



ROYAL WESTERN
YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND

Torbay Weekend

2026

4th and 5th July

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**Organising Authority: The Royal Western Yacht Club of England
Plymouth, UK**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 The **TORBAY WEEKEND PLYMOUTH to TORBAY. TORBAY to PLYMOUTH RACE 2026** 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 prevail.
- 1.2 Racing rule(s) 44.1 are changed as follows:
 - 1.2.1 RRS 44.1 – is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty as described in SI 10.2.
- 1.3 Under RRS 87, IRC Class Rule 22.4 is changed so that:

“The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the crew number printed on the certificate plus two. There is no weight limit.”
- 1.4 The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2024 – 2025 **Category 4** shall apply. <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rulesregulations/offshore-special-regulations/> additionally, boats shall carry a life raft in accordance with WS Offshore Special Regulations 4.20.
- 1.5 The Race Committee may inspect any boat to ensure compliance with Offshore Special Regulation as detailed in NOR 1.4 and SI 1.5.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Torbay Weekend Event page of the RWYC website. <https://rwy.org/race/torbay-weekend-race-2026/> . This shall be regarded as the Official Notice board.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be communicated at the race briefing and by email to all competitors.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the RWYC main flag staff and/or on the Official Notice Board on the event website at <https://rwy.org/race/torbay-weekend-race-2026/>

5. SCHEDULE OF RACING

5.1 Dates of racing: 4th July and 5th July 2026.

5.2 The scheduled start times for each class shall be as follows:-

TIMES OF WARNING SIGNALS		
CLASS	PLYMOUTH TO TORBAY 4 th JULY 2026	TORBAY TO PLYMOUTH 5 th JULY 2026
IRC, VPRS and YTC	08.25	09.25
MOCRA	08.35	09.35

5.3 To alert boats that the sequence of races will begin soon an orange flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before the first warning signal is made.

5.4 Any boat that has not started within 10 minutes of her starting time will be scored DNC or DNS as appropriate.

6. CLASS FLAGS

6.1 Class Flags shall be flown from the backstay when racing as follows.

CLASS	FLAG No
YTC	4
IRC and VPRS	1
MOCRA	8

7. COURSES

7.1 All classes will use the same finish line. Details for each finish line are shown in the appropriate appendices for Torbay and Plymouth.

7.1.1 PLYMOUTH to TORBAY

After clearing Plymouth Sound breakwater all classes proceed directly to the finish line at Torbay (See Appendix B).

7.2 TORBAY to PLYMOUTH

7.2.1 All classes – proceed directly to the finish line at Plymouth. (See Appendix A)

8. SHORTENED COURSE

8.1 Courses will not be shortened.

9. START AND FINISH

9.1 See Appendix A for details of starting and finishing at Plymouth.

9.2 See Appendix B for details of finishing and starting at Torbay.

9.3 All yachts shall take their own finishing times at Torbay and Plymouth using GPS time, and noting the boat that finishes one position ahead and one position astern if possible. This information is to be retained by each skipper and given to the RWYC Race Committee representative on arrival.

- 9.4 In the event of a boat being over the line at the start, the race committee may broadcast on VHF (channel 77) the sail number of that boat, OR (if there are more than one boat over) the number of boats that were recorded over the line. Such transmission will not be made for at least one minute after the start. This changes but is in addition to Rule 28.1 Failure to make or receive such broadcasts will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 10.1 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 the below website for details. <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/rules-disputes>
- 10.2 The Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. This changes rule 44.1.
- 10.3 Discretionary penalties will be available to the Protest Committees.

11. TIME LIMITS

- 11.1 Any boat not finishing the Plymouth to Torbay race by 2000hrs on Saturday 4th July 2026 will be scored DNF.
- 11.3 Any boat not finishing the Torbay to Plymouth race by 1900hrs on Sunday 5th July 2026 shall be scored DNF.

12. PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 12.1 For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished that day's racing. 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.
- 12.2 Protests submissions are to be delivered to the RWYC representative within the protest time as follows:

Plymouth to Torbay leg at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

Torbay to Plymouth leg at the Royal Western Yacht Club.

Protests will be heard at the end of the regatta at the RWYC. Leg prizes will be awarded on a 'subject to protest basis'.

