



ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD YACHT CLUB NOTICE OF RACE



Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series 2023
Incorporating the
Thistle Cup (20th October)
Muriel Trophy and (21st October)
Balmain Regatta (29th October)

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

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-24 (RRS) and the prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing applicable to Category 7 races.
- 1.2 All competitors shall conform to the AS Prescription RRS 46.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 All boats must be on the Register of the Couta Boat Association.
- 2.2 No boat will be allowed to start unless there is a minimum of three persons aboard. Each boat will have a competent adult crew member to leeward on watch at all times while racing.
- 2.3 To be eligible for pointscores, boats must sail under the same ownership and be entered for the whole of the series.

3. ENTRY

- 3.1 Eligible boats may enter online by using the RPEYC website Race Entry process into the SailSys system. Boats that enter the whole series do not need to enter separately for the SASC or BSC events
- 3.2 All boats entering shall upload a copy of a current completed Category 7 (or higher) Equipment Audit Form and a current third-party insurance certificate (refer to paragraph 15 below) to the boat's Compliance page in SailSys, or forward to the RPEYC Sailing Office at sailing@rpeyc.com.au by the relevant entry closing date and time.
- 3.3 Series entries must be received by 1700hr on Monday 16th October 2023. Casual entries must be received by 1000hr on the day prior to the race.
- 3.4 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee
- 3.5 The Race Committee reserves the right to reject the entry of any boat (RRS 76.1).

- 3.6 The Entry Fee for the series is \$180, including GST.
The Entry Fee for Thistle Cup only is \$90, including GST.
The Entry Fee for casual entries is \$50 per race, including GST.

4. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 4.1 The series shall be a point score of scratch and handicap results for four races:
- a) Thistle Cup Race 1 on Friday 20th October 2023.
 - b) Thistle Cup Race 2 on Friday 20th October 2023.
 - c) SASC Muriel Trophy race on Saturday 21st October 2023 (Organising Authority is SASC). Warning signal at approximately 1255, to be confirmed by SASC Sailing Instructions.
 - d) Balmain Regatta, Couta Division, race on Sunday 29th October 2023 (Organising Authority is Balmain Sailing Club (BSC)). Warning signal at approximately 1100, to be confirmed by BSC Sailing Instructions.
- 4.2 Completion of at least two races shall constitute the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.
- 4.3 Racing for the 2023 "Thistle Cup" is scheduled to be on Friday, 20th October 2023. The scheduled time of the first Warning Signal, unless notified otherwise, will be 1125 hours.
- 4.4 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.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions for the Thistle Cup will be available at least two weeks prior to the date of the first race 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 and Balmain Sailing Club (BSC) for the Balmain Regatta races

6. RACING AREA

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

7. COURSES

The races will be around marks and islands in Sydney Harbour, as described in the Sailing Instructions.

8. 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.

RRS 44.3 shall not apply.

9. SCORING

- 9.1 The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A4 and 5.2, shall apply as detailed in the Sailing Instructions. There will be no discards in the series.
- 9.2 The race results for the Muriel Trophy and Balmain Regatta races for the purposes of the series point score, will be calculated by taking the elapsed time for each boat, as recorded by SASC or BSC, and processing it through the RPEYC SailSys system, using the RPEYC series handicaps.
- 9.3 The pointscore for the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series will be the combined handicap points from the four races listed in paragraph 4.1 above.

10. HANDICAPS

- 10.1 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)).
- 10.2 Handicaps will be a Time Correction Factor (TCF). Handicaps may be adjusted after each race.
- 10.3 Determinations or decisions by the race committee about allocation to divisions or handicaps shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
- 10.4 Handicaps will be advised on the list of entries available from the RPEYC website, SailSys or the RPEYC office.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

All boats shall carry an operating marine band VHF radio capable of receiving normal marine international channels. The radio must be always switched on and tuned to the correct race committee frequency as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

12. RISK WARNING

- 12.1 Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by reasonable and experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to significant risk of property damage, physical harm and possibly death.
- 12.2 As an indication, these risks may include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) The extremes of weather and sea conditions.
 - (b) The potential that control of vessels may be lost, resulting in collision with objects and other vessels.
 - (c) The sudden movement of the vessel at any time and the possibility that participants may fall or be thrown overboard, resulting in drowning or exposure injury.
 - (d) The possibility that participants may be injured by equipment on the vessel.
 - (e) The absence of immediate medical care and the possibility that significant delays may occur before medical care is available.
 - (f) Exposure to the elements for extended periods.
- 12.3 Participants are also advised that although the Organising Authority is covered by third party liability insurance, this cover does not extend to participants. Any participant who considers they have a need for insurance must make their own private arrangements with an insurer.

- 12.4 Owners and persons in charge of boats shall ensure that all participants on their boats are aware of this risk warning.

13. DISCLAIMER

All those taking part in the event do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Organising Authorities and their race officials accept no liability for any damage or injury in connection with the event and Owners release the Organising Authorities from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury in connection with the event.

14. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall 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 incident. All insurance cover shall be maintained during the period of racing.

15 PRIZES & TROPHIES

- 15.1 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 20th October 2023.
- 15.2 Prizes will also be awarded to the scratch and handicap point score first, second and third 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. Berths alongside the pontoon will also be available.
- 15.3 A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the handicap winner of the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.
- 15.4 Prizes may also be awarded to the scratch and handicap point score first, second and third place getters in the Sydney Harbour Couta Boat Series.

16. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

- 16.1 **Skippers Briefing** – The skipper of each boat shall have attended a safety briefing for the 2023-24 season held by a Yacht Club on Sydney Harbour. Arrangements will be made for visiting skippers to attend an online briefing prior to the first race.
- 16.2 **Skipper** - Any change of skipper 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.
- 16.3 **Couta Boat Rules Compliance** – The penalty for breach of a Couta Boat class rule is at the discretion of the protest committee.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

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