

Belfast Lough Yachting Conference

2026 Notice of Race (for Belfast Lough Regattas)

NOTES

- a. In accordance with the current edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing, this Notice of Race contains information that a competitor may need in order to decide whether or not to compete in a Regatta.
- b. The cut-off point for YTC Unrestricted Boats has been changed. (See NoR 3 & SSI 9.1)
- c. Some starts will have multiple Classes on the Start Line.
- d. Marginal markings denote the important changes from the 2025 NoR.

1. RULES, RYA RACING CHARTER & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The event is governed by the Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). The prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) will apply.

Competitors should note that the Regatta Organisers implement the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules

Additional Sailing Instructions (SIs), which are published by each participating Club, together with this Notice of Race (NoR) and the attached Belfast Lough Yachting Conference (BLYC) Standard Sailing Instructions (SSIs). All of these are displayed, when available, on the BLYC website at www.blyc.co.uk) and form the rules for that Club's Regatta.

2. ELIGIBILITY & HANDICAPPING

- 2.1 All boats in Races 1, 2 and 3 shall comply with, at least, Appendix B of the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (available at www.sailing.org).
- 2.2 Only boats which have valid YTC Certificates are eligible to compete in Races 1, 2 or 3. Handicapping shall be based on the RYA YTC scheme for Cruisers (YTC)
- 2.3 Handicapping for Races 6 and 8 shall be based on the Portsmouth Numbers as published by the RYA.
- 2.4 Handicapping for Race 9 shall be based on the Small Catamaran Handicap Rating System.
- 2.5
 - a. Boat owners who are members of any BLYC affiliated Club shall notify their Club's Hon. Sailing Secretary of their boat's YTC Number no later than three weeks prior to any Regatta in which they wish to compete.
 - b. Boat owners who are NOT members of any BLYC affiliated Club shall provide each appropriate Race Committee with a written (and signed) declaration showing their boat's details and YTC Number. Such declaration shall be delivered to the Race Committee(s) prior to the start of any Race in which they wish their boat to compete.

3. IDENTIFICATION

Boats in Races 1, 2 and 3 shall conspicuously display their appropriate Class Identity Pennant (as set out below) from or near their backstay. Failure to do so at any time while racing (including from their preparatory signal) will result in the boat concerned **being scored DNC without a hearing** (amends RRS 63.1).

Race	Class Identity Pennant
1	YTC Unrestricted – boats which have a YTC of 890 or below YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 949 or below
2	YTC Unrestricted – boats which have a YTC of 891 or above YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 950 to 1029
3	YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 1030 or above

4. SAFETY

- 4.1 All persons sailing in any of Races 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 shall wear adequate personal floatation devices while racing and all keelboats shall carry sufficient personal floatation devices for each crew member. This amends RRS 40.1.
- 4.2 The crews of all sportsboats shall wear personal flotation devices while racing. Each sportsboat shall carry the following minimum equipment:-
One manual bilge pump operable with all cockpit seals, hatches and companionways shut; One bucket (of at least 5 litre capacity) of stout construction and with a lanyard attached; A fire extinguisher when either a battery or petrol engine is carried; One suitable anchor with line; First-aid kit and manual; Lifebuoy with a drogue, within easy reach of the helmsman; Flares – at least 2 hand-held red and 2 floating orange smoke; Suitable heaving line of at least 15 metres.
- 4.3 When an anchor is carried no part of it shall protrude over the edge of the hull.

5. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' Sailing is, by its nature, an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in a Regatta 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 each regatta;
- 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 regatta and they are fit to participate;
- e The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the regatta 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.

6. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third part liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000.

Belfast Lough Yachting Conference

2026 REGATTAS

STANDARD SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

To be read in conjunction with the Notice of Race (see the NOTES) and the additional Sailing Instructions of each Member Club's Regatta

1. Notice of Race and Alterations to Rules

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). The prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) will apply. Additional Sailing Instructions (SIs), which are published by each participating Club, together with the Notice of Race (NoR) and these BLYC Standard Sailing Instructions (SSIs) will all be displayed, when available, on the BLYC website at www.blyc.co.uk, and form the rules for that Club's Regatta.
- 1.2 The Sailing Instructions (and/or the SSIs) may be altered by a Race Committee by posting a notice on their Club Notice Board and displaying Flag "L" on the flagpole. Such notices shall be posted not later than 1130 hrs and shall constitute an official notice to each competitor for the purposes of RRS 90.2.

