

VAUCLUSE YACHT CLUB

YACHT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2023-2024

RULES

1. CONDUCT OF RACING

The racing will be governed by:

- A. The “World Sailing” Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021-2024);
- B. The Prescriptions and Safety Regulations of “Australian Sailing”
- C. The Boating (safety equipment) Regulations NSW, and
- D. These general Sailing Instructions.

2. ADVERTISING

VYC races will be classified as Category A in accordance with Appendix 1 of section 11 of the RRS unless specific reference is made to advertising in an event.

3. ALTERNATE PENALTY for infringing a rule of Part 2 of the RRS.

The penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 shall be a One Turn Penalty (one tack and one gybe in the same direction) except that for infringements occurring within the Zone as defined in the current RRS the penalty shall be a Two Turns Penalty (two tacks and two gybes in the same direction). This changes RRS 44.1 and 44.2

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on

- a) The VYC website at vaucloseyachtclub.com.au
- b) The VYC Whatsapp group chat
- c) the Official Notice Board at the VYC clubhouse by 1200 hours on the day of the race.

These may contain additional information and may supersede the sailing instructions. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flag mast.

3. COMMITTEE VESSEL

The Committee Vessel will display the VYC burgee.

4. STARTING LINE

Between the signal mast on the Committee Vessel and the day glow or black and white inflatable buoy marked VYC in black. Another style of buoy may be substituted where the race committee reasonably considers there is no danger of confusion to competitors.

5. FINISHING LINE

Between the signal mast on the Committee Vessel (displaying a VYC burgee and blue “on station flag”) and an orange inflatable or black and white buoy marked VYC in black. The finishing line must be crossed from the direction of the last mark.

6. COURSES

The course to be sailed will be displayed on a sign located on the cabin of the Committee Boat. Separate course sheets for the Yacht Division are attached and are also available at the inquiry desk.

7. PROTESTS

Must be delivered to a member of the Race Committee within two hours of the finishing time of the last boat in the division, detailing the subject of the protest. Protests must conform to RRS 61. Hearings will be held at a time and place as directed by the Committee.

8. POSTPONEMENT, CANCELLATION & ABANDONMENT

In accordance with RRS rules 27.3 and 32

9. RECALLS

INDIVIDUAL-Individual recalls will be in accordance with RRS rule 29.1. The yacht’s sail Number may be hailed. Failure to make a hail or failure by a hailed yacht to hear the hail will not be grounds for redress.

GENERAL-General recalls will be in accordance with RRS29.2.

10. CONTROL

The committee will have control of all matters connected with racing and will fix race entry fees, determine handicaps, set courses, divide yachts into divisions at its discretion and will decide any question which may arise which is not provided for in these instructions, but a yacht will always have the right of appeal to “ Australian Sailing” against a disqualification as a result of a protest.

11. ENTRIES

All entries are subject to the approval of the Race Committee. All yachts are required to lodge a block entry and pay Race Entry Fees as determined by the Committee. Yacht owners or their representatives are required to complete the 'Sign on sheet' at the inquiry desk prior to each race. Boats unable to sign on at the clubhouse are required to report their intentions to the starter on the start boat. Only entries nominated on the entry form are allowed to race.(boats are not interchangeable)

12. ELIGIBILITY

A member of a recognized yacht club and member of the "Australian Sailing" National Membership Scheme will be in charge of each yacht competing in a race conducted by the club. All crew are also required to have a current valid AS membership.

Change of regular helmsman must be notified to a member of the Sailing Committee at least two hours prior to the race. A yacht may be disqualified for failing to notify. The Committee reserves the right to alter the handicap.

13. ALTERATIONS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Race Committee reserves the right to alter the Sailing Instructions at its discretion. Alterations to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the notice board and will be deemed to be incorporated herein from the effective date notified.

14. MOTORS

A yacht may be propelled by motor or towed until 4 minutes before the nominated time for the start signal of its division.

15. NUMBER OF STARTERS

Unless three yachts start in a division in a club race, it will be at the Race Committee's discretion to cancel that race or withhold points awarded for that race. The Race Committee at its discretion may cancel a series and not award trophies if it is deemed that there were insufficient starters in a series.

16. POINT SCORE/DISCARDS

The Low Point scoring system RRS Appendix A applies

Spring series will consist of 5 races, 1 drop.

Summer series will consist of 7 races, 2 drops.

Autumn series will consist of 4 races, 1 drop.

The CCIS will consist of 7 races and is separate from the VYC point score.

There shall be four discards for the overall yacht division season point score.

The club championship will be awarded to the overall winner of the three VYC series.

Each seasonal series will have a winning yacht.

17. SAIL NUMBERS

Yachts must sail under the sail number advised on its entry form and shown on the list of entries. Permission to carry a sail displaying a different number to that shown on the list of entries for a race must be obtained from the Race Committee prior to the warning signal of its division. Yachts sailing with sails carrying unrecorded numbers may be disqualified.

18. ALTERATIONS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE –All classes-All races

Any changes in hull, engine or propeller, trim, spars or sails must be notified to the Class Captain at least 24hrs prior to the race affected by the change

Any change to the helmsman or crews who have skills that may significantly be deemed to improve a yacht's performance must be notified to the Class Captain at least 24hrs prior to the race affected by the change

In all classes where the handicapper has not been given the opportunity to adjust the handicap, the right is reserved to make summary adjustment at any time when the change is brought to the attention of the Committee.

19. SAFETY CERTIFICATE

All entrants in the VYC Yacht Division require a current safety certificate to Category 7 (or higher) unless otherwise specified. All yachts shall have lodged a copy of their safety compliance form to the Sailing Committee before they are eligible to race.

20. CARDINAL MARKS

Cardinal Marks constitute Boundary Marks for all courses and must be passed on the safe side from the danger which they mark (e.g. yachts must pass on the west side of a West Cardinal Mark) except the Junction Buoy (sea buoy)

21. KEEPING CLEAR OF THE STARTING LINE

Competitors not actually engaged in starting **MUST KEEP CLEAR** of the starting line by a minimum of 50 metres prior to their warning signal. Yachts not adhering to this instruction may, at the discretion of the race committee, be disqualified.

23. ANCHORS

Anchors are to be removed from bow fittings when racing.

24. LATE STARTERS

Competitors starting more than 15 minutes after their starting signal may be recorded as (did not start).

25. LATE FINISHERS

The Race Official aboard the Committee Vessel may at their discretion allocate finishing times to competitors that are well behind the bulk of the fleet and/or leave the finishing line.

26. TIME LIMIT

The time limit shall be three (3) hours from the starting signal. Boats finishing 30 minutes after the first boat of its class finishes or after the time limit which ever is later, will be scored "did not finish" No race shall start after 1630 hours except for the laser division, when the first race of the day has been started and the starter deems the conditions suitable to continue with the final race of the day.

27. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

WATERWAYS AUTHORITY REGULATIONS SPECIFY THAT SAILING VESSELS MUST NOT INTERFERE WITH THE COMMERCIAL SHIPPING OF THE PORT.

Vessels found to have interfered with commercial shipping may be disqualified.

27.1.

NSW Maritime has published a regulation that places an “exclusion zone” around Manly ferries whilst they are underway. The exclusion zone extends 200 metres forward of the bow of the ferry and 30 metres from each side and the stern. No sailing vessel is to enter this zone whilst the ferry is under way. If a formal complaint is received from either Sydney Ferries or NSW Maritime against a sailing vessel interfering with the passage of a ferry or commercial shipping, the sailing vessel shall be disqualified from the race by the Race Committee without a hearing.

28. INSURANCE

All owners of vessels competing in VYC events must hold current and adequate insurance to cover possible property and personal damage claims. Furthermore, all owners are to ensure that the vessel's insurance fulfils this requirement under racing conditions.

The minimum 3rd party insurance cover for yachts is ten (10) million dollars.

All owners are required to present a copy of their insurance papers on registering their vessel for racing.

29. STARTING TIMES

Yacht division warning signal (class flag)...	5 minutes	1.45pm
Yacht division preparatory flag(P).....	4 minutes	1.46pm
Yacht preparatory flag removed.....	1 minute	1.49pm
Yacht Division start.....	0 minutes	1.50pm

The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class

At the discretion of the sailing committee a boat may receive permission to start at an earlier time allotted by the starter and will not be considered OCS. The boats elapsed time will be considered when results are calculated.

30. RESPONSIBILITIES

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 boats decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”. The VYC, any sponsors, respective class associations, the Race Committee and other race officials are not responsible for any damage or injury either afloat or ashore.

The VYC, any 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.

All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the “Australian Sailing” Special Regulations Clause 1.02 Owners Responsibility.

31. RISK WARNING

This RISK WARNING is issued jointly by the Vaucluse Yacht Club and the NSW Maritime Authority, pursuant to the Civil Liability Act 2002 to all persons wishing to participate in the sailing activities conducted by the Vaucluse Yacht Club.

Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to significant risk of property damage, physical harm and possibly death.

As an indication, these risks may include, but are not limited to:

- The extremes of weather and sea conditions.
- The potential that control of vessels may be lost, resulting in collision with objects and other vessels.
- The sudden movement of the vessel at any time and the possibility that participants may fall or be thrown overboard, resulting in drowning.
- The possibility that participants may be injured by equipment on the vessel.
- The absence of immediate medical care and the likelihood that significant delays may occur before medical care is available.
- Exposure to the elements for extended periods.

Vaucluse Yacht Club and the NSW Maritime Authority also warn participants that regardless of their best intentions, they may be unable to render assistance to participants who are in distress.

Participants are warned to consider the above risks and all other risks before deciding to participate in any sailing event with Vaucluse Yacht Club.

Participants are also advised that although the Vaucluse Yacht Club is covered by third party insurance, this cover DOES NOT extend to participants. Any participant who considers they have a need for insurance must take out their own private arrangements with an insurer. A personal accident insurance policy is available with subscription to membership of Yachting NSW.