



SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB

2026 – 2027

SAILING SEASON POLICY

ALL DIVISIONS

OFFSHORE



INSHORE



TWILIGHT



**OFF THE
BEACH CATS**



**OFF THE
BEACH
DINGHYS**





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1. CLUB PARTICIPATION RULES

- 1.1. Southport Yacht Club (SYC) is a member of Australian Sailing (AS) and races are governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as published by World Sailing of the Prescriptions and Special Regulations (SR) of Australian Sailing.
- 1.2. All participating Boats and Operators must comply with The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and its subordinate legislation, the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012* (Cwlth) and its subordinate legislation AND The *International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea 1972* (COLREGS).
- 1.3. The *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) only applies between participating SYC Competitors for the duration of the event. Should interaction occur with non-participating ships, then COLREGS shall apply to all ships and shall over-ride all other rules.
- 1.4. It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the boat to ensure that all crew competing on the boat must be in one of the following categories.
 - 1.4.1. A current financial sailing member (or equivalent) of SYC, or of a fully reciprocal club such as RQYS, RMYC (Broken Bay), CYCA and hold a current Australian Sailing Number or an equivalent membership of a yachting authority recognized by World Sailing. Please visit the Australian Sailing website at <https://www.sailing.org.au/finder/> validity.
 - 1.4.2. Hold a SYC Sail Pass prior to competing. The Sail Pass will have an allocated temporary AS membership number. Crew are entitled to a maximum of 6 Sail Passes per sailing year for SYC club events. Note that additional Sail Passes are allowed for events that are nominated as SYC Special events. All sailors are encouraged to become financial sailing members for SYC. Funds from membership are used to pay a substantial fee to Australian Sailing and are used to help fund the on-water equipment and the Racing Office. The Sail Pass holder can use the funds for up to 6 Sail Passes per SYC sailing year as a credit towards full membership during that same year.
- 1.5. The Top Yacht program is used by SYC for its race result software to assist the SYC Race & Handicap Committee.
- 1.6. All Members intending to race shall pre-pay and register with a Season Entry or Casual Entry prior to racing. Failure to pay the outlined fee and/or register shall result in positions not being shown in results. Any Member/s who continually race without paying or registering will be referred to The Club Manager for disciplinary action.
- 1.7. Only current financial Members of the Southport Yacht Club Inc. are eligible for a Season Entry.
- 1.8. Average Points may be requested by series entrants only for the following SYC Divisions and their relevant approved Regatta's:
 - a) Inshore Division (ID): State, National and International Regatta's, Surf to City Yacht Race
 - b) Offshore Division (OD): Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race, Surf to City Yacht Race, Hamilton Island Race Week, Airlie Beach Race Week, Gold Coast To Mackay Yacht Race, Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, Brisbane to Bundaberg Yacht Race, St. Helena Cup, Brisbane Race Week, Goodwill Cup, Sail Port Stephens, Festival of Sail
 - c) Off The Beach Dinghies (OTBD): State, National and International Regatta's, Big River Sailing Club Regatta's and Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club Regatta's, RQYS Regattas, Youth Sail Qld, Humpybong Yacht Club - Humpy Bash
 - d) Off The Beach Catamarans (OTBC): State, National and International Regatta's, Big River Sailing Club Regatta's and Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club Regatta's, RQYS Regattas, Humpybong Yacht Club – Humpy Bash.
 - e) Average Points may be requested by Club series entrants for State, National and International Regattas prior to an event, and approval will be at the discretion of the Sailing Committee prior.
- 1.9. An application for average points must be completed and returned to the Racing Office and BEFORE the approved event. The application form is available on the SYC website. No application will be considered post the approved event. These points will be awarded for no more than three (3) Race Days per Sailing Season.



- 1.10. Approved Average Points shall only be applied to the traveling boat or travelling skipper within its own Division/Class.
- 1.11. All competitors are reminded of RRS 1.1 Helping Those in Danger; A boat, competitor or support person shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

2. RACE ABANDONMENT

ON SHORE

- 2.1. Any decision to race, postpone or abandon racing will be made by the Principal Race Officer in consultation with the Vice Commodore of Sail and the relevant SYC Sailing Committee Divisional Representative and if not contactable, The Head of Racing or their representative and the Race Officer.
- 2.2. For regular club racing the decision to race, postpone or abandon will not be made earlier than 60 minutes of the first starting signal on the day of the race unless circumstances dictate that an earlier decision would be appropriate noting:
 - 2.2.1. Racing will not be started if there is a current gale (or higher), tsunami or other severe weather warning that will impact the race area(s).
 - 2.2.2. Racing may not be started if there is a current severe thunderstorm warning that will impact the race area(s)
 - 2.2.3. Racing may not be started if there is a strong wind warning in the race area(s).
- 2.3. For regular club racing the decision to postpone or abandon a race due to light weather will only be made within 60 minutes of the first starting signal.
- 2.4. Races will only be abandoned/postponed after careful consideration of all-weather conditions and their likely impact on the race area(s).
- 2.5. A decision to race on any given day does not relieve any competitor of his/her obligation under RRS Fundamental Rule 3 – Decision to race.
- 2.6. Abandoned Races will not be resailed.

AFLOAT

- 2.7. For Club Racing, any decision to abandon a race whilst vessels are afloat or a race is underway, will be the responsibility of the Principal Race Officer and the Race Officer (RO) in consultation with the Head of Racing or their representative.
- 2.8. For Special Events, any decision to abandon a race whilst vessels are afloat or a race is underway will be the responsibility of the Principal Race Officer (PRO) in consultation with the Vice Commodore of Sail, or Head of Racing, or their representative.

3. SAILING COMMITTEE, RACE COMMITTEE & PROTEST COMMITTEE

- 3.1. The Vice Commodore of Sail shall recommend the appointment prior to the start of each season, a Sailing Committee which shall include at least one member nominated by each of the divisions sailing in the Club and the Head of Racing.
- 3.2. The Vice Commodore of Sail or a nominee appointed by the Board, shall be Chairperson of the Sailing Committee and shall record such decisions and recommendations as passed by a simple majority present at Sailing Committee meetings. Sailing Committee decisions shall be reported to the Board.
- 3.3. Quorum for the Sailing Committee shall consist of four members.
- 3.4. Quorum for Race & Protest Committee's shall consist of three members.
- 3.5. The Sailing Committee shall: determine the sailing programme for the forthcoming season; determine such sailing rules and instructions as are necessary for the conduct of races within the club; be responsible for conducting point score, championship and special events within the Club and any other sailing event that the Board decides upon from time to time to conduct; and meet at least once a month.



- 3.6. Between meetings of the Sailing Committee, the Sailing Officers shall have power to deal with any emergency. Any action taken under this provision shall be reported to the next meeting of the Sailing Committee.
- 3.7. **The Race Committee** shall include the SYC Divisional Sailing Committee Representative, the Vice Commodore of Sail, the Head of Racing or their nominated deputy.
- 3.8. **All decisions relating to sailing events shall be deliberated by the Race Committee.**
- 3.9. A Protest Committee shall be appointed by the Racing Office for each hearing session as required.
- 3.10. RRS Appendix T- ARBITRATION applies to SYC Club Racing and all SYC Special Events:
 - 3.10.1. A short mediation hearing will be conducted for all protests lodged in accordance with RRS 61 which allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2 or 4. Such hearing will be held as soon as possible after racing.
 - 3.10.2. The time and place of the mediation hearing will be decided by the mediator and such advice may be given verbally.
 - 3.10.3. One representative of each boat shall attend the mediation hearing and no witnesses shall be allowed. The mediator shall decide the manner in which testimony is given.
 - 3.10.4. After taking testimony at a mediation hearing the mediator shall make one of the following conclusions:
 - a) The protest does not comply with RRS 61 and the protestor may withdraw the protest. This changes RRS 63.1;
 - b) The matter should proceed to a protest hearing. (This may be because rules other than Part 2 or 4 are or may be involved, or because evidence is too complex or divergent to reach a reasonable and timely conclusion, or due to the apparent severity of the alleged infringement, or for any other reason decided by the Mediator);
 - c) No rule was broken and the Protestor may withdraw the protest. This changes RRS 63.1;
 - d) A rule was broken by one or more of the boats involved and all parties to the mediation agree, the infringing boat(s) may accept a 30% scoring penalty, and if so accepted the Protestor shall withdraw the protest. **All other boat scores will remain the same.**
- 3.11. If the parties do not agree, the protest shall proceed to a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 3.12. A mediation hearing shall not be re-opened. No conclusion of a Mediator shall be subject to appeal or be grounds for redress. Should the protest proceed to a protest hearing then the Mediator may be a member of the protest committee. Any evidence given by a Mediator during a protest hearing shall be given only in the presence of the parties to the Hearing.
- 3.13. Protest Hearings & Requests for Redress for all club racing (excluding SYC Special Events) will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at SYC Hollywell from 5pm. Protests will be heard in order of receipt and Parties will be notified of the schedule by email no later than the Friday prior to the Hearing.

4. DUE PROCESS AND HANDICAPS

SYC utilises a democratic *due process* in relation to pertinent Sailing matters that effect our Sailing Community. This *due process* incorporates the Divisional Representatives of The Sailing Committee, the Vice Commodore of Sail and the Racing Office.

The Top Yacht program is used by SYC for its race management software to assist the Handicap Committee in setting handicaps. The following handicap systems are used throughout the Division's in accordance with their Sailing Instructions:

- Offshore Racing Congress (ORCi) and Offshore Racing Congress Club (ORCc)
- Performance Handicap System (PHS)
- Australian Sailing Yardsticks for OTB Catamarans & Dinghies (ASY)
- Australian Class Based Handicap (CBH) for Trailable Yachts & Sports Boats
- International Rating Certificate (IRC)



Please contact the Racing Office or your Sailing Committee Divisional Representative for further detailed information in relation to handicaps.

Prior to the commencement of all races, Competitor handicaps will be advertised on the SYC website.

4.1. EXISTING BOATS

At the start of a new season, relevant Divisional AHC handicaps will be set based on each yacht's final CHC in the last race, of the last comparable series, each yacht has sailed and maybe reviewed by a Handicap Committee. In the absence of a relevant CHC, a Handicap Committee shall review and set the initial AHC for each yacht prior to the start of the season. If the fleet is altered with additional or loss of a significant amount of vessel/s then a new baseline may need to be set. This review will occur prior to the start of the new series and the new AHC and reasons for the amendment will be available at the SYC Racing Office on request.

4.2. CONDITIONS FOR ALL BOATS

AHC ratings may be amended if the boat is modified or has purchased/acquired new sails. In accordance with Sailing Instructions, any modifications need to be provided in writing to the SYC Racing Office 48 hours prior to racing. If such modifications are deemed to be significant, the boat will be assessed and entered as a new boat. Previous results will not be combined in the Series results.

Notification of change of Helmsperson from that on the nomination form for a Series/Regatta must be made in writing to the SYC Racing Office. Failure to comply with the above conditions will result in a AHC adjustment.

The SYC Divisional Race Committee may review results during the following week. If upon review, the SYC Divisional Race Committee are of the view that AHC adjustments are necessary, they will make a manual adjustment to a competitors AHC. Any AHC adjustment made by the SYC Divisional Race Committee will not be subject to Redress and changes RRS 60.1(b). If such an adjustment occurs, the value and the reasons will be available at the SYC Racing Office on request & may be reviewed through the normal process (SSP 4.4).

4.3. NEW VESSELS

A starting AHC and division allocation will be made on submission of a new vessel's details, as per their entry details. This starting AHC will be reviewed to confirm that the first AHC is appropriate to allow the TopYacht Program to make the automatic adjustment within its mathematical constraints. If for some reason the AHC fails to be adjusted appropriately, then a manual adjustment may be made the SYC Divisional Race Committee. Any AHC adjustment made by the SYC Divisional Race Committee will not be subject to Redress and changes RRS 60.1(b).

4.4. HANDICAP REVIEW

Any Competitor may make an application in writing to the Racing Office to have their Handicap reviewed without prejudice. In their submission, the Competitor must provide detailed reasons and appropriate calculations to validate their request. The Racing Office will forward their request to the relevant SYC Divisional Race Committee and Handicap Committee for their recommendations. Upon receipt of these recommendations, the relevant SYC Divisional Race Committee shall then approve or decline the adjustment. The Racing Office shall issue an email to the Competitor providing the value, reasons, the series and the date of the amendment or declination.



Performance Based Handicap (PHS) for each boat will be determined by the SYC handicap committee and may be altered at any time, including after a race if an administrative error or incorrect handicap was entered.

Any Handicap adjustment made by the SYC Divisional Race Committee will not be subject to Redress and changes RRS 60.1(b).

4.5. LATE ENTRIES

If the Race Committee accepts a late entry for a race or a series they shall make every effort to consult the Handicap Committee to obtain a handicap for that entry. The Handicap Committee need to be advised the boat type and skipper name and advised if there are any modifications to the boat that vary from the class rules for that boat.

