



2026 QUEENSLAND FINN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Friday 25 – Sunday 27 September 2026

Southport Yacht Club, Hollywell Sailing Squadron
1 Marina Crescent, Hollywell, Queensland, 4216

Organising Authority

International Finn Association of Australia Inc. (IFAA) in conjunction with Southport Yacht Club

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1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2. The Australian Sailing prescriptions and Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2, Off the Beach Boats, will apply.
- 1.3. The International Finn Class Rules effective 1 December 2025, including any applicable amendments effective on the first day of the Championship, will apply.
- 1.4. ~~RRS Appendix P will apply.~~ **RRS Appendix P5 will apply.**
- 1.5. RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
- 1.6. ~~RRS 44.1 and Appendix P2.1 are changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.~~ **RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.**
- 1.7. [DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty may be less than disqualification at the discretion of the Protest Committee. [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.8. The rules of RRS Part 2 apply between boats that are racing. When a boat that is racing meets a vessel that is not racing, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0900 hrs on the day it takes effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. The electronic Official Notice Board is the location stated in the Notice of Race. Official notices will be published there.
- 3.2. The Race Committee may provide information to competitors by electronic means. Such information is provided for information only. A failure to send, receive or read any such information will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 3.3. VHF channel 09 is the Race Committee communication channel. Any broadcast on VHF channel 09 is made for information only. An error or omission in, or a failure to make or receive, a broadcast will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 3.4. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency or when communicating with the Race Committee as permitted by these Sailing Instructions, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle equipment supplied by the Organising Authority with care and in accordance with instructions for its use.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the official flagpole at Southport Yacht Club, Hollywell. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP. This changes Race Signals AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday 25 September	Competitors' briefing	1230 hrs
Friday 25 September	Non-Championship passage race	First warning not before 1300 hrs
Saturday 26 September	Championship racing, three scheduled races	First warning not before 1055 hrs
Sunday 27 September	Championship racing, three scheduled races	First warning not before 1055 hrs
Sunday 27 September	Presentation at SYC Hollywell	Following racing

- 6.1. Six races are scheduled for the Championship, three on Saturday and three on Sunday.
- 6.2. On each Championship racing day, the Race Committee will determine the starting sequence for the Finn and Paper Tiger classes. The applicable class sequence will be published on the Official Notice Board before the first warning signal of the day.
- 6.3. Successive races will follow as soon as practicable after the finish of the previous race, if appropriate.
- 6.4. The Friday passage race is a non-championship race, will be scored separately by the Club and will not count towards the Championship Series.
- 6.5. A maximum of four races may be sailed on any day. Additional races shall not place the Championship more than one race ahead of schedule.
- 6.6. On Sunday, no original warning signal will be made after 1500 hrs. A race subject to a general recall may be restarted after 1500 hrs if its original warning signal was made before that time.

7. CLASS FLAG

- 7.1. The class flag will be the Finn class insignia, being two blue waves, displayed on a white background.

8. RACING AREAS

- 8.1. The Friday non-championship passage race will be sailed in the inshore waters adjacent to Southport Yacht Club, Hollywell.
- 8.2. The primary Championship racing area will be offshore in the vicinity of the Gold Coast Sand Pumping Jetty. The offshore racing area is shown in Attachment A.
- 8.3. If offshore conditions are unsuitable, Championship racing may be conducted in the Deep Hole area of the Gold Coast Broadwater. Deep Hole is a backup Championship racing area only. The Deep Hole area is shown in Attachment B. If Championship racing is to be conducted in the Deep Hole backup racing area, competitors will be advised at the competitors' briefing.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. Championship racing will use windward-leeward courses described in Attachment C.
- 9.2. The course to be sailed will be displayed by the Race Committee no later than the warning signal. The approximate compass bearing of the first leg may also be displayed.
- 9.3. The Friday non-championship passage-race course will be selected by the Race Committee having regard to the conditions and will be advised at the competitors' briefing.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. If either Mark 4s or Mark 4p is missing, the remaining gate mark shall be left to port.
- 10.2. A replacement mark will be as described in Attachment C.

11. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS AND NAVIGATION

- 11.1. Boats shall keep clear of non-participant vessels and comply with applicable navigation requirements.
- 11.2. When the Deep Hole backup area is used, boats shall maintain the clearance required by the aquatic-event authority from aids to navigation.

12. THE START

- 12.1. Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 12.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark. The port-end starting mark will be an orange cylinder with a black top.
- 12.3. The orange starting-line flag may be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal.
- 12.4. [NP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1. To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will lay a new mark, or move the finishing line, and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When, during a subsequent change, a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 13.2. If Mark 1 is changed, Mark 1a will be ignored.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee signal vessel at the port end and the course side of the starboard-end finishing mark. The finishing mark will be a blue cylinder.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1. Finn Class Rule C.1.1(a) will apply without variation.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1. The Target Time, Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

TARGET TIME	MARK 1 TIME LIMIT	RACE TIME LIMIT	FINISHING WINDOW
Forty-five (45) minutes	Forty (40) minutes	Seventy (70) minutes	Fifteen (15) minutes

- 16.2. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.3. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, being penalised or receiving redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE will receive points equal to the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2. The scoring abbreviation TLE is added to RRS A10 to mean Time Limit Expired.
- 16.4. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The protest time limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 17.2. Hearing-request forms will be available from the Sailing Office at Southport Yacht Club, Hollywell Sailing Squadron. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the applicable time limit.
- 17.3. Hearing notices will be published on the Official Notice Board and will state the time and place of hearings.
- 17.4. On the last scheduled day of racing, a request to reopen a hearing shall be delivered:
- 17.4.1. within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day; or
 - 17.4.2. no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The Low Point System of RRS Appendix A will apply.
- 18.2. Three races are required to constitute the Championship.
- 18.3. When four races or fewer have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.4. When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. Only one score will be excluded.
- 18.5. Scores that are not excludable under RRS 90.3(b) will not be excluded.
- 18.6. Series-score ties will be broken in accordance with RRS A8.
- 18.7. The Friday passage race will be scored separately by the Club and excluded from Championship totals.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee as soon as practicable and shall confirm safe return ashore.
- 19.2. [DP] [NP] Each competitor shall wear a secured, serviceable personal flotation device while afloat, except briefly when changing or adjusting clothing or equipment. This applies whether or not flag Y is displayed. The device shall comply with ISO 12402-5, USCG Type III, AS 4758 Level 50 or an equivalent approved standard. Inflatable personal flotation devices are prohibited.
- 19.3. Each boat shall carry a floating towing line at least 8 metres long and at least 8 millimetres in diameter, readily available for use.
- 19.4. [DP] [NP] Competitors shall sign on before going afloat for racing and sign off no later than the protest time limit. The sign-on and sign-off sheets will be located in the Breezeway beside the Southern Rigging Lawn.
- 19.5. When the offshore racing area is in use, a boat that retires or does not intend to continue racing shall notify an official vessel and shall await instruction from the Race Committee before returning through the Gold Coast Seaway.

20. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 20.1. The limits on equipment used during the event will be those stated in Finn Class Rule C.6.2.
- 20.2. Lost or damaged equipment may be substituted only with written Race Committee approval. Requests shall be made promptly. The damaged and replacement equipment may be inspected.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.
- 21.2. [DP] When instructed by a race official, a boat shall proceed to the designated inspection area.
- 21.3. Bow numbers supplied by the Organising Authority shall be displayed in accordance with NoR 10.12 to 10.16. Fitting instructions will be provided at the competitors' briefing at 1230 hrs on Friday 25 September 2026.

22. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 22.1. The Race Committee signal vessel will be identified by displaying the Southport Yacht Club burgee.

23. SUPPORT TEAMS

- 23.1. [DP] Support vessels shall register with the Organising Authority and comply with the support-vessel requirements in the Notice of Race.
- 23.2. Support vessels shall carry functioning VHF radios capable of monitoring VHF channel 16 and VHF channel 09. Support vessels shall monitor VHF channel 09 while afloat.
- 23.3. Support persons shall remain outside areas where boats are racing from the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired, or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 23.4. Support vessels shall render assistance when requested by the Race Committee.
- 23.5. Support-vessel identification: TBC.

24. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 24.1. Trash shall not be thrown into the water. Trash may be placed aboard official or support vessels.

25. BERTHING, BOAT PARK, LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVAL

- 25.1. Boats shall launch and retrieve from the designated area at Southport Yacht Club, Hollywell.
- 25.2. Boats, trailers and support vessels shall use the areas allocated by the Organising Authority and shall keep emergency and launching access clear.
- 25.3. No tie-down restraint may penetrate the ground deeper than 300 millimetres because of the lawn irrigation system.