2. Safety

See NoR 4

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 No boat shall start in more than one race.
- 3.2 Boats competing in a YTC White Sail Class (Races 1, 2 or 3) are not permitted to use spinnakers, twin headsails or headsails which do not comply with RRS 55.4.
- 3.3 Dinghies, other than those designated in Races 7 or 9, are only eligible to compete in Races 6 or 8, as appropriate
- 3.4 Prizes will be awarded to Class boats if there are at least three starters in the Race for that Class.

4. Starting Signals

- 4.1 RRS 26 shall not apply. Starting signals shall be made at 5 minute intervals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals and the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Except for Race 1 the warning signal for each Class shall be the preparatory signal for the immediately preceding Class. The Class Pennant/Flag shall be displayed at the start of the immediately preceding Class and shall signify the preparatory signal for that Class. Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

- 4.2 At the absolute discretion of the Race Committee, there may be no Race 9 unless there are Multihull Dinghies clearly present in the vicinity of the Starting Line at the time that Race 8 starts. In those circumstances a Starting Signal for Race 9 may not be made.

5. Identification of Courses

Courses shall be as described in each Club's regatta SIs. In amendment of RRS 41 the Race Committee may, when requested, advise boats of the course signal(s) displayed for their Class. Boats shall make such requests using radio channel M (37). No other information (including identification or location of marks) shall be provided verbally.

6. Recalls

- 6.1 In the event of a general recall the First Substitute shall be displayed for a maximum of 4 minutes and shall be lowered without a sound signal (amends RRS Race Signals).

The recalled Class(es) shall take as its (their) preparatory signal the start of the last Race scheduled on the programme (Race 9) or, if more than one Race has been recalled, the start of the immediately preceding Race that had been subject to a general recall. This SSI amends RRS Race Signals and 29.2.

- 6.2 If one or more Race starts have been subject to a general recall a start for Race 9 will be signalled (whether or not there are any starters). In this case SSI 4.2 shall not apply.

7. Protests

Protests shall be lodged with the Race Officer within one hour of the finishing time of the boat(s) concerned.

8. Time Limit

The time limit for all races shall be 1600 hrs. If any boat finishes within the time limit it shall be extended by one hour for boats in that Class only. All boats finishing after 1600 hrs, or, in the case of a Class for which the time limit has been extended, 1700 hrs., will be scored "Did Not Finish". In the event of a Class failing to finish a second or subsequent round (or course) within the time limit the timings at the end of the last completed round (or course) shall be taken as the result of the race. This SI amends RRS 35.

9. Classes, Start Times and Class Flags

9.1 Race		[NOTE THAT a number of Class starts are amalgamated]			Class Identity Pennant /Flag	Start Time
No.	Class(es)					
1	[YTC Unrestricted – boats which have a YTC of 890 and below YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 949 or below				No. 1 No. 4	1330
2	[YTC Unrestricted – boats which have a YTC of 891 and above YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 950 to 1029				No. 2 No. 5	1335
3	YTC White Sail – boats which have a YTC White Sail of 1030 or above				No. 6	1340
4	SB20, VX1, Viper, RS Elite and other Sportsboats				No. 3	1345
5	Flying Fifteen, Squib, Fairy				E	1350
6	Dinghy Handicap PN 1140 or more, Mirror, ILCA 4, Topper, Feva etc.				F	1355
7	[ILCA 7 (Formerly Laser Standard Rig) ILCA 6 (Formerly Laser Radial Rig)				G J	1400
8	[Dinghy Handicap PN 1139 or less, RS Aero, RS 2000, RS 200, RS 400, GP14, etc.				K	1405
9	Multihull Dinghies				R	1410

- 9.2 Classes 1 and 4 will start together in Race 1. Classes 2 and 5 will start together in Race 2. The ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 Classes will start together in Race 7.

Each of these Classes has been allocated an individual Class Identity Flag.

- 9.3 Prizes will be awarded to the individual Classes designated above where there are 3 or more starters in that Class

10. Spare

- NOTES:
- Boats should carefully check their Starting Times.
 - Some Classes share the same Start Times.
 - Please check the appropriate Club SIs and any amendments as some Clubs may have modified these SSIs for their own Regatta.