5. SYC SAILING COMMITTEE

SYC Vice Commodore of Sail:

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

SYC Head of Racing:

Steven Murphy | 0475 434 800 | headofracing@sycgc.om.au

OD - Offshore Division Representative:

Barry Berg | 0400 110 555 | barry.wildstyle@gmail.com

TT – Thursday Twilight Division Representative:

Mark Sanders | 0409 493 663 | mark@excellaundrys.com.au

ID – Inshore Division Representative:

Tomoko Nakanishi | 0418 950 250 | t.nakanishi15@gmail.com

OTBC – Off the Beach Catamaran Division Representative:

Wayne Greenwood | 0419 676 654 | wayne@fghgroup.com.au

OTBD – Off the Beach Dinghy Division Representative:

Stuart Waters | 0400 155 600 | stuartwaters@live.com.au

HC – Handicap Committee Representatives:

Russell Birse, Colin Metcher | racing.admin@sycgc.com.au

6. CODE OF CONDUCT - SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB

A person accepts responsibility by becoming a Member of Southport Yacht Club and agrees to the consequences of any breach of the Code of Conduct. These may include:

- Suspension or termination from the Club.
- And/or legal proceedings – civil or criminal for conduct unlawful under State or Federal Law.

6.1. KEY PRINCIPLES

Membership of Southport Yacht Club is a privilege that must be safeguarded by the following principles:

Southport Yacht Club seeks to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property. Respect is defined as consideration for the well-being of another's body, emotions and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to any of them.

Southport Yacht Club seeks to operate in an environment, which is free from harassment. Harassment is defined as any action directed at an individual or group, which creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment.



Southport Yacht Club seeks to operate in a non-discriminatory environment. By this it is meant that where everyone has an equal opportunity and receives a fair go in accordance with the law as well as the Club Rules, By-Laws, procedures, and guidelines.

6.2. BEHAVIOUR

- Not knowingly discriminate against, abuse, harass, ridicule, or embarrass anyone covered by this Code of Conduct.
- Be fair, considerate, and honest in all dealings with others.
- Treat all persons with respect, dignity and properly regard their rights and obligations.
- Respect the privacy of other persons.
- Refrain from any form of victimisation towards others.
- Must not use offensive language to any member, visitor attending Southport Yacht Club or any of their events. Must not 'sledge' (as in denigrate and/or intimidate) other persons.
- Excessive use of alcohol, acting in a way that becomes a public nuisance or creates a public disturbance is prohibited.
- Liquor Licensing Laws will be followed at all times.
- A member will obey lawful directions from a club employee.
- A member will always take responsibility for their guests, at all times.
- A member will abide by the dress code of the club.
- A member shall not represent the club in any dealings, unless authorised by the club.
- A member shall not tarnish the reputation of the club, Officers, Directors, committees, employees, management or bring it into disrepute.
- The use or encouragement of illegal drugs within the premises of Southport Yacht Club is prohibited.
- Assault, or acting with aggression toward any other person is prohibited.

The Club intends to set the highest standards of excellence by displaying values of:

- Equality – demonstrate awareness of individual rights, opinions, and beliefs.
- Demonstrate reliability and be a dependable Club member in all aspects of the Club's environment.
- Respect and courtesy must be shown at all times to all Club officials, Members and patrons.
- No prejudicial behaviour is to occur.
- Display maturity and demonstrate acceptable social behaviour while at the club or attending any of the club's events.
- Abide by the rules of the Constitution and the By-Laws.
- Be mindful of your actions in relation to individual safety and safety of all others involved in the club.
- Conduct themselves in a proper manner to the complete satisfaction of Southport Yacht Club and its members, so as not to bring themselves into public disrepute or censure.
- Not disclose to any unauthorised person or organisation information that is of a confidential or privileged nature concerning Southport Yacht Club. Not promote, or pass on, exchange or publish information whereby that information may be of a confidential, offensive, scandalous, unsubstantiated or derisive type;
- Understand the possible consequences of breaching Southport Yacht Club's rules and regulations.



6.3. CHILDREN

Parent and guardians at all times shall be responsible for the behaviour of their children on club premises, including the beach, marina and carparks. Parents and guardians of children whose behaviour is socially unacceptable shall be requested to remove them from club's premises.

6.4. COMPLIANCE

Any alleged breach of the above principles is to be reported to the General Manager for action. The General Manager will determine if there has been a breach and may warn or initiate disciplinary action against the relevant member. Any disciplinary action under the Charter will be in accordance with the Constitution and laws applying to the club.

This code is to be read in conjunction with the Articles, Rules, Constitution and By-laws of the club.

**YOU ARE REMINDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS CODE IS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A
SAFE AND ENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT**