

# PORT STEPHENS YACHT CLUB SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

In effect from 01 September 2019

## 1. RULES

1.1. Port Stephens Yacht Club races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020, Yachting Australia Prescriptions and Yachting Australia Special Regulations, as modified by these Sailing Instructions.

1.2. These Sailing Instructions incorporate the following documents published on the PSYC website <https://www.psy.com.au/>:

- 1.2.1. PSYC Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter Sailing Programs
- 1.2.2. PSYC Course Sheets (Division 1 and Division 2)
- 1.2.3. PSYC Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter Sailing Program Notices of Race (NOR's) & Notices of Event (NOE's)
- 1.2.4. Handicap Start Procedures
- 1.2.5. Race Handicapping and Scoring System

## 1.3. SPECIAL YACHT PROVISIONS

1.3.1.1. All yachts must carry a serviceable motor in an accessible position.

1.3.1.2. Category 6 yachts may be fitted with a bilge pump of 25 mm diameter in lieu of a self draining cockpit.

1.3.1.3. The PSYC burgee may be flown during racing and is encouraged.

1.3.1.4. All yachts must carry a radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Ch 77 in accordance with YA Special Regulation Part 1 3.25.1. regardless of Safety category chosen and are required to keep the radio on and tuned to VHF Ch 77 prior to and during all PSYC events they are participating in.

1.3.1.5. All yachts are required to have a number on their mainsail (either class or registered number of the PSYC or another club).

1.3.1.6. Declared non-swimmers must wear a personal flotation device type 1 or 2 while participating in PSYC events.

1.3.1.7. Single handed sailors must wear appropriate PFD at all times while participating in PSYC events.

## 1.4. SPECIAL EVENT PROVISIONS

1.4.1.1. All races or events will be cancelled when a Gale Warning is posted for the Hunter Coast by the Bureau of Meteorology on its website that is current on the day of the event at 1115hrs.

1.4.1.2. Offshore races will be replaced by an Inshore race when a Strong Wind Warning is posted for the Hunter Coast by the Bureau of Meteorology on its website that is current on the day of the event at 1115hrs.

## 1.5. OFFSHORE ISLAND RACES

1.5.1.1. Offshore Island race entrants must have a valid Equipment Audit Certificate, at least Category 5 as prescribed by YA Special Regulations, if race is sailed in daylight hours. If a night race, then Category 5N is required.

1.5.1.2. The NOR for Offshore Island races contain additional clauses for the conduct of those races. Those procedures have priority over these instructions where clauses conflict. In particular the start line, start and finish procedures, and courses are specifically covered.

## 1.6. ENTRIES

### 1.6.1.1. Eligibility

1.6.1.2. PSYC events are open to keel boat, trailer sailer and multihull classes that are racing members of the PSYC and have a current Equipment Audit Certificate for at least Category 6 for yachts with accommodation or Category 7 for yachts without accommodation; OR eligibility as defined in the relevant Notice of Race.

1.6.1.3. Eligible boats may enter by completing the Series Entry Form and sending it to the Vice Commodore or Race Officer, PSYC, PO Box 319, Nelson Bay NSW 2315, OR delivering it to the club **before their first race.**

1.6.1.4. When completing the Series Entry Form, owner(s)/skipper(s) must nominate to compete in either Division 1 or Division 2 (not both). Once a yacht has been entered to compete in one of the Divisions, it will remain in that Division for the entire Spring/Summer/Autumn series. There is no criteria for entry in either Division, simply that Division 2 will sail shorter courses based on the PSYC Inshore

Course Sheet Division 2 2018/19 published on the PSYC website <https://www.psy.com.au/> .

- 1.6.1.5. Visiting keel boats, trailer sailers and multihulls may sail three (3) races without becoming racing members of the PSYC provided that they:
  - 1.6.1.5.1. Are a Member of Australian Sailing.
  - 1.6.1.5.2. Have insurance cover in accordance with the insurance clause of these instructions.
  - 1.6.1.5.3. Have a current Equipment Audit Certificate of at least Category 6 for inshore races and if sailing in an off-shore race, comply with the Ocean Races clause for offshore races.
- 1.6.1.6. It is required that regular crew (ie. Persons sailing more than three races in a racing year) must be full members of the PSYC in the appropriate racing membership category or junior members. Loss of points will apply if a yacht is found to be in breach of this requirement at the discretion of the Race Committee.

