



Sailing Instructions for 2025-2026 Season

Refer to: Racing Rules of Sailing: <https://www.sailingresources.org.au/rules-hub/rrs>

1. Rules:

The Club races will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing. The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Yachting Australia and Class rules will apply, see Special Regulations.

2. Entries:

All sailing craft are eligible to enter upon paying the weekly entry fee of \$10.00, provided that they are a member of an affiliated club and registered with Australian Sailing. This complies with RRS Rule 46.

3. Changes to Sailing Instructions:

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be announced by the Officer of the Day at the pre-race briefing.

4. Schedule of Races:

The season schedule is published on the events page of our WLBC website:

See <http://wlbc.org.au/events/>

Two races are scheduled for each day, except during the Sprint series where 6 races each day are planned.

The warning signal for the first race shall not be before 12:25 (EDST & EST) at the beginning of the season or before 11:25 (EST) at the end of the season, with race 2 following this race, maybe after a lunch break.

There will be no warning signal later than 15:55

5. Class Flags:

The warning signal for each division shall be:

Division One (Multihulls):

Numeral Pennant 1



Division Two (Dinghies & Trailer Sailors):

Numeral Pennant 2





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6. The Course:

The course to be sailed will be stated at the race briefing.

7. Marks:

The rounding marks will be **YELLOW** inflatable marks. An additional wing mark may be laid for catamarans, which will be a **RED** inflatable mark.

The start line will be between the **ORANGE** 'at station' flag on the Committee Boat and a **PINK** inflatable mark at the port end.

The finish line will be between the **BLUE** 'at station' flag on the Committee Boat and a **PINK** inflatable mark.

8. Weather Conditions:

When racing is held, the decision to race is the skipper's alone. Be aware of Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing which states '*The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.*'

It is generally accepted that if the wind is less than 3 knots or has consistent wind gusts greater than 20 knots, racing will not occur. Pending electrical storms will also be a reason not to start a race, and approaching electrical storms will be reason to abandon racing.

The decision to cancel a race can be made by the WLBC committee or the day's race officers.



9. The Start:

Pointscore Races and the Sprint Series will be started using a 3-minute start sequence, which changes Rule 26 which refers to a 5-minute start sequence.

In a Handicap Start Race:

The Officer of the Day will assign each boat a handicap.

The first boat to start will have a 3-minute starting sequence, when the class flag is lowered, the first boat to start shall start.

Each boat shall start when their handicap number is raised.

Boats who are not close to starting shall stay clear of the starting area.

We plan to use the **ORANGE** 'at station' flag when the OOD is ready to start the race. This should be raised when the OOD is ready to start the race, some minutes before the starting sequence is started and lowered about 4 minutes after the start without a sound.

10. The Finish:

When the **BLUE** at station flag is flying from the finish boat, no boat shall cross the line unless they are finishing. Failing to observe this rule may lead to disqualification without a hearing.

If the Committee Boat is not on the Finish line, boats shall finish by sailing past the starboard side of the finish buoy and record the time that they cross the line.

11. Penalty System:

Following an infringement in part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing:

After getting well clear of other boats, a boat shall take a 2-turn penalty in the same direction, including 2 tacks and 2 gybes. This is changed for catamarans and trailer-sailors, so that only 1 turn with 1 tack and 1 gybe is required.

12. Time limits

Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

13. Protests:

Protest forms are available from the Race Officer. They shall be delivered in writing, within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing that race.



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14. Scoring for the Pointscore & the Handicap Series:

50% or more of scheduled races are needed to be sailed to constitute a series.

Race drops: Two drops after 10-13 races are completed, four drops after 14-15 races completed and six drops after 16 or more races completed. The boat with the lowest score is the series winner.

Results in Pointscore Series will be based on corrected time, calculated from Yardsticks. The WLBC reserves the right determine a boat's yardstick.

Results for the Handicap Series will be as the boats cross the finish line.

Scoring shall be as per RRS Rule 90.3.

Did Not Finish (DNF): number of boats that finished plus 1.

All boats that have presented to WLBC to sail, noted their name on the competitors list and paid their entry fees but did not start shall be scored a DNF, regardless of whether they were on the start line.

This is to reward those who have presented, but could not sail for any reason, such as broken gear, unsure of their ability in the conditions or other engagements.

Did Not Start (DNS) = Did Not Compete (DNC): number of boats that registered on the days Competitors List plus 1.

Officer of the Day (OOD): 2 points

For those competitors who are away at a regatta, representing our club, their race score will be the average of her most recent 3 sailed races in that series.

In a tied finish, the places shall be added together and divided equally

Point system applies to each division and each race separately.



15. Scoring for the Sprint Series:

Six races are needed to constitute a series. The aim will be to have 3 days of sailing over the season, with 6 races each day.

Race drops: There will be no drops until 8 races are sailed, there will be 1 drop at 8 races, 2 drops at 10 races, 3 drops at 12 races, 4 drops at 14 races, 5 drops at 16 races and 6 drops at 18 races.

The boat with the lowest score is the series winner.

Results in Sprint Series will be based on corrected time, calculated from Yardsticks. The WLBC reserves the right determine a boat's yardstick.

Scoring shall be as per RRS Rule 90.3.

Did Not Finish (DNF): number of boats that finished plus 1.

All boats that have presented to WLBC to sail, noted their name on the competitors list and paid their entry fees but did not start shall be scored a DNF, regardless of whether they were on the start line.

This is to reward those who have presented, but could not sail for any reason, such as broken gear, unsure of their ability in the conditions or other engagements.

Did Not Start (DNS) = Did Not Compete (DNC): number of boats that presented to WLBC to sail in the whole Sprint Series, noted their name on the competitors list and paid their entry fees, plus 1

Officer of the Day (OOD): will score the average of the most recent 6 of her races sailed in the series.

In a tied finish, the places shall be added together and divided equally

16. Safety Regulations:

P.F.D.'s must be worn at all times on the water by competitors.

Competitors need to sign on before the first race of the day and sign off after the last race of the day.

Competitors are to note the time that they signed off after their last race of the day.

Boats are required to be in a seaworthy condition and well maintained.

Boats retiring from a race or deciding not to contest an event shall notify the Race Officer at the earliest convenient time.

Any incident involving damage or injury should be recorded on an Incident Report Form and submitted to the Officer of the Day or Club Secretary.



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17. Prizes:

Unless varied by the Committee, prizes will be awarded for the following:

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Pointscore series
- 1st in the Sabre series within the pointscore series.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Handicap series
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the Sabre Handicap series (held within the pointscore series – the Morrie Lynch Trophy)
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the Sprint Series
- For the Most Improved Skipper (rising star)
- Best Female Sailor
- Best Youth Sailor

18. Disclaimer of Liability:

Competitors participate in each race entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race. The WLBC will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after a race.