

SYDNEY HARBOUR WOMEN'S KEELBOAT SERIES

SEPTEMBER 2025 – MARCH 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



Credit: Marg Fraser-Martin



1 RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the current versions of:
- (a) the **rules**, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”);
 - (b) the prescriptions and special regulations of Australian Sailing (“Special Regulations”)

2 SCHEDULE OF RACES

| DATE | RACE | WARNING SIGNAL | CLUB |
|----------------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday, 28 September | Race 1 | 1255hrs | CYCA |
| Sunday, 19 October | Race 2 | 1255hrs | MHYC Women’s Regatta |
| Sunday, 23 November | Race 3 | 1255hrs | RANSA |
| Sunday, 18 January | Race 4 | 1255hrs | SASC |
| Sunday, 1 February | Race 5 | 1255hrs | BSC |
| Sunday, 22 February | Race 6 | 1255hrs | RSYS |
| Sunday, 22 March | Race 7 | 1255hrs | MYC Women’s Challenge |

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the SailSys Series page and may be published on the official notice board of each Host Club.

4 RACE DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 Changes to these SI’s, if any, may be made in accordance with RRS 90.2 (c).
- 4.2 When a Sydney Harbour Women’s Keelboat Series Race is held in conjunction with the Middle Harbour Yacht Club’s Women’s Regatta on 19 October 2025, the MHYC Women’s Regatta Sailing Instructions shall take precedence over these SI’s.
- 4.3 When a Sydney Harbour Women’s Keelboat Series Race is held in conjunction with the Manly Yacht Club Women’s Challenge on 22 March 2026, the Women’s Challenge Sailing Instructions shall take precedence over these SI’s.
- 4.4 A change to the date or time of a race will be posted by 1800 hours on the day preceding the race it affects. Any other notice affecting a race will be posted no later than 2 hours prior to the warning signal of that race.

5 RACE COMMITTEE

The Sailing Managers of each Host Club shall be the Race Committee (“RC”) for the purposes of and with the powers and discretions contained in RRS 90.1.

6 RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 All those taking part in Sydney Harbour Women’s Keelboat Series 2025-2026 do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Organising Authority and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members accept no liability for any injury, loss or damage that may be suffered by any competitor, and any liability for harm to persons that results from breach of an express or implied warranty that the Sydney Harbour Women’s Keelboat Series 2025-2026 and all services relating thereto will be conducted or rendered with reasonable care and skill is excluded.

Special attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”.

6.2 The Organising Authority is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.

6.3 The owner or charterer of a boat entered in a race shall hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the boat current when racing, with a sum insured of not less than A\$10,000,000.

7 SPECIAL REGULATIONS

7.1 Attention is drawn to Special Regulation 1.02 that in part states, "The safety of the boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge".

7.2 A boat shall comply with the Special Regulations Part 1 for Category 7 except that trailable boats shall comply with Category 6. An audited Special Regulations Form for the relevant Category (or higher) shall be submitted with the entry if not already held by a Host Club.

7.3 The RC may inspect a boat under Special Regulation 2.02.

8 ENTRIES

The Organising Authority will post a final list of entries, amendments to SIs (if any) and other relevant information prior to each race of the Sydney Harbour Women's Keelboat Series 2025-2026.

9 OWNERSHIP AND CHARTERS

The RC may reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude any competitor in accordance with RRS 76.1.

10 CHANGES TO RULES

10.1 RRS 51: Boats with movable or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability.

10.2 RRS 52: RRS 52 is changed to: the rotation of a boat's rudder shall be adjusted and operated only by the power provided by the crew.

11 CREW LIMITATIONS

11.1 The minimum number of crew on a boat shall be 3. Unless dispensation has been provided in writing by the Organising Authority, a minimum of two crew members shall be not less than 18 years of age.

11.2 The number of people on board shall not exceed the maximum crew number specified on a boat's Equipment Audit Form. Boats that do not comply with this safety requirement may be subject to protest by the race committee.

12 SAILS

12.1 A boat shall comply with the RRS Appendix G, Identification on Sails. This SI is the warning and opportunity to correct in the terms of RRS Appendix G4.

12.2 In divisions or entries designated non-spinnaker, only a mainsail and headsails as defined in RRS 55.4 shall be used. Headsails shall not be set flying. (No sail shall be set forward of a point of attachment of the permanent forestay).

13 ONE BOAT CONSTITUTES A RACE

When only one boat starts and sails the course within the time limit the Race Committee shall not abandon the race (this changes RRS 32).

14 FLAG SIGNALS

14.1 Visual signals will be made in accordance with RRS 26.

14.2 Courses may be displayed by either course boards or numeral pennants.

15 COURSES AND MARKS

- 15.1 Courses and marks will be detailed in an Appendix to these SIs. This Appendix will be published no less than 48 hours prior to the Warning Signal of each race.
- 15.2 Any course may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.
- 15.3 All marks are to be rounded to starboard unless otherwise stated.

16 PROHIBITED AREAS / OBSTRUCTIONS

- 16.1 The following are continuing obstructions and prohibited areas, namely:
1. The area of Sow and Pigs Reef enclosed by an imaginary line joining all four of the Cardinal Marks surrounding the Reef in sequence N, E, S and W.
 2. The non safe water side of a Cardinal Mark.
 3. The area between the Shark Island AS Mark (SIM) and Shark Island.
 4. The area between Shark Island and Shark Island Light (north of Shark Island)
 5. The area of Gowlland Bombora enclosed by an imaginary line projected from the shore joining the W, S and E Cardinal marks surrounding the reef.
 6. The Start Line / Finish Line except when starting, finishing or when it forms a gate in the course. When complying with RRS 44.2 at or near the finishing line a boat shall sail around the ends of the finishing line before finishing (this changes RRS 28).
 7. The area enclosed by moorings.
- 16.2 A boat shall not sail into a prohibited area designated in SI 16.1

17 DIVISIONS

- 17.1 The RC may form racing divisions at its discretion.
- 17.2 The composition and allocation of boats into divisions shall not be subject to protest or constitute grounds for redress (this changes RRS 60.1).

18 START LINE

- 18.1 The Start Line will be between the flag mast on the CV displaying an Orange flag and a laid inflatable mark nearby. The CV will also display the Club Burgee of the conducting Club.
- 18.2 An inner distance mark (IDM) may be laid. When laid, a boat shall leave the IDM to starboard when starting. No boat shall pass between the IDM and the CV from the course side of the Start Line after the first Preparatory Signal.

19 THE START & START SIGNALS

- 19.1 Boats shall report to the Committee Vessel prior to the Warning Signal on starboard tack with mainsail hoisted to confirm its intention to race. Boats which cannot be identified may be scored as DNS.
- 19.2 The time of the first Warning Signal for each race will be 1255 hours.
- 19.3 Start Signals will be made in accordance with RRS 26.
- 19.4 The Class Flags will be:
Division 1 – IC Flag “E”
Division 2 – IC Flag “F”
- 19.5 The Warning Signal for each succeeding class may be made with the Start Signal of the preceding class.
- 19.6 A boat may use prohibited propulsion after its Preparatory Signal to arrive at the Start Line, provided it shall cease using such propulsion 100 metres from the Start Line. It shall immediately carry out a 360° turn while keeping clear of all other boats and, if the Start Signal has been made, start.

19.7 A boat shall not start later than 5 minutes after its Start Signal.

When there is more than one Start Division, a boat shall not approach closer than 100 metres to the Start Line until its Preparatory Signal has been made.

20 RECALLS

20.1 Individual Recalls will be made in accordance with RRS 29.1. The sail number of the recalled boat may be announced on VHF Channel 72

20.2 General Recalls will be made in accordance with RRS 29.2.

21 SHORTENED COURSE

21.1 A race may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.

22 FINISH LINE

22.1 The Finish Line will be between the flag mast on the CV displaying a blue flag and a laid inflatable mark nearby.

23 TIME LIMIT

23.1 The time limit will be 1730 hours on the day of racing.

23.2 A boat that does not finish within the time limit shall be scored DNF (this changes RRS 35).

24 BOATS RETIRING

24.1 A boat that retires shall notify the CV or the Host Club Sailing Office of its retirement as soon as possible and in any event not later than one hour after retiring by whatever means is available. Boats not doing so may be scored equal to DNC.

24.2 The Race Committee will monitor VHF Channel 72 for the duration of the race.

25 POSTPONED RACES

25.1 The Race Committee at its sole discretion may postpone the start from ashore in inclement conditions. Flag signals AP over H will be displayed on the flagmast of the Host Club no later than 1 hour prior to the Warning Signal.

25.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in race signal AP.

25.3 Entrants may be advised of the display/removal of AP over H by text message. Owners may provide their boat phone number in the online entry if they would like to be advised by text.

26 ABANDONED RACES

Abandoned races not re-sailed on that day will not be re-sailed.

