SYDNEY HARBOUR SPRINT SERIES

SYDNEY HARBOUR SPRINT SERIES (SHSS) SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Middle Harbour Yacht Club. Please also refer to the MHYC Season 2026-2027 Notice of Race which is posted on the MHYC Keelboat Racing Noticeboard.

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

1 RULES

1.1 The Series will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and the Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (Special Regulations) as amended.

1.2 All boats shall have a valid Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations Category 7 (or higher) Equipment Audit. Any boat failing to comply with equipment requirements may be subject to protest by the race committee.

1.3 RRS 51 is amended so that boats with movable or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability.

1.4 RRS 52 is amended so that electric winches and canting keels may be adjusted using the boat's electrical system.

1.5 In the event of conflict between any of the rules or regulations, other than RRS, the sailing instructions will prevail.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Keelboat Racing Noticeboard online.

2.2 Competitors may be advised of the intended race area via email or text.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Keelboat Racing Noticeboard before 0900hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change on the water will be announced on the VHF race management channel after display of Code Flag L with one sound.

3.2 Competitors may be advised of a change to the sailing instructions via email or text.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Clubhouse Flagmast on the north-eastern corner of MHYC and may be repeated at other clubs.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

4.3 Competitors may be advised of a postponement via email or text.

5 SCHEDULE

5.1 **Sydney Harbour Sprint Series – Summer**

- Saturday 17 October 2026 (3 races)
- Saturday 14 November 2026 (3 races)
- Saturday 6 February 2027 (3 races)

Sydney Harbour Sprint Series – Winter

5.2
- Saturday 8 May 2027 (3 races)
- Saturday 5 June 2027 (3 races)
- Saturday 10 July 2027 (3 races)

5.3 A maximum of 9 races may be sailed in each series.

5.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1155hrs each day.

5.5 No warning signal will be made after 1600hrs.

6 CLASS FLAGS

The Class flag will be as follows:
Division 1 – Code Flag Delta (D)
Division 2 – Code Flag Echo (E)
Division 3 – Code Flag Foxtrot (F)

7 RACING AREAS

Attachment A shows the location of windward-leeward racing areas.

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The diagram and tables in Attachment B show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

8.2 No later than the warning signal, the course to be sailed will be displayed on a Course Board on the CV, preceded by the letter 'W', to indicate the number of roundings of the Windward Mark/s.

8.3 The race committee may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

8.4 The Gate will be laid approx. 50-100m to windward of the Start Line.

8.5 In the event that either Gate Mark (2S or 2P) is not in place, boats shall round the sole leeward mark to port.

8.6 If an offset mark is laid adjacent to Mark 1, 1A or 1B, boats shall round the designated windward mark and the adjacent offset mark to port.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks are described in Attachment B.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 Boats shall pass on the safe water side of the following Cardinal Marks:
(a) Gowlland Bombora (Dobroyd Head) – All Marks
(b) Sow and Pigs Reef– All Marks
(c) Shark Island– South and West Marks

10.2 Boats shall not sail in the following prohibited areas:
(a) The area bounded by imaginary lines projected from the shore joining the West, South and East Cardinal Marks surrounding Gowlland Bombora.
(b) The area bounded by imaginary lines joining the North, East, South and West Cardinal Marks surrounding Sow and Pigs Reef.

10.3 For the purpose of RRS 19 and 20, all Cardinal Marks surrounding the Gowlland Bombora and the Sow and Pigs Reef and all imaginary straight lines projected between such marks, are deemed continuing obstructions.

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made no less than 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

11.3 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

12.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee boat signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee boat to starboard. This changes rule 28.1.

13 THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat and the course side of the finishing mark.

13.2 When a finish mark with a black & white chequered band is laid on the starboard side of the race committee vessel, boats shall finish by passing the committee vessel to starboard and the B&W finish mark to port.

13.3 When a finish mark with a black & white chequered band is not laid on the starboard side of the race committee vessel, boats shall finish by passing the committee vessel to port and the yellow start mark to starboard.

14 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

14.1

Race Time Limit	60 mins
Windward Mark (1 / 1A / 1B) Time Limit	20 mins
Target Time	30-40 mins
Finish Window	10 mins

14.2 If no boat has passed the Windward Mark within the Windward Mark time limit, the race will be abandoned for that division. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1.

14.3 Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes after the first boat in that division sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protest forms and requests for redress shall be delivered to the MHYC Sailing Office or via email to sailing@mhyc.com.au within the appropriate time limit.

15.2 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

15.3 Notices will be posted no later than 120 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at MHYC unless the Protest Committee directs otherwise.

15.4 Notices of protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 60.2(a)(2).

15.5 Breaches of SIs 14 and 17 - 22 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

16 SCORING

16.1 RRS Appendix A5.3 will apply.

16.2 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

16.3 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

When 5 – 9 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 Boats intending to race shall report to the committee vessel prior to their first warning signal, on starboard tack, with mainsail hoisted, to confirm their intention to race. Boats that cannot be identified may be scored 'DNC'. [DP]

17.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. (DP]

17.3 All boats shall monitor the race management channel VHF 72. [DP]

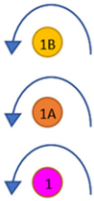
18 EVENT ADVERTISING

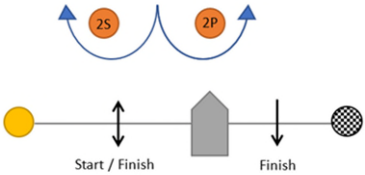
Competitors shall not dispose rubbish into the water. Rubbish may be placed aboard support or official boats.

Attachment A – Approximate Windward-Leeward Race Areas



Attachment B – Windward Leeward Courses





COURSE MARKS	MARK DESCRIPTIONS
Start & Finish Mark	Yellow Inflatable Buoy
Alternative Finish Mark (if laid)	Inflatable Buoy with Black & White Chequered Band
Division 1 Windward Mark - Mark 1B	Yellow Inflatable Buoy
Division 2 Windward Mark - Mark 1A	Orange Inflatable Buoy
Division 3 Windward Mark - Mark 1	Pink Inflatable Buoy
Offset Marks (if laid)	Orange Buoys
Gates 2S & 2P	Orange Inflatable Buoys

COURSE SIGNAL	COURSE
W1	Start – 1 or 1A or 1B – Finish
W2	Start – 1 or 1A or 1B – Gate (2P/2S) – 1 or 1A or 1B – Finish
W3	Start – 1 or 1A or 1B – Gate (2P/2S) – 1 or 1A or 1B – Gate (2P/2S) – 1 or 1A or 1B – Finish