



**ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD YACHT CLUB  
NOTICE OF RACE**

**Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series  
Incorporating the Thistle Cup**



**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**The Organising Authorities are:  
the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club (RPEYC),  
the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC)  
and Balmain Sailing Club (BSC).**

**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The races will be governed by the current World Sailing (WS) Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as amended herein, the Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS), the Boating (Safety Equipment) Regulations of NSW, the Sailing Instructions, and this Notice of Race.
- 1.2. All boats shall have a current valid AS Special Regulations Category 7 Equipment Audit Form.
- 1.3. All boats must carry an operating marine band VHF radio capable of receiving normal international channels. The radio must be switched on at all times while racing and tuned to the correct Race Committee frequency.
- 1.4. All boats are required to provide crew contact details (including the skipper) to the SailSys Crew List or to RPEYC office by 1000 hours on each day the boat intends to race. Boats not complying with this requirement shall be scored DNC. This changes RRS 63.
- 1.5. In the event of any conflict between the rules or regulations, other than RRS, the Sailing Instructions will prevail.

**2. ADVERTISING**

The series will be subject to the advertising code as set out in World Sailing (WS) Regulation 20.

**3. ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1. All boats must be on the Register of the Couta Boat Association.
- 3.2. No boat will be allowed to start unless there is a minimum of three (3) persons aboard. Each boat shall have a competent adult crew member to leeward on watch at all times while racing.
- 3.3. All competitors shall conform to the AS Prescription RRS 46.
- 3.4. To be eligible for pointscores, boats must sail under the same ownership and be entered for the whole of that series.

3.5. A maximum of two (2) helmsmen may be detailed on the Entry. Any change of helmsman from those listed on the Entry must be notified to the RPEYC Office not later than 1500 hours on the day prior to the race and may result in a change of handicap.

#### **4. ENTRIES**

4.1. Eligible boats shall enter for the series on the Entry Form through an on-line entry on the RPEYC website. The entry must be authorised by the owner of the boat. For a valid entry competitors shall:

- a) Lodge a duly completed Entry by 1600hrs on Tuesday 20th October 2020. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- b) Accept the declaration detailed in clause 15.3 of this Notice of Race.
- c) Include the entry fee as stated on the Entry.
- d) Attach a current completed Category 7 (or higher) Australian Sailing Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form. A boat that does not supply a copy of this form to the RPEYC Office, or upload to the SailSys Compliance process, prior to the start shall be scored DNC (amends RRS 78.2).

4.2. The Entry includes the option to enter for the Thistle Cup or as a block entry for the whole Series. Boats that enter the whole series do not need to enter separately for the BSC or SASC events.

4.3. The Race Committee reserves the right to reject the entry of any boat (RRS 76.1).

4.4. The Entry Fee for the full Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series will be \$160, including GST. The Entry Fee for the Thistle Cup races only will be \$80, including GST.

#### **5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

5.1 The Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series shall be a point score series of handicap results for:

- Balmain Regatta on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Organising Authority is the Balmain Sailing Club).
- SASC Muriel Trophy race on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Organising Authority is SASC).
- Thistle Cup Race 1 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- Thistle Cup Race 2 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

5.2 Completion of at least two races shall constitute the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.

5.3 Racing for the 2020 "Thistle Cup" is scheduled to begin on Friday, 13th November 2020. The scheduled time of the first Warning Signal, unless notified otherwise, will be 1125 hours.

5.4 A maximum of two races shall be conducted for the Thistle Cup. The second race shall start as soon as practicable after the last boat has finished in the first race. Completion of at least one race shall constitute the Thistle Cup series.

#### **6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Sailing Instructions for the Thistle Cup regatta will be available approximately two weeks prior to the date of the regatta and will be available from the RPEYC Office or may be downloaded from the RPEYC Website. Separate Sailing Instructions will be available from the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club (SASC) for the Muriel Trophy race and Balmain Sailing Club for the Balmain Regatta race.

## **7. RACING AREA**

All races will be sailed on the waters of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour).

## **8. COURSES**

The races will be around harbour marks and islands as described in the Sailing Instructions.

## **9. PENALTY SYSTEM**

Rules 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that only a part- turn is required:

- a) On a leg to a windward mark, a part-turn is a gybe and luffing to a close-hauled course as soon as reasonably possible.
- b) On other legs a part-turn is a tack and bearing away as soon as reasonably possible to more than 90 degrees from the true wind.

## **10. SCORING**

- 10.1. The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A4, shall apply as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.2. The race results for the Balmain Regatta and Muriel Trophy races will be calculated by taking the elapsed time for each boat in those races and processing it through the RPEYC SailSys system, using the RPEYC series handicaps.
- 10.3. The pointscore for the Thistle Cup will be as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.4. The pointscore for the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series will be the combined points from the four races listed in paragraph 5.1 above. There will be no discards in the series.

## **11. HANDICAPS**

- 11.1 Handicaps will be arbitrary and will be at the discretion of the Race Committee, or their nominee. They will not be subject to Request for Redress (amends Rules 60.1 (b) and 62.1(a)).
- 11.2 Handicaps will be a Time Correction Factor (TCF) that will be applied at the finish. Handicaps may be adjusted after each race has been finalised.

## **12. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Race Frequency is VHF channel 73.
- 12.2 Boats that retire from a race before finishing shall notify the Race Officer on VHF 73, or phone 02 9327 3149, within the race time limit. Boats failing to do so may be scored DNC (Amends RRS 63).
- 12.3 No other transmissions are permitted by competing boats during each race from the first warning signal until the end of the race, except in an emergency.
- 12.4 The Race Committee may use the radio to advise competitors of race information.