#### **1.6.2. Ranking as a Starter**

- 1.6.2.1. To be accepted as a race entry a yacht must:
  - 1.6.2.1.1. Have a valid Equipment Audit Certificate lodged with PSYC, prior to their first race,
  - 1.6.2.1.2. Comply with **safety regulations-log on/log off** clause of these instructions,
  - 1.6.2.1.3. Have insurance coverage in accordance with the insurance clause of these instructions,
  - 1.6.2.1.4. Have paid the appropriate membership fees, or
  - 1.6.2.1.5. Be a visiting yacht and comply with the eligibility clause above.
- 1.6.2.2. A yacht that has been accepted as an entry and sails in the vicinity of the start line at the preparatory signal ranks as a competitor.
- 1.6.2.3. A yacht that is a competitor ranks as a starter when any part of her hull or equipment in its normal position first crosses the start line in the direction of the first mark after her starting signal.

## **2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1. Notices regarding changes, amendments or addendums to Notices of Races, and Race Program, or results of races will be posted on the official notice board located in the PSYC Clubhouse and on the Club Website, or communicated to each yacht by the Race Starter on VHS CH77 before her warning signal (RRS Rule 90.2(c)).

## **3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1. These Sailing Instructions may be altered, varied, deleted or added to by displaying a written notice in the form of an amendment or addendum on the PSYC Web Site and Notice Board prior to two hours before the start of the first race affected on the day it will take effect, or communicated to each yacht by the Race Starter on VHS CH77 before her warning signal (RRS Rule 90.2(c)).
- 3.2. All changes to the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions will be deemed to be permanent changes, unless otherwise stated.

## **4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the PSYC signal mast near the Soldiers Point boat ramp.
- 4.2. When flag Y is displayed ashore, (Personal Floation Devices to be worn) RRS Rule 40 applies whilst the flag is displayed.

## **5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1. The race schedule is published in the PSYC Spring, Summer, Autumn Sailing Program and PSYC Winter Sailing Program.
- 5.2. To be an official race, there must be a minimum of three starters.
- 5.3. Abandoned races may be rescheduled.
- 5.4. Races will not be started more than 1 hour after the scheduled starting time.
- 5.5. In all cases (eg. Pointscore, Sternchaser, Marathon, Offshore Island, Wednesday Afternoon, Sprints) one race completed constitutes a Series.

**6. CLASS FLAGS**

**6.1.** All yachts will race in Divisions as advised by the Race Committee.

**6.1.1.** Division 1 yachts shall display a yellow class flag from the backstay or an equivalent visible position.

**6.1.2.** Division 2 shall display a green class flag from the backstay or an equivalent visible position.

**7. RACING AREAS**

**7.1.** Racing areas are as per the PSYC Course sheets published on the PSYC website <https://www.psy.com.au/>.

**8. THE COURSES AND MARKS**

**8.1.** Courses and rounding marks are detailed in the published PSYC Course Sheets for Division1 and Division 2.

**8.2.** The course to be sailed will be notified by the code flag/s designated for each course and flown from the PSYC signal mast located on the shore at the start/finish line for races starting at Soldiers Point, or from a Committee boat for gate starts or other start line locations. Courses may be advised by Starters from time to time by VHF radio (Ch77) for clarification, course change or if signal flags are not readily visible.

**8.3.** All navigation markers must be obeyed according to rules as published in the current NSW RMS Boating Manual as amended from time to time.

**8.4.** Pass SOUTH of all starboard channel markers between Manton Bank and Shoal Bay.

**8.5.** Marks detailed in the PSYC Course Sheets are to be left to STARBOARD unless denoted by (P), in which case they should be left to PORT.

**9. START and FINISH LINES**

**9.1.** The club start/finish line is a transit line through the PSYC signal mast and the pole at the water's edge in the vicinity of the mast.

**9.2.** The northern limit to the start/finish line is the Middle Island isolated danger cardinal mark (marking Fly Rock).

**9.3.** When finishing from east to west, Middle Island and the isolated danger pole must be kept to starboard. The start/finish line is only a start line at the start of the race and a finish line at the end of the race. Course sheets for PSYC races prescribe which side of Middle Island, the Middle Island isolated danger cardinal mark pole is included as an extension of Middle Island during a race.

**10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

**10.1.** Areas bound by moorings are designated as obstructions.

**10.2.** Yachts entering or crossing prohibited areas will be disqualified. (The licensed Jet Ski area to the NORTH of the channel mark off Nelson Bay harbour is a prohibited area marked by buoys).

**11. THE START**

**11.1. Signals**

**11.1.1.** In races where the club's start line is being used, signals made ashore will be displayed on the PSYC signal mast located in the vicinity of the Soldiers Point boat ramp.

