

COOK ISLAND

YACHT RACE **NOVEMBER 1, 2026**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB



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1. IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Southport Yacht Club (OA)

Phone: (07) 5537 7030
Race Committee contact: Kayla Boothby
Mobile: 0481 711 950
Email: racing.coordinator@sycgc.com.au
Website: www.southportyachtclub.com.au
Race communications: VHF 09

First Aid & Emergency Services

Service	VHF	Telephone
Gold Coast Seaway Tower	CH16, 67, 73	(07) 5591 2948
MRQ Southport West	CH16, 67, 73, 81 (working CH73)	(07) 5531 1421
MRQ Southport East (VMR 400)	CH16, 67, 73, 82	(07) 5591 1300
Gold Coast Water Police	CH16, 73	(07) 5509 5700
Marine Rescue Point Danger (NSW)	CH16	(07) 5506 5900
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)		1800 641 792

Southport Yacht Club Race Committee

Vice Commodore Sail	Wayne Kirby
Racing Coordinator	Kayla Boothby
S.C. Divisional Representative	Barry Berg

2. RULES

- 2.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–2028.
- 2.2. The Australian Sailing prescriptions and Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1, Category 4, including all current amendments and official interpretations, shall apply. The Southport Yacht Club Sailing Policy 2026/27 applies and is available at <https://southportyachtclub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/26-27-SYC-Sailing-Policy-.pdf>
- 2.3. All boats shall comply with the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 and Regulation. In the event of a reportable Marine Incident, the SYC Racing Coordinator shall be notified as soon as practical, and in any case no later than 1 hour after the last boat has finished. A copy of the MSQ Marine Incident Report shall be lodged with the OA at the same time it is lodged with Maritime Safety Queensland.
- 2.4. The *International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea* (IRPCAS) shall apply at all times. RRS will apply only between those ships that are participating in the event, for the duration of the event. Should interaction occur with non-participating ships, then IRPCAS shall apply to all ships and shall override all other rules.
- 2.5. Competitors are reminded of their obligation under RRS 1.1, Helping Those in Danger.
- 2.6. RRS Appendix T – Arbitration applies
- 2.7. The IRC Rules 2026, Parts A, B and C, together with the Australian Sailing prescriptions applicable to the IRC Rules, shall apply to boats entered in IRC.
- 2.8. The ORC Rating Systems 2026 rules shall apply to boats entered in ORC.

- 2.9. The Offshore Multihull Rating Specification 2026 shall apply to boats entered in OMR.
- 2.10. RRS Appendix WP, Rules for Waypoints, applies.
- 2.11. Boats shall comply with the applicable Category 4 requirements of Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1, including SR 3.12 and Section 5. Competitors are reminded of RRS 1.2 and RRS 40. Wearing a lifejacket does not waive any applicable lifeline requirement.
- 2.12. For crew younger than 18 years of age, a Parental Consent Form signed by a parent or guardian is required with the boat's entry, together with evidence of past sailing experience. The Organising Authority may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to allow any crew member aged under 18 years of age to participate in the race.
- 2.13. All crew shall meet the requirements of World Sailing Regulation 19 (World Sailing Eligibility Code). Crew who do not hold a current Australian Sailing Identification Number may apply to the Organising Authority for short term membership – "Sail Pass".

3. ALTERATIONS OF RACING RULES

- 3.1. RRS 55.2 and 55.3 are amended to allow fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers.

4. DIVISIONS

- 4.1. The race will comprise one fleet. Boats will be scored separately in IRC, ORC, OMR or PHS in accordance with the scoring categories selected under the Notice of Race. An eligible boat may be scored in one or more of IRC, ORC and OMR. A boat entered in PHS shall not also be entered or scored in IRC, ORC or OMR.

5. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 5.1. Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board, located near reception at Southport Yacht Club Main Beach Clubhouse. Notices will also be published online at <https://southportyachtclub.com.au/events/cook-island-yacht-race-2026/>

6. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0700 hours on the day of the Race, except that any change which affects the schedule of the Race will be posted before 1900 hours on the day before it will take effect.

7. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 7.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located at The Quarterdeck, Southport Yacht Club Main Beach.
- 7.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 90 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

8. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 1 November 2026	0800 hrs	Compulsory Skipper's Briefing at SYC Main Beach
	Not before 0955 hrs	Warning Signal
	Not before 1700 hrs	Presentation at SYC Main Beach as soon as possible after racing

9. CLASS FLAGS

9.1. The Warning Signal for all boats shall be Code Flag 'T'.

10. RACING AREA

- 10.1. The Racing Area will be the region offshore between the Gold Coast Seaway Qld and the Cook Island Laid Mark.
- 10.2. When entering or departing the Gold Coast Seaway, the Organising Authority strongly encourages all skippers to carefully observe the prevailing conditions and wave patterns. During the crossing of a designated coastal bar in an open boat, as well as in any open area of a boat of any length, and on certain craft, wearing a lifejacket is **compulsory** as per Maritime Safety Queensland regulations.