27 PROTESTS

27.1 Protests shall be lodged with the Host Club Sailing Office within 90 minutes of the protesting boat's finish time.

27.2 A protest may be lodged personally at the Sailing Office or by email.

27.3 There is no time limit on protests by the Race Committee or the Protest Committee.

27.4 Notices of protests will be posted on the official notice board with the order of hearing.

27.5 Protests will be scheduled to be heard at the Host Club during the week following the race. Postponement of a hearing from that date may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

28 HANDICAPS

- 28.1 PHS results will be calculated by the application of a Time Correction Factor (TCF) of a four decimal number as a multiplier of the boat's elapsed time. The Race Committee will, in its absolute discretion, determine a boat's TCF in relation to its performance in previous races. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.
- 28.2 A boat's Initial TCF or Race TCF, shall not be subject of protest (this changes RRS 60.1).
- 28.3 The Race Committee may manually adjust a boat's TCF retrospectively where it appears that the handicap applied contains an error, mistake or omission or is otherwise considered to be unfair.

29 POINTSCORES

- 29.1 A pointscore series is open only to block entries. Boats shall enter by Race 2 to be eligible for the pointscore.
- 29.2 For Female Helm Divisions the nominated female skipper shall helm for the duration of each race.
- 29.3 A boat's points will not be transferred with a change of ownership or change of division.
- 29.4 The Low Point Scoring system of Appendix A will apply.
- 29.5 If fewer than 4 races are completed in the Sydney Harbour Women's Keelboat Series 2025-26 a boats series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 29.6 If 4 or more races are completed in the Sydney Harbour Women's Keelboat Series 2025-26, a boat's worst score shall be discarded when calculating the pointscore.
- 29.7 If 7 races are completed in the Sydney Harbour Women's Keelboat Series 2025-26, a boat's two worst scores shall be discarded when calculating the pointscore.
- 29.8 The boat in each division with the lowest cumulative points excluding discarded points and after application of penalties and redress will be declared the winner.

30 PRIZES

Trophies will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each division subject to a minimum of 5 entries. Trophies shall otherwise be presented at the discretion of the Organising Authority. The presentation of prizes will take place at a venue and date to be advised.

31 ADVERTISING

Advertising on a boat shall comply with the requirements of World Sailing Advertising Code.

32 OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

- 32.1 A boat shall give priority of passage to a vessel displaying an orange diamond signal.
- 32.2 A boat shall not use trapeze(s) at any time during the series.
- 32.3 A boat shall not cause interference to an ocean-going vessel or other vessels having right of way under the government right of way regulations.
- 32.4 Attention is drawn to the New South Wales Legislation as to reporting requirements in the case of collision as published in these SIs.
- 32.5 The start boat will monitor VHF Channel 72 for the duration of the race.
- 32.6 Anchors which protrude from the bow must be removed.

32.7 Propulsion

- i) As allowed by rule 42.3(i) a boat may use its engine for propulsion in order to get clear: after grounding; after colliding with a vessel or object; or to prevent imminent grounding or collision.
- ii) A boat that uses its engine for propulsion as allowed in SI 32.7(i) shall, as soon after getting clear, take a Two Turns Penalty as detail in RRS 44 (this changes RRS 44.1).
- iii) For the purpose of this SI 32.7, “to gain (or gained) a significant advantage” does not relate to the act of getting clear allowed under SI 32.7(i).

32.8 Every boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

Attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1.

33 DECLARATIONS

33.1 All competitors participating in the Sydney Harbour Women’s Keelboat Series 2025-2026 shall lodge a declaration online (https://cycaforms.seamlessdocs.com/f/General_Race_Declaration) within the time limit for the delivering of protests in any of the following circumstances:

- a) for an infringement of any RRS or SI;
- b) after rendering assistance;
- c) any use of the motor for propulsion, refer SI 19.6 and SI 32.7;
- d) temporary discontinuance of racing;
- e) not sailing the course due to a mark being missing or unsighted; or
- f) acceptance, with details, of any alternative penalty.

33.2 The Race Committee may act on a Declaration without a hearing and impose an alternative penalty instead of disqualification (this changes RRS 63 and 64.)

34 FURTHER INFORMATION

Race Documents and Notices – [Click Here](#)

BSC - racing@bal mainsailingclub.com / 9810 2086

CYCA – sailing.office@cyca.com.au / 8292 7802

MHYC – sailing@mhyc.com.au / 8969 3102

RANSA – office@ransa.com.au / 9363 9939

RSYS – sailing@rsys.com.au / 9017 0152

MYC – sailing@myc.org.au / 9977 4949

SASC - racing@sasc.com.au / 9953 6597