**11.2.** PSYC start procedures will be in accordance with the RRS system, Part 3, Rule 26, as follows:

<b>SIGNAL</b>	<b>FLAG and SOUND</b>	<b>MINUTES to START</b>
WARNING	Division or White Flag, One Sound	5
PREPARATORY	Preparatory (P) Flag, One Sound	4
ONE MINUTE	Preparatory Flag Removed, One Long Sound	1
STARTING	Division or White Flag Removed, One Sound	0

### **11.3. Recalls**

#### **11.3.1. Individual Recall (RRS Part 3 Rule 29.1)**

**11.3.1.1.** When at the starting signal any part of the hull, crew and/or equipment of one or more yachts are on the course side of the start line, the starter may signal an Individual Recall by displaying Code Flag 'X' and a single sound signal and/or a radio call on VHF Ch77.

**11.3.1.2.** Yachts deemed OCS at the starting signal will incur the greater of a 5% finish time or 5 minutes time penalty in addition to any estimated OCS duration as determined by the Club Starter, or any penalty imposed by the Race Committee.

#### **11.3.2. General Recall (RRS Part 3 Rule 29.2)**

**11.3.2.1.** When there are either a number of unidentified premature starters or an error in starting procedure, the starter may signal a General Recall by displaying the First Substitute Pennant and may draw attention to this signal by two short consecutive sound signals and/or a radio call on VHF Ch77.

**11.3.2.2.** The Warning Signal (5 min) for the restart will be made one minute after the First Substitute Pennant is lowered. One sound signal may be made on such lowering, and/or a radio call on VHF Ch77.

### **11.4. Postponement**

**11.4.1.** The starter may elect to postpone the start for any reason by flying the Answering Pennant in accordance with RRS Part 3 Rule 27.3.

**11.4.2.** The Warning Signal (5 min) for the start of the race will be made one minute after the Answering Pennant is lowered. One sound signal may be made on such lowering, together with a radio call on VHF Ch77.

### **11.5. Start Time Limit**

**11.5.1.** A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS.

## **12. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK**

**12.1.** If a mark is missing the race will be abandoned, or changed as per para 3.2.

## **THE FINISH**

**12.2.** The finish line is as per start and finish lines of these instructions.

### **12.3. Shortening and Abandoning**

**12.4.** The course may be shortened by the starter displaying the Code Flag 'S' at the PSYC signal mast at any time prior to any yacht crossing the finish line after starting.

**12.5.** The flag signal may be accompanied by a sound signal and/or radio call. Yachts will then finish when they next cross the finish line.

**13.5** If a Code Flag Numeral '1' is displayed below the Code Flag 'S', all yachts shall sail to the next designated mark for the nominated course, pass it on the required side and then proceed directly to the finish. This signal will also be accompanied by a sound signal and a radio message to clarify which mark is "the next designated mark for the nominated course."

**13.5.1** If the Code Flag 'S' is displayed from a Committee boat at a rounding mark, yachts will finish between the mark and the Committee boat.

**13.5.2** The race may be abandoned by displaying Code Flag 'N'.

### **12.6. Finish Times**

**12.6.1.** For races finishing at Soldiers Point, if the club burgee is not flying from the PSYC signal mast, a yacht shall take its own finish time, and notify the Vice Commodore, Starter or a Racing Committee member before 2130 hours on the day of the race.

**12.6.2.** Failure to notify a finish time by 2130 hours on the day of the race will result in a DNF being recorded by the yacht.

**12.6.3.** For ocean races not finishing at Soldiers Point, a yacht shall take its own finish time and notify the finish time in accordance with the Ocean Race Procedures.

## **13. PENALTY SYSTEM**

**13.1.** The 720 degree penalty turn prescribed in RRS Rule 44.2 applies for breaking rules of Part 2 of the racing rules and the 360 degree penalty turn prescribed in RRS Rule 31 applies for touching a mark.

**13.2.** The Race Committee at its discretion may amend RRS 44.2 from 720 degree to a 360 degree penalty turn for short duration races. This amendment will be posted on the PSYC Web Site and the PSYC Notice Board when applicable.

- 13.3.** Exoneration for hitting the above water part of the islands or marks, in the case of Middle Island and isolated danger pole, Snapper Island or oyster racks and One Tree Island and oyster racks, shall be a 360 degree penalty turn, as prescribed by RRS Rule 31 for touching a mark.
- 13.4.** If a yacht is in immediate danger of damage due to collision with the shore or rocks then propulsion using an engine will be allowed. The engine may be used only until the yacht is clear of danger and in doing so should not gain an advantage with respect to distance or the yachts momentum to the next mark. The yacht involved will take a two turn penalty (720 degrees) to be completed as soon as possible after the engine has stopped. This changes Rule 42.3h.
- 13.5.** To get clear after grounding or collision with another boat or object, a boat may use force applied by the crew of either boat and any equipment including a propulsion engine provided that the boat does not gain an advantage in the race. The yacht involved will take a two turn penalty (720 degrees) to be completed as soon as possible after the engine has stopped. This changes Rule 42.3g.

## **14. TIME LIMITS**

### **14.1. Inshore**

**14.1.1.** The following time limits apply:

- 1800 hours for summer program races
- 1700 hours for winter program races and
- 2000 hours for marathon races, or
- official sunset for Wednesday Afternoon races;

**14.1.2.** All racing shall cease at official sunset except for programmed night races.

**14.1.3.** If no boats finish within the time limits, the race committee shall abandon the race.

**14.1.4.** Due to safety implications, failure to notify a finish time by 2130 hours on the day of the race will result in a DNF being recorded for the yacht.

### **14.2. Offshore**

**14.2.1.** There is no time limit for Offshore Island races.

## **15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

**15.1.** Protests shall be in accordance with RRS Part 5.

**15.2.** Protests shall be written on Protest Forms available at the clubhouse and shall be delivered to the Vice Commodore or Race Officer within 2 hours of the yacht finishing.

**15.3.** The Vice Commodore or Race Office may offer or appoint an arbitrator to the protestor prior to the conduct of a Protest Committee in accordance with RRS Appendix T.

**15.4.** A protest may not necessarily be heard on the day that it is lodged.

**15.5.** A protest fee of \$10.00 will be paid by the protesting yacht to be refunded if the protest is successful.

**15.6.** Decisions of the jury will be final as provided in Rule 70.5.

## **16. SCORING, HANDICAPPING AND PRIZES**

### **16.1. SCORING AND HANDICAPPING**

**16.1.1.** The Race Committee will determine results and scoring where applicable to a series.

**16.1.2.** Handicaps will be maintained by the Race Committee and advised by the Race Officer.

**16.1.3.** A yacht without a handicap will be allocated one by the designated handicapper or Race Officer.

### **16.2. PRIZES**

**16.2.1.** Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the PSYC.

## **17. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

### **17.1. LOG-ON/LOG-OFF BY RADIO**

**17.1.1.** Prior to the race preparatory signal, all yachts intending to race must log on with the Starter and advise the number of persons on board. Logging on may be done by radio to the "Club Starter", using VHF Ch 77 (unless otherwise advised).

**17.1.2.** It **is mandatory** that yachts leave their radios and tuned to VHF Ch77 on during the course of all PSYC events.

**17.1.3.** Logging off after the finish **is mandatory**.

**17.1.4.** A DNF yacht MUST log off. If radio contact with the Starter is not possible, then a member of the Racing Committee must be advised by 2130 hours of the safe return of the vessel. A yacht failing to report will be awarded DNF (Did Not Finish) points for the race.

**17.1.5.** All communication is on **VHF Ch 77** to the "Club Starter" unless advised otherwise.

**17.2.** All yachts taking part must have a valid and current Equipment Audit certificate (signed by an accredited Equipment Auditor) to qualify as a starter in any race or participate in any PSYC event.

**17.3.** Australian Sailing Special Regulations (Addendum A Part 1) Category 3 is the minimum requirement for yachts entering PSYC ocean races if sailed during the night, Category 5 for ocean races and Category 6 for all other race categories. Cat 7 is available for yachts without accommodation.

**17.4.** Yachts taking part in PSYC cruises must comply with Maritime Safety Act 1998, Marine Safety (General) Regulations 2009 safety requirements and the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.

**17.5.** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Vice Commodore, Starter or a Racing Committee member as soon as possible.

## **18. CHANGE TO SAILS AND/OR EQUIPMENT**

**18.1.** Alterations or additions to a competitor's sail wardrobe, or alterations or removal of equipment must be notified to a member of the Racing Committee prior to use in club races. Failure to do so may result in a percentage penalty or disqualification.

## **19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

**19.1.** A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, sailing instructions and Equipment Audit regulations. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a Race Committee member to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

## **20. ADVERTISING**

**20.1.** All races shall be sailed under the prescriptions provided in Yachting Australia Rule Book Appendix 1 - ISAF Advertising Code. However, the PSYC Board and Race Committee reserve the right to prohibit offensive or inappropriate advertising on yachts entered in PSYC races.