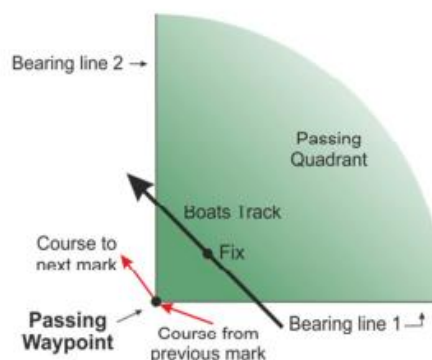
11. THE COURSE

Course Mark	Description	Location
Starting Line	As described in SI 13	27° 56.400'S, 153° 27.230'E
Clearing Mark	As described in SI 13.7	
COOK ISLAND LAID MARK	Laid Mark – Yellow cylindrical buoy	28°11.200S, 153°34.300'E to port (approx.)
Finishing Line	As described in SI 16	27°56.315'S, 153° 26.500'E

12. MARKS

- 12.1. The Starting Mark will be a Red with Black Top cylindrical buoy.
- 12.2. Clearing Mark will be a Yellow cylindrical buoy.
- 12.3. The Cook Island Laid Mark shall be a Yellow cylindrical buoy.
- 12.4. If a mark is missing or not in the vicinity of the GPS coordinates, yachts may round the GPS coordinate of the mark in accordance with SI 12.5.

- 12.5. Rounding or Passing Waypoint Marks have an associated rounding quadrant defined as the area enclosed between the two bearing lines (with 90 degrees between them) extending from the waypoint. A boat that provides a valid GPS fix within this quadrant is deemed to have rounded or passed the Waypoint Mark on the correct side.

Rounding Waypoint**Passing Waypoint**

13. THE START

- 13.1. The Race will be started using RRS 26, with the Warning Signal given five minutes before the Starting Signal.
- 13.2. The starting line will be approximately 1 Nautical Mile ESE of the Sand Bypass Jetty.
- 13.3. The Starting Line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee Vessel to Starboard, and the Starting Mark to Port.
- 13.4. A boat that starts more than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 13.5. Individual recalls will be signalled in accordance with RRS 29.1. In addition, the Race Committee vessel may attempt to identify recalled boats on VHF Channel 09 as soon as possible and no later than five minutes after the starting signal. These radio calls are supplementary to the visual and sound signals. Failure to make or receive a radio call does not relieve a boat of her obligations under RRS 29.1.
- 13.6. General Recalls will be signalled according to RRS 29.2
- 13.7. A Clearing Mark may be laid as part of the course. The Clearing Mark will be approximately 0.5 mile upwind of the start line. All yachts are to take the Clearing Mark to starboard.

14. OBSTRUCTIONS & PROHIBITED AREAS

- 14.1. All coastline "Shark Nets" are to be passed to seaward and are designated obstructions.
- 14.2. For the purposes of RRS 19 and 20, "Wonder Reef", the Gold Coast dive attraction which is located 2.5 km east of Main Beach at approximately 27° 57.70' S, 153° 27.30' E, is a continuing obstruction and a prohibited area. This area is defined with four (4) yellow special marker buoys with the following coordinates, should they be missing:

NE Latitude:	27° 57.459'S	Longitude: 153°27.432'E
NW Latitude:	27° 57.453'S	Longitude: 153°27.188'E
SE Latitude:	27° 57.742'S	Longitude: 153°27.431'E
SW Latitude:	27° 57.749'S	Longitude: 153°27.187'E

14.3. All Queensland wave monitoring sites have an enforceable 100 metre exclusion zone around each wave buoy which is a prohibited area. Wave monitoring sites are located at:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Brisbane: | Latitude: 27° 29.230' S | Longitude: 153° 37.900' E |
| ○ Gold Coast: | Latitude: 27° 57.914' S | Longitude: 153° 26.555' E |
| ○ Palm Beach: | Latitude: 28° 05.956' S | Longitude: 153° 29.073' E |
| ○ Bilinga: | Latitude: 28° 08.581' S | Longitude: 153° 30.646' E |

A boat shall not sail into a prohibited area.

15. SHORTENED COURSE

15.1. There is no provision for the Race Committee to shorten the course.

16. THE FINISH

16.1. The Finishing Line shall be a line formed from the seaward end of the Sand Bypass Jetty and the finish boat anchored at approximately 27°56.315'S, 153° 26.500'E. Boats shall cross the finishing line in a northerly direction.

16.2. If the Finish Boat is not on station, the Race Committee may use the alternate finishing line described below. A boat finishing in those circumstances shall take its own finishing time and, within 30 minutes after finishing, send its boat name and finishing time by text message to the Race Officer on 0481 711 950. Times shall be reported in the format specified in SI 21.5. See also SI 21.7.

16.2.1. The imaginary line will be formed from the eastern end of the Sand Bypass Jetty and co-ordinates at 27° 56.315'S 153° 26.500'E.

17. PENALTY SYSTEM

17.1. RRS 44.3, Scoring Penalty, applies. In accordance with RRS 44.1, the Scoring Penalty replaces the One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties for an incident in which a boat may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31. RRS 44.1(b) remains applicable.

17.2. A boat taking the Scoring Penalty shall comply with RRS 44.3(a) and RRS 44.3(b), including the yellow-flag and finishing-line notification requirements.

17.3. The Scoring Penalty will be calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c). The penalty will be 20% of the score for Did Not Finish, rounded as stated in RRS 44.3(c), but shall not result in a score worse than Did Not Finish. The scores of other boats shall not be changed.

17.4. A boat taking the RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty shall submit Attachment A, Skipper's Declaration, to the Race Committee as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 90 minutes after finishing.

17.5. Attachment A is a supporting administrative declaration. Late or missing submission does not automatically invalidate a Scoring Penalty properly taken under RRS 44.3 and does not, by itself, authorise the Race Committee to apply an additional penalty without a hearing.

18. TIME LIMIT

18.1. The time limit for the race will be seven hours from the time of the starting signal. Boats which have not finished by this time will be scored DNF

19. RETIREMENT

- 19.1. A boat that retires from the race shall notify the RO via text as soon as possible on 0481 711 950, providing:
- Yacht Name
 - Current GPS Latitude and Longitude position
 - General direction of travel
 - POB #
 - Destination
 - (ETR HRS:MIN:SEC) approximate Estimated Time of Return to Destination

20. PROTESTS AND REDRESS

- 20.1. RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, applies.
- 20.2. A boat intending to protest shall comply with RRS 60.2.
- 20.3. A protest shall be in writing and delivered to the race office within the protest time limit in accordance with RRS 60.3. Hearing Request Forms are available from the SYC Sailing Office and SYC Main Beach Reception; however, a particular form is not required.
- 20.4. A request for redress shall be made and delivered in accordance with RRS 61. Boats that divert from their optimum course to provide help under RRS 1.1 are strongly encouraged to keep a detailed record of their movements and relevant circumstances.
- 20.5. The time and place of each hearing will be advised to the parties as soon as reasonably possible.

21. SAFETY & COMMUNICATIONS

- 21.1. The Race Officer (**RO**) mobile number for boats to call, text, mms messages to is **0481 711 950**.
- 21.2. All boats shall via VHF73, Log-On with Gold Coast Seaway Tower prior to departing the Gold Coast Seaway and Log-Off upon returning through the Gold Coast Seaway after finishing or retiring from the race.
- 21.3. All boats shall via VHF09, Sign On with the Race Committee Vessel prior to the Warning Signal, confirming their Boat Name, total Persons on Board (POB) and confirming her Sail Number.
- 21.4. A boat that retires from the race shall comply with SI 19.
- 21.5. All times stated in these Sailing Instructions and all times reported to the Race Officer shall be Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST, UTC+10). Times reported to the Race Officer shall use the 24-hour HH:MM:SS format, for example 15:00:45.
- 21.6. Within 15 minutes after rounding the COOK ISLAND LAID MARK announced at the briefing, each boat shall notify the Race Officer by text message of the boat's name and the number of persons on board. A boat wishing to compete for the Navigator's Prize shall include its Estimated Time of Finishing in the same message.
- 21.7. A boat required to take its own finishing time under SI 16.2 shall report that time in accordance with SI 16.2.
- 21.8. A boat taking the RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty shall submit Attachment A, Skipper's Declaration, in accordance with SI 17.4.
- 21.9. Each boat shall display sail numbers in accordance with RRS Appendix G.

22. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the rules that apply to the event, including Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1, Category 4. Inspections under the Special Regulations may be conducted by a person appointed by the boat's club or the Race Committee in accordance with SR 2.02.2.

23. OFFICIAL BOATS

- 23.1. Official boats will be marked with the SYC Burgee.

24. TRACKING UNIT

- 24.1. A boat shall carry a tracking device if so required by the Organising Authority. The device will be supplied by the Organising Authority.