## **13. SAIL NUMBERS**

- 13.1 A boat should sail under the sail number advised on its entry form.
- 13.2 A boat should display identical sail numbers on its sails.
- 13.3 The use of a sail displaying a different number to that on the entry form must be notified to the RPEYC Office not later than two (2) hours before the start of the race. A boat which displays an incorrect sail number and which has not notified the RPEYC Office may be subject to protest by the Sailing Committee.

## **14. PRIZES & TROPHIES**

- 14.1 The RPEYC “Thistle Cup” perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winner of the handicap point score over the two races comprising the regatta on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- 14.2 Prizes will also be awarded to the scratch point score winner and handicap point score place getters for the two races comprising the Thistle Cup regatta. Prizes will be presented at the RPEYC Clubhouse after the Thistle Cup races. All competitors are welcome to attend and a tender service will be provided.
- 14.2 In addition, a perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series. The winner will be calculated on the total handicap point scores for the four races and must start in all races conducted. Prizes will also be awarded to the handicap place getters in the Series.

## 15. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 15.1 **Risk Warning** - The Organising Authority advises owners, competitors and anyone who participates in sailing events conducted by the Organising Authority that participation in the sport of sailing, whether racing or otherwise, can be dangerous and can result in harm, personal injury and property damage. The Organising Authority is not responsible for any harm or injury suffered by any person in any sailing event of whatever nature conducted by the Organising Authority. All participants acknowledge that competing in sailing events may be dangerous and may result in harm or personal injury and they participate in such events aware of such dangers and voluntarily accept any risk of harm.
- 15.2 **Skippers Briefing** – The skipper of each boat shall have attended a safety briefing for the 2020/21 season held by a Yacht Club on Sydney Harbour.
- 15.3 **Competitors declaration** - It is the responsibility of owners and helmsmen to ensure that each boat nominated on the entry form complies with the ‘rules’ as defined in the WS Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020.  
The person who sign the Entry Form or completes the on-line entry, in doing so will have made a declaration to the Organising Authority that the nominated boat will at all times while racing comply with the requirements of Australian Sailing and the Sailing Instructions, including:
  - a. RRS 46 and its associated AS Prescriptions;
  - b. The Australian Sailing Prescriptions and Special Regulations;
  - c. Be covered by current Third Party Property Liability insurance and Third Party Personal Liability insurance of not less than \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each separate incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.
- 15.4 The person who signs and lodges the entry with the Organising Authority warrants to the Organising Authority that he or she will draw the attention of any person who competes on the boat the subject of the entry in any event conducted by the Organising Authority to the risk warning above;
- 15.5 The person who signs and lodges the entry with the Organising Authority acknowledging receipt of the risk warning above and releasing the Organising Authority from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury suffered by him, or by any person claiming through him, in any event conducted by the Organising Authority.
- 15.6 **Disclaimer of Liability**

- a. All those taking part in these races do so at their own risk and responsibility. Specific attention is drawn to RRS 4, which states; “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”. The Organising Authority, sponsors, respective class associations, the Race Committee and other race officials are not responsible for any damage or injury either afloat or ashore
- b. The Organising Authority, sponsors, respective class associations, the Race Committee and other race officials are not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.
- c. All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the Australian Sailing Special Regulations clause 1.02 Responsibility of the Person in Charge.

## **16. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS**

- 16.1 No litter shall be disposed of overboard
- 16.2 Boats shall not interfere with the Commercial or Defence shipping of the Port. The attention of skippers is drawn to NSW Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) regulations regarding the right of way of vessels entering or leaving port, ferries displaying orange diamonds and vessels engaged in towing. Details are provided in the Sailing Instructions. NSW RMS regulations specify “Priority over Sail – some Commercial Ferries on Sydney Harbour display an orange diamond shape which grants priority of way over sailing vessels. Do not attempt to cross the path of an approaching ferry displaying this signal”. Boats found to have interfered with commercial shipping may be subject to action by the Race Committee in accordance with RRS 60.2.
- 16.2 All boats must abide by traffic directions of NSW RMS Boating Service Officers. Any boat directed to stop or alter course by NSW RMS Boating Service Officers as a result of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/ collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
- 16.3 Any boats reported by NSW RMS as having contravened NSW RMS regulations shall be disqualified without a hearing. (changes RRS 63.1). Any alleged infringement of this clause shall not be grounds for protest by another competitor (changes RRS 60.1).
- 16.4 The attention of any competitors involved in an accident is drawn to the requirements of NSW RMS in case of accident (Marine Safety Act 2016 – sec 98). Competitors are required to notify the RPEYC of any contact incident (with another boat or obstruction) occurring during racing whether or not it results in a Race Protest or a report to NSW RMS. RPEYC is obliged under the terms of its Aquatic Licence to prepare a report of all contact incidents occurring during racing whether or not injury or an insurance claim results.
- 16.5 Any change of helmsman from those listed on the Entry Form must be notified to the RPEYC office not later than 1500 hours on the day prior to the race and may result in a change of handicap.

16.6 COVID-19 Requirements - It is the responsibility of owners and skippers to ensure that they have read, understood and comply with the RPEYC COVID-19 protocols including but not limited to hygiene, distancing and crew recording and tracing requirements.

**17. INSURANCE**

Each boat shall have adequate current Third Party Property Liability insurance cover and Third Party Personal Liability insurance cover of not less than \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each separate incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.

**18. FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information please contact the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club Office on (02) 9363 5809 or email: [sailing@rpeyc.com.au](mailto:sailing@rpeyc.com.au).

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