



DONAGHADEE SAILING CLUB

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

RNLI Commodores Cup 2026 – 21st March

This first event of 2026 will raise funds for the Donaghadee Lifeboat.
All entry fees will be donated to the lifeboat.



Lifeboats

NOTICE OF RACE

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

This event will be organised by Donaghadee Sailing Club (www.donaghadeesc.co.uk)

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Notice of Race (NoR) or Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 and RYA Prescriptions.

1.2. Racing rules 27.1, 32, 33, 40.1, 63.1 and Appendix A will be changed. The changes appear, in full, in this notice of race or in the sailing instructions.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - The sailing instructions are attached to this document and are available on the club website www.donaghadeesc.co.uk and the official noticeboard.

1. COMMUNICATION

1.1 The official noticeboard is located in the clubhouse.

1.2 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

2.1 There will be an entry fee of £5 per boat all of which will be donated to the RNLI. The entry form is available online and registration closes one hour prior to racing.

2.2 All boats must sign on and provide their details to the race committee before launching.

3. ADVERTISING [DP] [NP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

4. SCHEDULE - There will be three back-to-back races, the scheduled time of the first warning signal is 11:55 on 21st March.
NB: High Water is approximately 12:00.

5. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION - [NP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

6. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

6.1 For dinghy classes, RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat.

6.2 All dinghies shall have a painter of at least 5 metres of suitable line which is separate from any other lines or sheets affixed to the boat.

6.3 Boats may sail with a sail number different from their allotted number, provided that notice of this intention is given to the Race Officer before going afloat. Failure to comply with this will result in the boat being scored DNC without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5

7. VENUE - The Sailing Area will be in the vicinity of Donaghadee Harbour.

8. COURSES - The course is to be sailed around laid marks. There will be a briefing on the slipway at 11:15am

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9. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 9.1 The Post Race Penalty and Appendix T Arbitration Procedures shall apply. No protests will be heard until the Arbitration process is complete.
- 9.2 Any on the water infringements shall be exonerated by the boat taking the appropriate penalty.

10. SCORING - The event is open to all dinghy classes and will be scored under the PY system.

11. [DP] [NP] SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 11.1 Support teams, including all support persons and support person vessels shall stay 150m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 11.2 When afloat all support persons on that vessel, shall wear a personal flotation device and when the engine of a support vessel is running, the support vessel driver shall use a kill cord.

12. DATA PROTECTION - The Club Data Processing Policy is available on the club website.

13. RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1 RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone". Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
 - (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
 - (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

14. INSURANCE - Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 Pounds Sterling per incident or the equivalent.

15. PRIZES - The Commodores Cup will be presented to the first boat on PY handicap. Other awards may be presented.

16. CLUB BOATS

- 16.1 Club owned boats can be available to club members for the event on a first come basis and cannot be booked in advance. Where a number of parties want to use a particular boat e.g., the RS200 or a laser, the helms names will be drawn from a hat.
- 16.2 Mast head flotation shall be used at all times on club owned GP14's.
- 16.3 Anyone sailing a club boat that gets damaged, shall be liable for any repair cost.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION - For further information please contact sailing@donaghadeesc.co.uk.

END OF NOTICE OF RACE

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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES - See NoR 1
2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 1 hour before the first warning signal.
3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS - Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing notice board inside Donaghadee Sailing Club
4. CODE OF CONDUCT - [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE
Signals made ashore will be displayed at the battery or in the case of cancellation before starting time from the balcony at the clubhouse.
6. SCHEDULE OF RACES - There will be three back-to-back races, the scheduled time of the first warning signal is 11:55am
7. CLASS FLAGS - The start flag will be code flag T, there will be one start for all boats
8. RACING AREA - See NoR 7.
9. COURSES & MARKS – See NoR 8.
10. THE START
 - 10.1 The start will be between a laid mark and the orange flag displayed on a safety boat
 - 10.2 A boat that does not start within 6 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.
This changes RRS A4 and A5.
11. THE FINISH
 - 11.1 The finishing line will be between a laid mark and a safety boat
 - 11.2 The finishing signal will be a plain blue code flag
12. PENALTY SYSTEM - See NoR 9.
13. TIME LIMITS - The time limit for each race will be 40 mins from the start. If the first boat finishes within the time limit this will be extended for another 20 mins.
14. SCORING - As per NoR 10
15. SAFETY REGULATIONS
 - 15.1 [DP] [NP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
 - 15.2 All crew shall wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times while on the water.
16. OFFICIAL VESSELS - Donaghadee Sailing Club patrol vessels will be orange tangos.
17. TRASH DISPOSAL - Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

END OF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS