



DONAGHADEE SAILING CLUB

CLUB RACING 2026

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

NOTICE OF RACE

ORGANISING AUTHORITY - This event is 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.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The official noticeboard is located in the clubhouse.
- 3.2. [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.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The event is open to members' boats that fall into one of the classes as defined in SI 7 below.
- 4.2. There is no formal entry form – boats must be registered with the club.
- 4.3. All boats must sign on and provide their details to the race committee before launching.
- 4.4. At the discretion of the OOD or the Sailing Committee non-members may be allowed to compete.

5. FEES - There is no entry fee for club racing.

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

7. QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES – Does not apply

8. SCHEDULE

8.1. Racing will be held in five series with dates as follows:

Series	Start Date	End Date	Events
Sunday Spring	29 March	31 May	8
Wednesday Early	6 May	24 June	8
Sunday Summer	7 June	16 August	10
Wednesday Late	1 July	26 August	9
Sunday Autumn	23 August	18 October	8

NB: No club racing on 5 April, 24 May, 2 and 30 August

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- 8.2. The scheduled time of the first warning signal of the first race on Sundays is 14:25 and at 19:25 on Wednesdays during British Summer Time, Sunday March 29 to Saturday October 24. Outside of these dates, the first warning will be at 13:25 GMT on Sundays.
 - 8.3. The number of races each day will be one unless changed by an amendment to the SIs or by the Race Officer on the day. The maximum number of races per day shall be no more than three.
 - 8.4. When more than one race is to be sailed on a day these shall be back-to-back and will have an average race time of approximately 30 minutes.
9. 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.
10. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT
- 10.1. For dinghy classes, RRS 40.1 personal flotation shall apply at all times while afloat.
 - 10.2. 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.
 - 10.3. For YTC keel boats – anchors shall not be stowed projecting forward of the bow
 - 10.4. YTC keel boats shall comply with World Sailing Special Regulations Appendix B for inshore racing
 - 10.5. Boats may sail with a sail number different from their allotted number, provided that notice of this intention is given to the Race Officer for each individual race of a series 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
11. VENUE - The Sailing Area will be in the vicinity of Donaghadee Harbour.
12. COURSES - The courses to be sailed will be around fixed and or laid marks at the discretion of the race officer.
13. PENALTY SYSTEM
- 13.1. The Post Race Penalty and Appendix T Arbitration Procedures shall apply. No protests will be heard until this process has been completed.
 - 13.2. Any on the water infringements may be exonerated by the boat taking the appropriate penalty.
14. SCORING
- 14.1. Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
 - 14.2. Scoring will be on the basis of the low points system, the person with the lowest points will win the series. Points are awarded to an individual regardless of the boat they may sail in any given week. For those in a double handed boat, both crews will receive equal points.
 - 14.3. Crew unable to race because they were on battery or rescue duty shall be awarded average points as per RRS A9(a)
 - 14.4. A boat may be disqualified from a race, without a hearing, if any Club Member on board has failed to fulfil their Battery or Rescue duty without providing reasonable excuse or if their subscription or dinghy park fees are in arrears. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.
15. [DP] [NP] SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS
- 15.1. 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.

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15.2. 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.

16. BERTHING [DP] - Boats shall be kept in their assigned places in the dinghy park.

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

18. RISK STATEMENT

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:

- 18.1. 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.
- 18.2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- 18.3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- 18.4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- 18.5. 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.
- 18.6. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- 18.7. 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.

19. 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.

20. PRIZES - Each Fleet will have their own separate series and prizes will be awarded for each series at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. The ILCA7 & ILCA6 (Laser full rig & radial) boats will additionally be scored as a separate fleet with prizes awarded at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. At the discretion of the Sailing Committee prizes may be awarded to competitors at the end of the season for being the best performing new sailor, junior or other category.

21. CLUB BOATS

- 21.1. Club owned boats may 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, a Feva or a laser, the helms names will be drawn from a hat.
- 21.2. Mast head flotation shall be used at all times on club owned GP14's.
- 21.3. Anyone sailing a club boat that gets damaged, shall be liable for any repair cost.

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 on that day.
3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS
 - 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Notice Board inside Donaghadee Sailing Club
 - 3.2. There may be a briefing for all competitors at the slipway at 13:45 (12:45 if GMT) prior to Sunday starts or at 19:00 on Wednesday evenings.
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 - See NoR 8
7. CLASS FLAGS & START TIMES
 - 7.1. The first warning signal will be at 14.25 on Sundays and 19:25 on Wednesdays during British Summer Time, Sunday March 30 to Saturday October 25. Outside of these dates, the first warning will be at 13:25 GMT on Sundays.
 - 7.2. Slow, Fast & Cruiser fleets shall start together on one start, irrespective of class. They may not necessarily sail the same course however. The start flag will be code flag T for Slow, Fast & Cruiser fleet.
 - 7.3. There may be a separate start for junior sailors (Topper 5.3 & 4.2 only) with the code flag J. This start will be 10 minutes after the main start. The decision to run this start will be based on the number and experience of the junior sailors afloat and will be communicated at a pre-race briefing.
 - 7.4. Refer to Appendix B for the starting sequence flags.
 - 7.5. Classes:

Class		Class Flag *
Slow Dinghies	PY -1200 and above Inc Picos, Topper 4.2, Topper and ILCA 4 / Laser 4.7	T
Fast Dinghies	PY - 1199 and below Inc GP14, ILCA6 / Laser radial, ILCA 7 / Laser standard rig and RS200	F
Cruisers	All YTC	H
Junior	Topper 5.3 & 4.2	J**

*NB: Class flag is used for finishing individual classes only

** If a separate start has been used (SI7.3)

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8. COURSES

8.1. Battery Starts

8.1.1. The course to be sailed will be indicated by the number boards displayed on the front of the battery and are indicated in Appendix A

8.1.2. The cruiser and fast handicap fleet will sail the same course. This will be displayed on the lefthand board (south).

8.1.3. The slow fleet course will be displayed on the righthand board (north).

8.1.4. If only one board is displayed, then all boats are sailing the same course.

8.1.5. Junior (code flag J) fleet may sail a course as advised prior to the start.

8.2. Committee Boat Starts – courses will be advised prior to the start.

9. MARKS are fixed barrel shaped buoys (for positions see Appendix A) or laid marks

10. OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1. Boats racing must not sail through or into Donaghadee Harbour.

10.2. Having started a race, boats shall not re-cross the start / finish line unless completing a lap of the course. The area inside the outer limit buoy is an obstruction unless completing a lap of the course, RRS 19 & 20 apply.

10.3. Boats contravening this SI will be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

11. THE START

11.1. The Battery start line is the projected line when the orange triangle on the battery and the orange triangle on the pole in front of the battery are inline. The outer limit of the start line is indicated by a yellow marker buoy which may not be on the line.

11.2. Committee Boat starts will be between the pole of the orange flag on the committee boat and a laid buoy. There may be an inner distance buoy laid. Boats should not sail between the inner distance buoy and the committee boat when starting.

11.3. A boat that does not start within 6 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start without a hearing at the discretion of the OOD. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF COURSE

12.1. In amendment of RRS 27.1 and RRS 33, a change of course will be indicated by code flag 'C' and the appropriate class flag being displayed at the battery or as indicated by a committee boat. No sound signal will accompany code flag 'C'. The course to be sailed may be displayed shortly after the preparatory signal or, when a subsequent round is to be sailed, as the leading boats in a class approach the line at the end of the preceding round.

13. THE FINISH

13.1. The finishing line is a projected line between the orange triangle on the battery and the outer limit mark. Boats shall finish on the shore side of the outer limit mark.

13.2. The finishing signal will be a plain blue code flag. This may be displayed with the appropriate class flag if one class is finished prior to the other.

13.3. The shorten course signal may be made by displaying Code Flag 'S' accompanied by two sound signals from a committee vessel, optionally with one or more class flags (see 13.4 below). The signal will be given as, or after, the leading competitor rounds a course mark, and will mean, "now sail to the finishing line, directly crossing the line between a course mark and the committee vessel without rounding even if this course mark is passed on the opposite side to that used during the race."

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13.4. If the shorten course signal is accompanied by one or more class code flags only the class(es) designated by those flags will finish. This amends RRS 32 and Race Signals

14. PENALTY SYSTEM - See NoR 13.

15. TIME LIMITS - The time limit for club races will be 1½ hours from the start of the class, plus 30 minutes, assuming the first boat finishes within the time limit. In the case of 'back to back' races the time limit for each race will be 40 mins from the start.

16. HEARING REQUESTS

16.1. Protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat in the boat's class has finished. In the case of 'back to back' races the protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last finisher in her class in the final race of the 'back to back' sequence of races.

16.2. Protest forms shall include the email address and contact phone number of the protestor and where possible the protestee.

16.3. Hearing Request forms are available at the club

16.4. Protests will be handled by arbitration. See NoR 13

17. SCORING - As per NoR 14

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1. [DP] [NP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

18.2. All crew shall wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times while on the water.

19. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT - [DP] [NP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS – as per NoR 9.

21. OFFICIAL VESSELS - Donaghadee Sailing Club patrol vessels are either yellow or orange.

22. SUPPORT TEAMS – As per NoR 15

23. TRASH DISPOSAL - Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

END OF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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APPENDIX A – COURSES & MARKS

For the 2026 Season courses used from Battery starts will be one of those shown below regardless of which fleet a boat is in.

As per the sailing instructions:

- The cruiser and fast handicap fleet will sail the same course. This will be displayed on the lefthand board (south).
- The slow fleet course will be displayed on the righthand board (north).
- If only one board is displayed, then all boats are sailing the same course.
- The Junior fleet may sail a course as per the pre-race briefing which is not one shown below

DSC Course Card	
	1 5,4,1,F
	2 5,4,2,4,2,1,F
	3 5,3,1,3,1,F
	4 5,3,5,3,1,F
	5 5,3,2,1,F
	6 6,3,6,4,2,F
	7 5,2,5,4,2,F
	8 6,3,1,5,2,1,F
Marks must be left to PORT	
1 1,4,5,F	
2 1,2,4,2,4,5,F	
3 1,3,1,3,5,F	
4 1,3,5,3,5,F	
5 1,2,3,5,F	
6 2,4,6,3,6,F	
7 2,4,5,2,5,F	
8 1,2,5,1,3,6,F	
Marks must be left to STARBOARD	

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APPENDIX B – START SEQUENCE & FLAGS

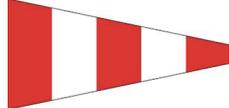
Start Sequence

	Flag Up	Flag Down
At the 5 minute, a horn may sound and code flag T will fly		
At 4 minutes a horn may sound and code flag P will fly		
At 1 minute a horn may sound and code flag P will come down		
At the start a horn may sound and code flag T will come down		

Recalls

Individual	General
Flag X	Flag 1st Sub
	
One horn may sound	Two horns may sound

Other Signals

Course Change	Postponement	Race abandoned
Flag C	AP	Flag N
		

Class Flags

Class	Flag	
Slow Handicap	T	
Fast Handicap	F	
Cruiser	H	
Junior	J	