



ROYAL WESTERN
YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND



Devon Yawl National Championships

18th & 19th July 2026

Supported by MDL Marinas

Notice of Race

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

Notice of Race

Competitors should note that The Royal Western Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing), or at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), national prescriptions and the Devon Yawl Association Class Rules (<https://devonyawl.co>)
- 1.2 Plymouth is 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 Post-Race Penalty and RYA Hearing/Arbitration of the RYA Rules and Disputes procedures will be available. This is the preferred method of resolving disputes. See: <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/rules-disputes>
- 1.4 With the agreement of the Class Association, and for the purposes only of the definition of "Start" and "Finish" and rules 21.1, 29.1, 30 and 44.2 of the RRS (but not any other rules) a boat's bowsprit shall be considered part of the hull.
- 1.5 Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available on the event website at <https://rwyc.org/race/devon-yawl-national-championships-2026/> no later than Friday 10th July 2026.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board will be located at the Royal Western Yacht Club.
- 3.2 Whilst racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make nor receive voice or data transmissions that are not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of Devon Yawl and Devon Dayboat Classes subject to the requirement that the helm must be a full paid up member of the Devon Yawl Association (DYA) throughout the event.
- 4.2 An application to join the Devon Yawl Association, if necessary, should be made to the DYA Membership Secretary, Ian Scholefield dyamembership@gmail.com
- 4.3 Eligible boats can enter by submitting the on-line entry form on the website <https://rwyc.org/race/devon-yawl-national-championships-2026/>

5. FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee for the event is £90. This will include berthing from the Friday to Sunday, car parking and use of showers. There will be no fees for launching and recovery.

6. ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

7. LAUNCHING AND BERTHING

- 7.1 For boats requiring launching, this will take place at Queen Annes Battery (QAB). There will be no charge for this facility.
- 7.2 Berthing will be at QAB from Friday 17th July to after the prize giving on Sunday 19th July. These costs are included in the entry fee. Entries should ensure that they have sufficient fenders and warps.
- 7.3 Boats shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

8. SCHEDULE

- 8.1 Registration will be available at RWYC on Friday 17st July from 1700.
- 8.2 Dates of Racing 18th and 19th July 2026.
- 8.3 1st warning signal at 1055 on Sat and 1025 on Sunday. No more than 4 races will be sailed each day and no more than 6 races over the two days.
- 8.4 A race briefing will be available prior to racing on Saturday 18th July from 0900h at RWYC.
- 8.5 The prize giving will be held as soon as possible after the last race on Sunday 19th July 2026.

9. EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- 9.1 Boats may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules.

10. VENUE AND COURSES

- 10.1. Racing will take place in Plymouth Sound, north of the Breakwater. Refer Admiralty Chart 30: Plymouth Sound and Approaches. Racing will be around 'laid mark' courses.
- 10.2 The course will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system is that set out in RRS Appendix A save that when 4 or more races have been scored a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 11.2 2 Races must be scored to constitute a series.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

13. RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”.
- 13.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- 13.2a 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;
 - 13.2b they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - 13.2c they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions and omissions;
 - 13.2d their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - 13.2e provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - 13.2f provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
 - 13.3g the fact that the race committee conducts inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor as set out in this notice of race.

14. INSURANCE

- 14.1 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 £3,000,000. It is the duty of each boat owner to have his/her (or their boat) adequately insured against any risk, including civil responsibility to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for the entirety of the event.

15. PRIZES

- 15.1 Prizes will be awarded as follows:
- DYA Rose Bowl – Overall winner
 - Foc’sle Trophy – Overall second place
 - Builder’s Trophy – Winner, first race

Topsham Plate – Winner, second race

Exe Enigma – Winner, third Race

Fulford Shield – Winner, fourth race

Devon Yawl Plate – Winner, fifth race

Zephyr Challenge Cup – Winner, sixth race

Dan Trout Trophy – First Topsham boat overall

Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

16.1 For further information please contact:

Devon Yawl National Championships 2026,

Royal Western Yacht Club,

Queen Anne's Battery

Plymouth PL4 0TW

Email: info@rwy.org