



Performance Racing Series -
IRC, ORC, TP52, Interclub 40
24-26 April, 2026

Notice of Race



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NEWCASTLE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB



SAIL PORT STEPHENS PERFORMANCE RACING 2026 24th – 26th April 2026

Incorporating:

NSW YACHTING CHAMPIONSHIPS,
ROB HAMPSHIRE TROPHY,
INTERCLUB 40 CHALLENGE,
TP52 GOLD CUP,

NOTICE OF RACE

1. Invitation

The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, the organising authority, invites entries from owners and charterers of suitable boats to race on the waters of Port Stephens and surrounding waters of Port Stephens between 24th – 26th April 2026. Sail Port Stephens comprises the NSW Yachting Championships, Rob Hampshire Cup, InterClub 40 Challenge, and the TP52 Gold Cup. The races will be primarily windward / leeward courses with at least one passage course. Australian Sailing Special Regulations Category 5 will apply.

2. Rules

2.1 The races shall be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing (WS), Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS), the current IRC rule (parts A, B & C) where applicable, the ORC Rule where applicable, the class rules of each class, all as modified by the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

2.2 Protest arbitration hearings may be conducted as per RRS Appendix T.

2.3 Stored power may be used for the operation of movable ballast systems. RRS 51 and 52 are modified as required by this paragraph.

2.4 A current or fully amended paper chart AUS252 or Electronic Chart System (ECS) covering the sailing area shall be carried on board. All electronic chart data is to be downloaded to an ECS or available on a data storage device prior to starting and not dependent on internet or phone service connection.

2.5 For the purposes of IRC rules 21.1.5 (d) and (e) this regatta is on consecutive days, however the sails carried on board may not remain the same for the duration of the event and boats shall carry no more than the number of sails as printed on her IRC certificate. Sails shall remain the same for each day. For the purpose of this rule the day begins when the boat leaves the harbour for the first time each day and ends when the boat returns to the harbour after racing.

3. Classes & Handicaps

3.1 The event will be sailed in separate classes as follows:

Class	Event	Handicap System
IRC	NSW Yachting Championships	IRC
ORC	Rob Hampshire Trophy	ORCc & ORCi
InterClub 40	InterClub 40 Regatta	ORCc & ORCi
TP52	TP52 Gold Cup	TPR & IRC

*Boats can compete in both NSW Yachting Championship (IRC) and Rob Hampshire Trophy (ORC) simultaneously. Divisions will sail together.



- 3.2 The organising authority may alter, amalgamate or divide any class and may add classes as required at any time. The organising authority may cancel any class if fewer than seven (7) entries have been received by the closing date. In this event, boats that have entered will have the option of transferring to another class (if eligible) or having their entry fee refunded.
- 3.3 Ratings (TCC) for IRC will be obtained from IRC rating certificates declared at registration. Results will be calculated by the application of the IRC Time Corrector (TCC) as a multiplier of elapsed time.
- 3.4 Ratings for ORC will be obtained from ORC rating certificates declared at registration. Results will be decided by the application of Time on Time (ToT) Windward/Leeward rating for Windward/Leeward races and General Purpose rating for Passage races as printed on each boat's ORC Certificate, as a multiplier of elapsed time.
- 3.5 TPR ratings will be as provided by the TP52 Owners Group. Results will be calculated by the application of the TPR rating as a multiplier of elapsed time.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1 All boats shall be well found and in a seaworthy condition.
- 4.2 IRC boats shall hold a valid IRC rating certificate (Endorsed Certificate for NSW IRC Championships) at the time of the races. No alteration to the certificate will be permitted, except as a result of a rating protest or to correct rating errors.
- 4.3 IRC boats shall have an IRC TCC greater than 0.940. The Race Committee may amend this limit if required.
- 4.4 ORC boats shall hold a valid ORC certificate (ORCi or ORCc) at the time of the races. A boat that is also entered in the IRC category may carry the maximum number of spinnakers allowed under its IRC certificate.
- 4.5 InterClub 40 boats shall meet the following criteria:
 - a) LOA 35-45ft
 - b) ORC All Purpose time correction factor (time on time) between 1.1670 – 1.2656
 - c) Meet ORC requirements of SI 4.4
 - d) DLR between 4.0400 – 5.9800
 - e) Boats not meeting this criteria may be accepted at the discretion of the OA.InterClub 40 boats shall nominate their team of three boats and nominate the club that their team represents. Team nominations will be required to be included with the entry.
- 4.6 TP52 boats will be boats that have their genesis from the International TP52 Class and the Pac52 Class.
- 4.7 Yachts not having sail numbers will be required to carry identification numbers on the hull which may be provided by the Race Committee. Boats requiring number decals should contact the OA in advance to arrange this.
- 4.8 The owner or charterer of a boat entered in Sail Port Stephens 2026 shall hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the boat, current when racing and not racing, with an adequate sum insured of not less than AUD\$10 million (or its equivalent in another currency). The policy will state that the boat is covered for races in which it is participating or that it is covered for races of a length greater than the length of the race in which it is participating. The policy will be in effect throughout Sail Port Stephens 2026.
- 4.9 All boats shall have at least two crew over the age of eighteen (18) years of age at the start of the regatta.



5. Safety

5.1 AS Special Regulations (SR) Part 1 Category 5 shall apply to all classes. All Boats shall carry a working VHF radio.

5.2 All boats shall produce a current AS Special Regulations Compliance Form at registration.

6. Entries

6.1 Entries to be made online at the Sail Port Stephens website (www.sailportstephens.com) and will be received no later than 1700 hrs Thursday 16th April 2026. Please note: The Entry Fee does not include berthage (see NoR 13).

Series	Entry Fee (AU\$)	Additional Late Fees
NSW Yachting Championships	\$475.00	\$80
Rob Hampshire Series	\$475.00	\$80
InterClub 40 Challenge (per boat)	\$475.00	\$80
TP52 Gold Cup Series	\$475.00	\$80

6.2 The Race Committee may receive entries after the closing date with an additional fee.

6.3 Refund Policy: Entrants who withdraw from the regatta will be eligible for a refund of their entry fee as follows:

- More than 21 days prior to the commencement of the event – full refund.
- Between 14 and 21 days prior to the commencement of the event – full refund less a \$100 administration fee.
- Less than 14 days prior to the commencement of the event – no refund.

7. Sailing Instructions

7.1 It is the intention to have Sailing Instructions available on the event website from Tuesday 21st April 2026. Printed copies will be provided to all competitors at registration.

8. Schedule of Events

Date	Series	Event
Thursday 23 rd April	All Classes	Registration 1400hrs – 1700hrs (Regatta HQ)
Friday 24 th April	All Classes	Registration 0800hrs – 0900hrs (Regatta HQ)
	NSW Yachting Championships	Races 1, 2 & 3
	Rob Hampshire Trophy	Races 1, 2 & 3
	InterClub 40	Races 1, 2 & 3
	TP52 Series	Races 1, 2 & 3
Saturday 25 th April	NSW Yachting Championships	Race 4 - Passage
	Rob Hampshire Trophy	Race 4 - Passage
	InterClub 40	Race 4 - Passage
	TP52 Series	Race 4 - Passage
Sunday 26 th April	NSW Yachting Championships	Races 5 & 6
	Rob Hampshire Trophy	Races 5 & 6
	InterClub 40	Races 5 & 6
	TP52 Series	Races 5 & 6
	Presentation of trophies at Regatta Headquarters	

On the last day of scheduled races, no warning signal will be made after 1430hrs.
The Race Committee may make changes to this schedule at any time.



9. Scoring System

9.1 The scoring system will be the Low Points System, RRS Appendix A, except all race scores will count. One completed race will constitute a series.

SERIES NAME	No. Races
NSW Yachting Championships	6
Rob Hampshire Trophy	6
InterClub 40	6
TP 52 Gold Cup Series	6

10. Conditions of Entry

10.1 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer agrees to be bound by all the rules and conditions of the races.

10.2 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer acknowledges the possibility of and accepts the risks associated with a) the perils of the sea; b) the seaworthiness or otherwise of any yacht participating in Sail Port Stephens 2026; c) the participation, including negligent participation, by all persons in Sail Port Stephens 2026, including participation as owner, charterer, crew person, official, race organiser or otherwise; d) the defaults, acts and omissions, of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and its officers, and the crews of all yachts.

10.3 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer acknowledges and accepts that Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club a) does not and cannot control, diminish, or affect the perils of the sea; b) does not certify, or carry out inspections with respect to the seaworthiness or suitability to race of any yacht; c) is not in a position to provide advice, assistance or support to yachts and crews during the course of a race.

10.4 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer agrees that the entered yacht is covered by suitable legal liability insurance of at least AU\$10,000,000 (or foreign currency equivalent), valid for racing, and current for the duration of Sail Port Stephens 2026.

10.5 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer agrees that: a) it is a fundamental condition of entry that he/she releases, holds harmless and indemnifies Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, its office bearers, servants, agents and members and the sponsors of Sail Port Stephens 2026 from all liability any of those persons has to the owner/charterer or any crew member on the owner/charterer's yacht, or to any person claiming through or under any such person arising from loss or damage howsoever caused, including negligent act or omission, arising out of or relating to: i) participation by the owner/charterer's yacht or any other yacht in a race; ii) the conduct or course of the race in any respect including, without limitation, any act or omission (whether reasonably foreseeable or not) causing or relating to loss of or damage to any yacht or the death or injury of any person; or iii) any of the matters referred to in the paragraphs above; b) participation by the yacht and by the crew Sail Port Stephens 2026 is agreed by Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club on the basis that participation is entirely at the risk of the owner/charterer and each member of the crew on the owner/charterer's yacht; c) the owner/charterer will provide each crew member or proposed crew member with a copy of these Conditions of Entry.

10.6 By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer gives absolute right and permission for any photographs and/or video footage of the boat and crew to be published in any media for any editorial, publicity or advertising purposes.



11. Prizes and Trophies

- 11.1 Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall in each Class and Division.
- 11.2 Trophies will be awarded to the 1st place overall team of three boats in the InterClub 40 division.
- 11.3 Trophies will be presented after racing on Sunday 26th April 2026 at Regatta Headquarters, Port Stephens.

12. Internet Site

The event website for Sail Port Stephens 2026 is located at:

IRC, ORC, TP52	https://www.sailportstephens.com.au/performance-racing/
InterClub 40	https://www.sailportstephens.com.au/interclub-40/

and information regarding the event may be obtained from this site.

13. Mooring Arrangement Facilities

- 13.1 Moorings for competing keelboats in the marinas at Port Stephens (d'Albora Marina, Nelson Bay; Anchorage Marina, Corlette Point; and Soldiers Point Marina, Soldiers Point) may be available for the period 1200 hrs Thursday 23rd April 2026 – 1200 hrs Monday 25th April 2026.
- 13.2 Please make all berthing bookings with each of the marinas. It is a condition of entry that yachts must moor in accordance with the directions of the Marina Managers.

For Further Details Contact:

Please direct enquiries to info@sailportstephens.com.au

Key Contacts:

Regatta Director:	Paul O'Rourke;	M: 0413 416 521	E: paul.orourke@ncyc.net.au
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