25. SCORING AND HANDICAPPING

- 25.1. ORC results will be determined using the All-Purpose Time-on-Time method shown on a boat's current valid ORC certificate. Corrected time will be calculated by applying the applicable All-Purpose Time-on-Time factor to the boat's elapsed time.
- 25.2. PHS results will be determined by applying the Performance Handicap System Time Correction Factor (TCF) nominated by the SYC Handicap Committee. The TCF will be expressed to three decimal places, and corrected time will be calculated by multiplying the boat's elapsed time by the nominated TCF.
- 25.3. IRC results will be determined by applying the Time Correction Coefficient (TCC) shown on a boat's current valid IRC certificate as a multiplier to her elapsed time. A boat that does not hold a current valid IRC certificate lodged with the Organising Authority in accordance with the Notice of Race will not be scored under IRC.
- 25.4. OMR results will be determined by applying the rating shown on a boat's current valid OMR certificate to her elapsed time in accordance with the Offshore Multihull Rating Specification 2026. A boat that does not hold a current valid OMR certificate lodged with the Organising Authority in accordance with the Notice of Race will not be scored under OMR.
- 25.5. A Scoring Penalty taken under RRS 44.3 will be applied to the boat's race score in each corrected-time category in which the boat is validly entered and scored. The penalty will be calculated separately in each category after corrected time has determined the boat's finishing place in that category.

26. PRIZES

- 26.1. Results will be published for every corrected-time category regardless of the number of starters. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place in a corrected-time category only where at least three boats start in that category.
- 26.2. Separate Line Honours prizes will be awarded to the first monohull and the first multihull to finish.
- 26.3. A Navigator's Prize will be awarded to the boat which has the closest actual finishing time to their Estimated Time of Finishing in accordance with SI 21.6.
- 26.4. The names of the overall ORC (A/P) first-place winner and the overall IRC first-place winner will be engraved on the Southport Yacht Club Cook Island Yacht Race Perpetual Trophy.
- 26.5. Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

- 26.6. The presentation will be held at SYC Main Beach as soon as possible after racing, but not before 1700 hrs.

27. INDEMNITY

- 27.1. An allegation that an entrant has deliberately invalidated a certificate, falsified documentation or otherwise misled the Race Committee may be referred for consideration under RRS 69. Any proceedings, sanctions and reporting under RRS 69 shall be conducted in accordance with that rule.
- 27.2. Participant's attention is drawn to:
- 27.2.1. Under RRS 3, the decision to participate or continue racing is the boat's alone. By participating, each competitor acknowledges sailing's inherent risks, including adverse weather and sea conditions, equipment failure, boat-handling errors, poor seamanship, loss of balance and fatigue. These risks include permanent injury or death through drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.
 - 27.2.2. Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1, SR 1.02.1, which sets out the responsibilities of the person in charge for the safety of the boat and crew.
- 27.3. All those taking part in Southport Yacht Club events do so at their own risk and responsibility. The SYC is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.

28. INSURANCE AND ELIGIBILITY

- 28.1. Each boat shall hold valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of AUD \$10 million for any one incident.
- 28.2. Crew membership and registration shall comply with NoR 5.1, including its SailPass provision. Each boat shall have a person in charge designated in accordance with NoR 5.2(b).
- 28.3. Each boat shall comply with applicable vessel-registration requirements.
- 28.4. Each boat shall be sailed by at least two crew members aged 18 or older on Sunday 1 November 2026.

29. SYC SAILING COMMITTEE

SYC Vice Commodore of Sail

Wayne Kirby | Phone: 0418 950 250 | Email: wayne@kirbyfamily.id.au

SYC Racing Coordinator

Kayla Boothby | Phone: 0481 711 950 | Email: racing.coordinator@sycgc.com.au

30. SYC SAILING CONTACTS

SYC Volunteers Coordinator

Mike Latter | Phone: 0499 941 982 | Email: volunteers@sycgc.com.au

SYC Sailing Office

Southport Yacht Club | Phone: (07) 5537 7030 | Email: racing.admin@sycgc.com.au

31. PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

For participants under 18 years old.



Scan QR Code / Click the Link:

<https://form.jotform.com/253497312363055>

ATTACHMENT A – SKIPPER'S DECLARATION**RRS 44.3 SCORING PENALTY DECLARATION**

This declaration is required only from a boat taking the RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty.

I declare that the boat identified below took a Scoring Penalty under RRS 44.3 in relation to the incident described in this declaration.

This declaration shall be submitted to the Race Committee as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 90 minutes after the boat finishes.

BOAT NAME	SAIL NUMBER
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Name of person in charge: _____

Date of incident: _____ Approximate time of incident: _____

Approximate location of incident: _____

Identity of the other boat involved, if applicable: _____

I confirm that the boat complied with the applicable requirements of RRS 44.3(a) and RRS 44.3(b), including the yellow-flag and finishing-line notification requirements.

Description of the incident:

Date and time submitted: _____

Authentication by the person in charge: _____