



ROYAL WESTERN  
YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND

# **Plymouth RACE WEEK**

## **2026**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Incorporating**

**Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race**

**Notice of Race**

# Notice of Race

Organising Authority (OA) – Royal Western Yacht Club of England (RWYC)

## 1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the 'Rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), Prescriptions and the following, as appropriate:
- (a) The 2026 Rules of the IRC.
  - (b) The 2026 Rules of the VPRS
  - (c) The 2026 RYA YTC Handicap Policy and Procedures.
  - (d) One Design class rules for One Designs and the J24 Class including their crew limits (if any)
- 1.2 Where there is conflict between this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail except that neither shall change nor alter a class rule. This changes Rule 63.7.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 the official website for details. See: <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/rules-disputes>
- 1.5 Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 1.6 The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard an IRC boat shall be the crew number printed on the certificate plus 2. There is no weight limit.
- 1.7 Competitors should note that the Royal Western Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and entrants will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found on the RYA website at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>

## 2. ADVERTISING

- 2.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1** Classes will be offered for IRC, VPRS, YTC and J24. Boats entering the IRC class must have a valid 2026 IRC rating certificate. Boats entering the VPRS class must have a valid 2026 VPRS rating certificate. Boats entering the YTC Class must have a valid 2026 YTC Handicap certificate as listed on the AERA YTC Website. Boats entering the J24 class to comply with J24 Class Rules.
- 3.2** IRC, VPRS and YTC classes have the option of entering either the 3 day or 2 day series. The J24 class the 2 day series. The 3 day series taking place over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the 2 day series taking place on the Saturday and Sunday.
- 3.3** All yacht classes shall sail together as one fleet in the Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race on the Thursday evening. This race is a stand-alone race not counting towards the final results. It is free entry for all Plymouth Race Week Entrants.
- 3.4** All yachts shall comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B, however any boats that cannot comply fully with those requirements may apply to the Organising Authority for written dispensation. The requirements of Appendix B can be found at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/offshore-special-regulations/>

### 3.5 ELIGIBLE BOATS MAY ENTER AS FOLLOWS.

- 3.4.1 The Plymouth Race Week Website can be found at <https://plymouthraceweek.co.uk/>
- 3.4.2 Entries can be made online or offline using the Plymouth Race Week 2026 Entry Form to be found at the website in 3.4.1
- 3.4.3 Entries to be received by 8th July 2026. Entries received after this date will be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 3.4.4 Early bird discounted entries made by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 and the regular full price entry fee will both be offered with a full 100% money back guarantee if for any reason you cannot attend. So it is advised to get your entry in early securing the substantial early bird discount and showing your intention to attend. This will help give confidence to the last minute entrant watchers and ensure a well-supported event.

### 4. ENTRY FEES:

Class and Series	Early Bird Entry Fee up to 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Standard Entry Fee From 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
IRC, VPRS & YTC 3 day series	£90	£130
IRC, VPRS, YTC & J24 2 day series	£70	£100

- 4.1** The Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race is free entry for all Plymouth Race Week Entrants

## 5. SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	TBC 1830  2000	On-line Briefing for all Classes and the Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race (Not counting towards the final results) Racing Supper & special bar promotions Plymouth Gin Sponsors Race prize giving & Plymouth Gin random bottle draws
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	1025  Straight off the water 1700 1930	First Warning Signal 1 <sup>st</sup> race of the day.  4 races scheduled for all classes.  Ice cold £1 stubby beers from barrel on outside deck for crews  Special bar promotions. Full social program and food available Day prize giving & Plymouth Gin random bottle draws
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	1025  Straight off the water 1700 1930	First Warning Signal 1 <sup>st</sup> race of the day.  4 races scheduled for all classes  Ice cold £1 stubby beers from barrel on outside deck for crews  Special bar promotions. Full social program and food available Day prize giving & Plymouth Gin random bottle draws
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	1025    1600	First Warning signal 1 <sup>st</sup> race of the day.  2 races scheduled for all classes  Day and Overall Prize giving

## 6. RACES

- 6.1** For the 3 day series there will be 4 races scheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July with 2 races scheduled for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The last race on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July starting no later than 1500.
- 6.2** For the 2 day series there will be 4 races scheduled for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, and 2 races scheduled for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The last race on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July starting no later than 1500.
- 6.3** At the discretion of the Race Committee, extra races in any day may be sailed, providing races become no more than two races ahead of schedule and any change made is according to the provisions of the Sailing Instructions.

## 7. MEASUREMENTS

- 7.1** Changes to the rating of an IRC boat other than upwards will not be allowed after 18.00hrs on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July unless the rating change is:
- (a) Due to an error made by RORC. In such a case the rating shall be corrected for all races.
  - (b) The result of a rating protest, when RRS 64.3 will apply together with the rules applicable to that rating system.

## **8. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Sailing Instructions will be available from the Race Week Office and on the Plymouth Race Week website at <https://plymouthraceweek.co.uk> by 1000 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026.

## **9 VENUE**

- 9.1** Racing will take place in or outside of Plymouth Sound (which extends 2.5nms South of Plymouth Breakwater) and surrounding waters. Refer Admiralty Chart 30: Plymouth Sound and Approaches

## **10. THE COURSES**

- 10.1** Types of course and location are class and weather dependent and will comprise Windward Leeward (W/L), Round the Cans (RTC) and a possible Short Coastal (SC)

## **11 SCORING**

- 11.1** The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply to all classes.
- 11.2** IRC Classes will be scored using IRC TCC's.
- 11.3** VPRS Classes will be scored using VPRS TCC's.
- 11.4** YTC Classes will be scored using YTC handicaps as listed in the YTC 2025 Port Lists.
- 11.5** J24 Class will be scored One Design
- 11.6** For the 3 day series 5 races are required to constitute a series. For the 2 day series 3 races are required to constitute a series.

## **12 DISCARDS**

### **12.1** For the 3 day series.

(a) When 5 or less races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When 6 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.

### **12.2** For the 2 day series.

(a) When 4 or less races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.

## **13 BERTHING**

**13.1** Discounted Berthing will be available in Queen Anne's Battery MDL marina for all Race Week entrants on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Book your discounted berthing direct with QAB Marina as soon as possible to reserve your space.

## **14 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**

**14.1** Yachts shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

## **15 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

**15.1** All boats shall carry a suitable VHF radio. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

## **16 PRIZES**

**16.1** After sailing each day Daily prizes will be awarded to all classes. Overall class prizes/trophies will be awarded to each class. A Yacht of the Week Prize will be awarded. Plymouth Gin random bottle draws will be made after sailing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## **18. RISK STATEMENT**

- 18.1** 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”.
- 18.2** 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 they;
- 18.2a** 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;
- 18.2b** they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- 18.2c** they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions and omissions;
- 18.2d** their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 18.2e** 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;
- 18.2f** provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- 18.3** The fact that the race committee may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this notice of race.

## **19 INSURANCE**

- 19.1** 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 boat adequately insured against any risk, including civil responsibility to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for the entirety of Plymouth Race Week 2026.

## **20 MEDIA WAIVER**

- 20.1** Competitors give their consent to the Royal Western Yacht Club and its sponsors, to use their name, comments, photograph and likeness in order to promote the Plymouth Race Week 2026 and subsequent events.

## **21 FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 21.1** For further information on IRC, VPRS, YTC and J24 Classes, please contact [secretary@plymouthraceweek.co.uk](mailto:secretary@plymouthraceweek.co.uk)

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