on the certificate plus one. There is no weight limit.”
- 1.6 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 RWYC Club Series event page on <https://rwyg.org/race/autumn-series-2026/> for the Autumn Series and <https://rwyg.org/race/icicle-series-2026/> for the Icicle Series. These shall also be deemed to be the Official Race Notice Boards.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the RWYC Club Series event page on <https://rwyg.org/race/autumn-series-2026/> for the Autumn Series and <https://rwyg.org/race/icicle-series-2026/> for the Icicle Series 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.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACING and COURSES

- 5.1 Dates of racing:
The Autumn and Icicle Series will be held every Sunday morning from 6th September to 13th December inclusive.
- 5.2 The Autumn Series will be held from 6th September to 25th October 2026 inclusive. and the Icicle Series from 1st November to 13th December 2026 inclusive.
- 5.3 There will be no racing on Sundays, 18th October 2026 (Final Fling) and 8th November 2026 (Remembrance Sunday).
- 5.4 IRC, VPRS, YTC and Devon Yawl classes will sail windward – leeward courses (designation W) finishing at the committee boat line, and/or ‘round the cans’ (RTC) courses (designation C) finishing at the RWYC line (see SI 13.2). It is intended that two (2) races will be sailed each day. IRC, VPRS & YTC Classes will be dual scored with NHC.
- 5.4 RTC courses will be designated using the marks shown in the Plymouth Race Marks Chartlet in Appendix A.
- 5.5 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 10.25 hrs for all classes. In the event of a large entry, the fleet may be split on a basis decided by the Race Committee prior to racing.
- 5.6 2 races are scheduled for each day at the discretion of the Race Officer.

6 CLASS FLAGS & SIGNALS

- 6.1 The first warning signal is scheduled to be given at 10.25. The second race will start as soon as practically possible after the completion of the first race.
- 6.2 The Class Pennant for all classes will be **Numeral 1** and shall be flown from the backstay when racing.

7. RACING AREAS

- 7.1 Windward – leeward course - Course boards on the side of the committee vessel will display the course letter of the windward mark and the leeward mark (see Appendix C). All racing will usually take place inside Plymouth Breakwater. The Race Committee reserves the right to stage racing outside of the breakwater if required.
- 7.3 Round the Cans course – the committee boat will display letter boards indicating the course configuration in accordance with the chartlet on Appendix A.
- 7.3.1 All courses to be sailed for all fleets may be announced before each class warning signal on Ch 77. Failure to receive a VHF message shall not constitute grounds for redress.

8 DESCRIPTION OF START AND FINISH MARKS

- 8.1 Committee boat combined Start and Finish Pin – Orange Pillar Buoy or as designated by the race committee.

9 THE START

- 9.1 There will be a single combined start for both classes.
- 9.2 All boats shall pass close to the Committee vessel on the side opposite to the start line before the warning signal of the first race of each day with mainsails hoisted for identification.
- 9.3 The start line for all classes will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the Committee vessel and the outer distance mark, as specified in SI 8.1.
- 9.4 Courses will be displayed via course boards on the side of the committee boat.

10 RECALLS (This changes RRS 29.2)

- 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.

11. CHANGE OF COURSE

- 11.1 Courses will not be changed after the start signal.

12 SHORTEN COURSE

- 12.1 Windward/leeward courses can only be shortened after more than one lap has been sailed. Round the Cans (RTC) races may be shortened at any mark.

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 Windward/leeward races shall finish by sailing directly back through the start line after rounding the leeward mark. Where more than one lap is signaled, boats shall sail through the start line at the start of each lap.
- 13.2 Round the Cans (RTC) races are scheduled to finish at the RWYC club line, unless a shortened course is signaled, 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.
- 13.3 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 THE 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.

15 PROTESTS

- 15.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest 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 by telephone to RWYC telephone: 01752 660077

17 TIME LIMIT (see also SI 1.4)

- 17.1 For W/L and RTC races the time limit for the first boat shall be 90 minutes.
- 17.3 Boats not finishing within 30 minutes of the second boat in their class for W/L races will be scored DNF.
- 17.4 Boats not finishing within 60 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 classes will be dual scored under NHC performance handicap.

19 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1 All yachts 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 RISK STATEMENT

20.1 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, all competitors agree and acknowledge that:

- (i) they are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (ii) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (iii) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (iv) their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (v) the provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers, by the organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities; the provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;(vii) it is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held at the venue;

21 INSURANCE

21.1 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.

22 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