## **NOTICE OF WARNING TO SKIPPERS**

**20.2.** Be aware that all sand banks are subject to movement and may be larger or smaller or not in the same location they were when last observed.

**20.3.** Strong tidal influence may be expected at the Dutchies isolated danger mark.

**20.4.** Middle Island isolated danger pole is attached to Fly Rock, with less than two metres of water at low tide.

**20.5.** West Bank (starboard pole) is shallow (2m) for approximately 50m all round the mark and further to the north.

**20.6.** Manton Bank is shallow to the East and less than 2m to the West and North West.

**20.7.** Leave the Narrows Light North Cardinal Mark well to the North and West.

## **21. NIGHT LIGHTING**

**21.1.** Navigation lights are compulsory after sunset in accordance with the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and the NSW Waterways Regulations.

## **22. SUPPORT BOATS**

**22.1.** PSYC will designate an appropriate number and type of Member yacht(s) participating in each PSYC on-water event, to act as Support Boats for that event.

**22.2.** Support Boats to be designated will be drawn from a list of appropriate Member Yachts qualified by the Race Committee from time to time.

**22.3.** Support Boats designation(s) may be notified by radio (VHF Ch 77) from the Starters Caravan or by the Race Officer or Vice Commodore prior to the event.

**22.4.** Regardless of this Support Boat provision, attention of all event participants is drawn to Clause 25. Assistance to Vessel/Person in Distress (below).

## **23. ASSISTANCE TO VESSEL/PERSON IN DISTRESS**

**23.1.** Fundamental Rule 1.1 in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-20 (RRS) and the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea 2009 (SOLAS) and International Rules for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and the NSW Marine Safety Act 1998 & General Regs 2009, make it the responsibility of all skippers to respond to calls for assistance by another yacht or person in distress.

**23.2.** A skipper or Support Boat responding to a call for assistance may take a record of the time that the skipper leaves the race to provide the assistance and the time the skipper resumes the race after providing assistance for purposes of requesting Redress.

**23.3.** A Request for Redress must be lodged with the Starter or a member of the Racing Committee as soon as possible after the yacht finishes. An adjustment to the yacht's elapsed time for the race will be made in the calculation of results.

**24. RADIO COMMUNICATION**

**24.1.** A boat shall neither provide nor seek any outside assistance including radio transmissions, mobile phones or the like while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. An exception may be made if a Race Officer needs to communicate with the Start Caravan, or vice versa.

**25. PRIZES**

**25.1.** Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the PSYC.

**26. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

**26.1.** All those taking part in PSYC races do so at their own risk and responsibility. The PSYC is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht, the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment or the competency of its crew.

**26.2.** The PSYC reserves the right to refuse entry to any yacht at any time.

**26.3.** Attention is drawn to the Fundamental Rule 4 – Decision to Race.

**27. INSURANCE**

**27.1.** All yachts participating in PSYC events, including cruises, are required to have valid and current third party liability insurance which includes indemnity for the PSYC.

**28. RACING RULES OF SAILING 2017-20, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS), INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR PREVENTION OF COLLISIONS AT SEA (COLREGS), MARINE SAFETY ACT 1998 (Marine Safety (General) Regulation 2009 & MARITIME SERVICES ACT NO. 47 1935 (SEC 30G)**

**28.1.** Variously under the AS Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-20, International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), International Rules for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), Marine Safety Act 1998 (Marine Safety (General) Regulations 2009 & Maritime Services Act No. 47 1935 (Sec. 30G), a skipper/owner must:

**28.1.1.** stop the vessel following an accident,

**28.1.2.** if the accident results in injury or damage effecting seaworthiness, provide any assistance necessary,

**28.1.3.** provide details of the boat licence, registration, address and any distinguishing numbers of the vessel,

**28.1.4.** provide the above details to any NSW RMS Officer,

**28.1.5.** if the accident involves death, injury or damage exceeding \$100, report the accident to the NSW RMS or Water Police and the Race Officer or Vice Commodore within 24 hours.

**28.1.6.** Penalties for failure to comply are significant.

**28.1.7.** The International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea apply when a yacht is not racing and between sunset and sunrise. They also apply between a racing and non-racing yacht.

**29. FURTHER INFORMATION**

**29.1.** For further information please contact:

Rick Pacey - Vice Commodore

Port Stephens Yacht Club

Phone 0417 544 230

Email – [rpacey86@hotmail.com](mailto:rpacey86@hotmail.com)

or:

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