13. RETIREMENTS

- 13.1 Boats retiring shall report their retirement to the Race Committee as soon as possible but no later than 60 minutes after finishing or retiring. Retirements shall be reported via VHF Ch77 to the race committee call sign "Western", or by text to the race committee mobile as described in the Communication Document.

14. SCORING

- 14.1 The Torbay Weekend race scores will be calculated using a low point (LP) scoring system.
- 14.2 The Torbay Weekend races are part of the RWYC 6 race coastal series, together with the Triangle and 25 Miler and the series will be the total of the race series scores less one discard for every four races. All boats will be dual scored in the series under NHC performance handicap.

15. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 All yachts shall carry and operate a VHF radio and monitor race committee broadcasts. The Race Committee will use VHF Ch77, however signal will only work close to ports. The failure to receive any race committee transmissions shall not constitute grounds for redress. In all communications to the race committee please state your Class, name of yacht and sail number.

16. SELF STEERING

- 16.1 The use of self-steering devices is permitted.

17. PRIZES

- 17.1 Prizes will be awarded as follows:

The overall and each leg prize giving for the Torbay Weekend will be at the RWYC straight after racing at on the 5th July 2026 where a reception will be held.

The RWYC 6 Race Coastal Series prizes will be awarded and presented at the RWYC annual prize-giving.

In addition to the Torbay Weekend Race prize giving's after racing on the 5th July, as these races are part of the Ullman Sails Coastal Series (USPRS), additional Ullman Sails and Plymouth Gin random prizes may be awarded to those taking part.

- 17.3 To facilitate competitors to attend the prize giving and reception at the RWYC after racing from Torbay to Plymouth, free berthing (subject to space) at QAB Marina will be available for up to 3 hours to all competitors competing in the Torbay Weekend race on the 5th July 2026 straight after racing to participate in the post-race prize giving and reception. Please contact QAB direct on the day if you wish to use this facility informing them you are part of these RWYC races.

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."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a) 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;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

19. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 for the duration of the Series or the equivalent.

20. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Secretary, Royal Western Yacht Club, Queen Anne's Battery PL4 0TW - by email at admin@rwy.org.

Appendices

- A** Instructions for starting and finishing at Plymouth.
- B** Instructions for finishing and starting at Torbay.

APPENDIX A

PLYMOUTH

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.

An engine or other alternative means of propulsion shall be used when appropriate to avoid risk of collision with another vessel that is underway but not racing, or in a grave 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.

Start procedure Saturday 4th July 2026.

The start line will be positioned in Plymouth Sound and will be between the RWYC committee vessel (Fulmar) at the starboard end displaying an orange flag, and an orange inflatable buoy at the port pin end.

All boats shall pass close to the Committee Boat on the side opposite to the Start Line before the warning signal with mainsails hoisted for identification.

Scheduled start times will be as SI 5.2

Finish Procedure Sunday 5th July 2026.

Finishing at the RWYC club line will be by sailing in an easterly direction to pass an extension of a transit from the club flag mast and a yellow and black striped transit staff on the shore below it. The outer limit of the finish line is a line extending east – west through the mooring buoys on the northern boundary of the Controlled Mooring Area as explained below.

All boats are required to take their own finishing time and give it to the RWYC representative on arrival.

Skippers are reminded that adherence to SI 9.3 is mandatory. Take finishing time.

Prohibited Racing Area.

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.

APPENDIX B

TORBAY

Finish procedure Saturday 4th July 2026

The finish line is between the RTYC flagpole at the base of Haldon Pier and outer distance mark Green (approx. 50deg 27.29'N, 3deg 31.72'W).

All boats are required to take their own finishing time and give it to the RWYC representative on arrival.

Skippers are reminded that adherence to SI 9.3 is mandatory. Take finish time.

Start procedure Sunday 5th July 2026

The start line will be positioned in the bay of Torbay and will be between the mast on the committee boat displaying an Orange flag and a nearby mark or a white danbuoy with an Orange flag (Mark P).

All boats shall pass close to the Committee Boat on the side opposite to the Start Line before the warning signal with mainsails hoisted for identification.

Scheduled start times will be as SI 5.2