

MHYC Thursday Twilights and the Smithy's Waterproofing Womens Helm Series



22 January 2026

Currently, the Smithy's Waterproofing Womens Helm Series comprises six races held in conjunction with races in the MHYC Thursday Twilight Non-Spinnaker Series with one race each month from October to March.

Boats entered in the Thursday Twilight Series have free entry into the Womens Helm Series. Pursuit start times for these boats are calculated for each race based upon preceding results. However, for the calculation of the Womens Helm Series results, a PHS time correction factor is applied to the elapsed times and the handicaps are calculated separate to the main Twilight Series.

Proposed Change

It has been proposed to the MHYC Sailing Committee that for the 2026/27 season we change the approach for the Smithy's Waterproofing Womens Helm Series. Specifically:

- Maintain 6 Women's Twilight races per year / one per month
- Keep the current handicapping arrangement (PHS TCF on elapsed time) and increase the prizes from just 1st place to wine for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place for the Women's series.
- On the 6 nights of the Women's Twilight, the Thursday Twilight Series fleet would sail a non-pointscore race. Prizes would be the same (wine for 1st, 2nd & 3rd), but race scores would not contribute to the Annual, Pre-Christmas or Post-Christmas pointscores and the handicaps for the Thursday Twilight Series would not change after these races.

Based on the current number of races, the change would result in:

- 6 Pointscore races in the Smithy's Waterproofing Womens Helm Series
- 18 Pointscore races in the Thursday Twilight Non-Spinnaker Series
- 7 Non-Pointscore races in the Thursday Twilight Non-Spinnaker Series (Women's Helm races plus the Warm-Up Race 1)

The objectives of this proposal are that:

- Skippers would be encouraged to give more women the opportunity of helming if those races do not affect the series pointscore
- The focus of 6 Twilight race days would be on the Womens Helm Series, promoting a higher profile for Women's Sailing
- Boats that are focused on performing well in the pointscores (Annual, Pre-Christmas & Post-Christmas) would not be disadvantaged by racing with less experienced helms

Comments Are Welcomed

The Sailing Committee is interested to know the opinion of boat owners and sailors about this proposal.

Please respond via the [online questionnaire](#) or direct your comments to:

Kevin Bloor, MHYC Twilight Division Representative - kevin_bloor@icloud.com, or

MHYC Sailing Office – sailing@mhyc.com.au