26. PRIZES

- 26.1. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third Overall. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

27. RISK STATEMENT

- 27.1. Competitors' attention is drawn to the Risk Statement in NoR 19 and the Risk Warning in NoR 20.

28. INSURANCE

- 28.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance in the amount stated in the Notice of Race.

29. FURTHER INFORMATION

Kayla Boothby

Racing Coordinator

Southport Yacht Club

Telephone: 07 5537 7030

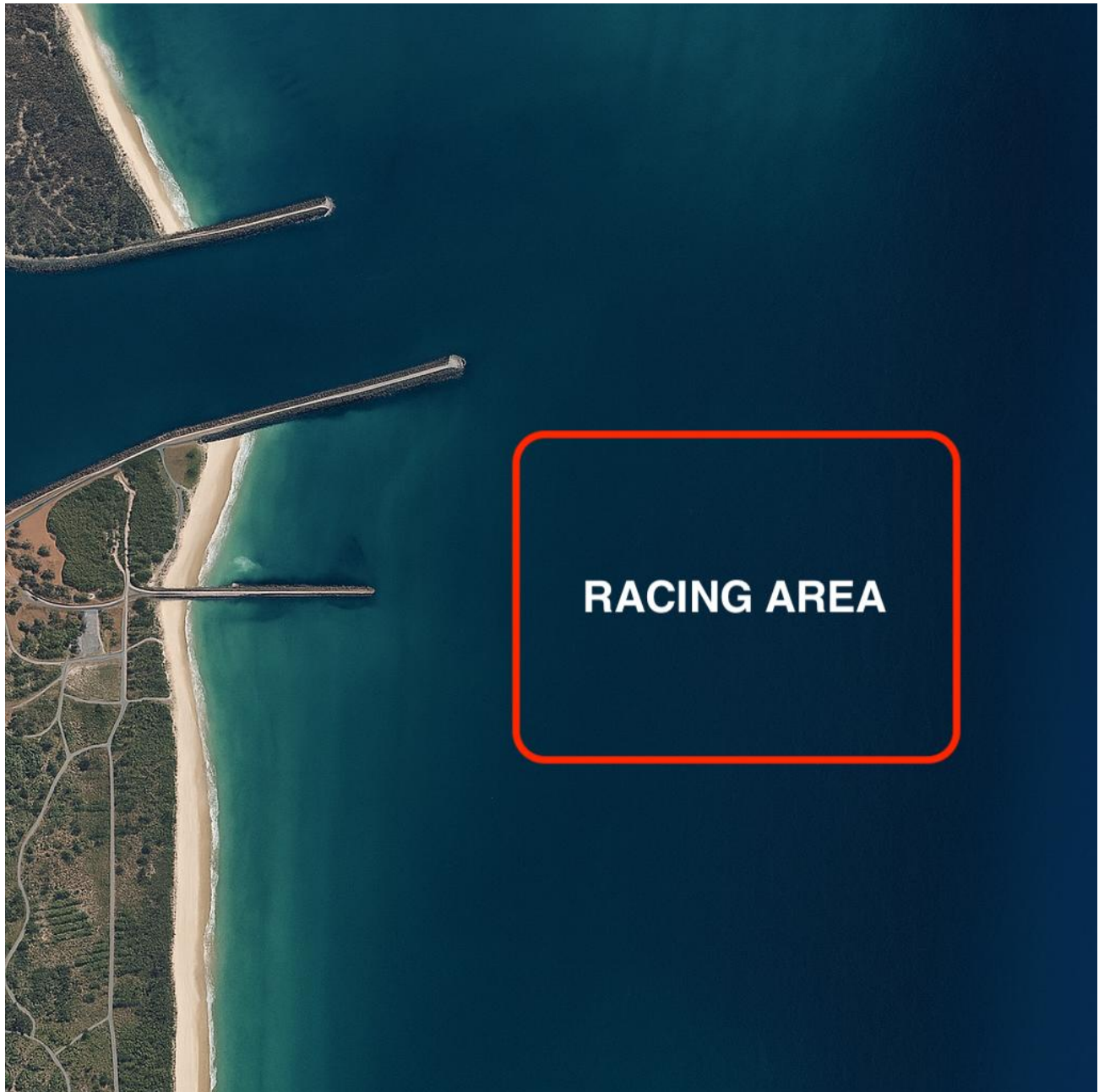
Mobile: 0481 711 950

Email: racing.coordinator@sycgc.com.au

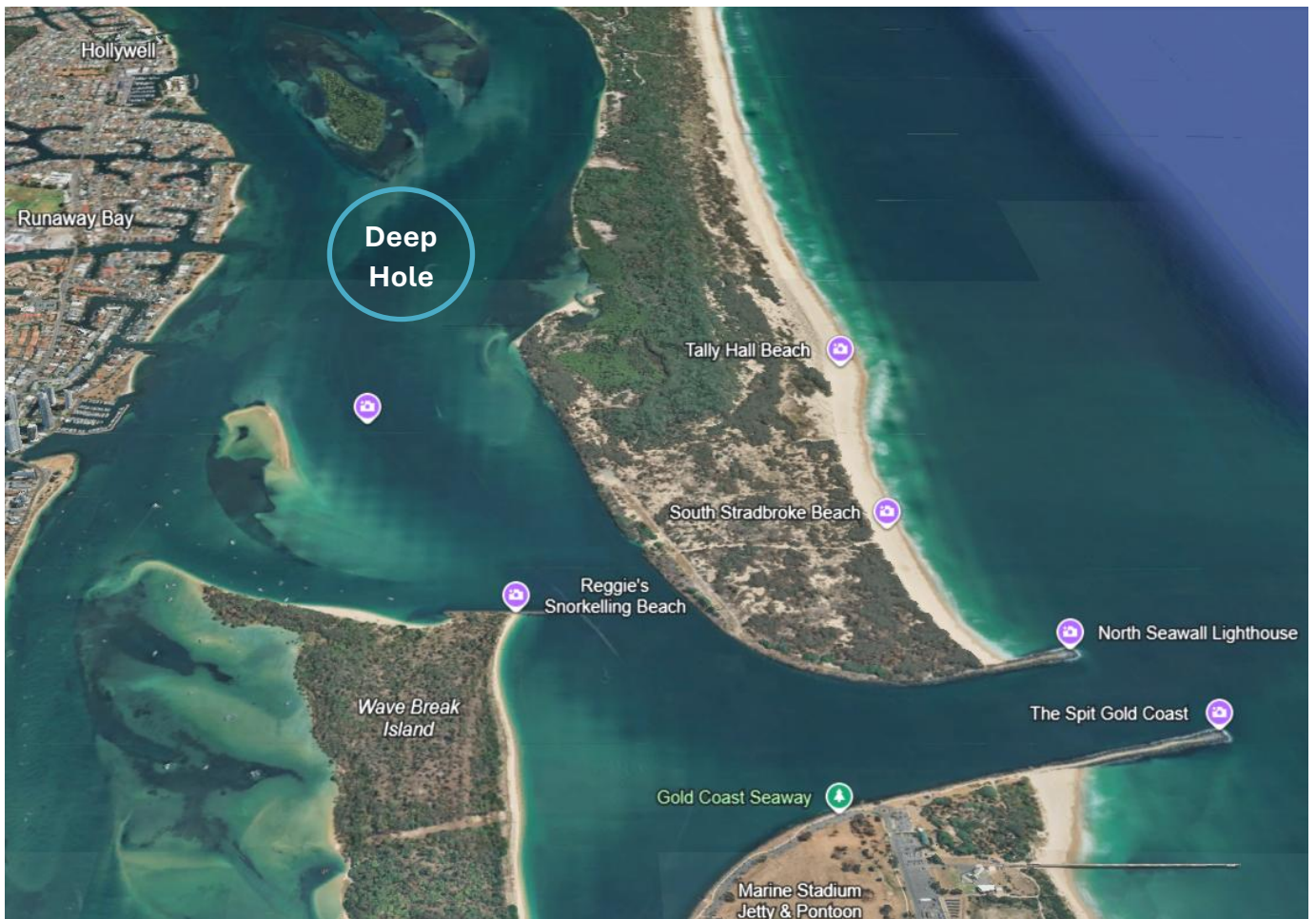
Website: southportyachtclub.com.au

Address: 1 Marina Crescent, Hollywell QLD 4216

ATTACHMENT A – OFFSHORE RACING AREA



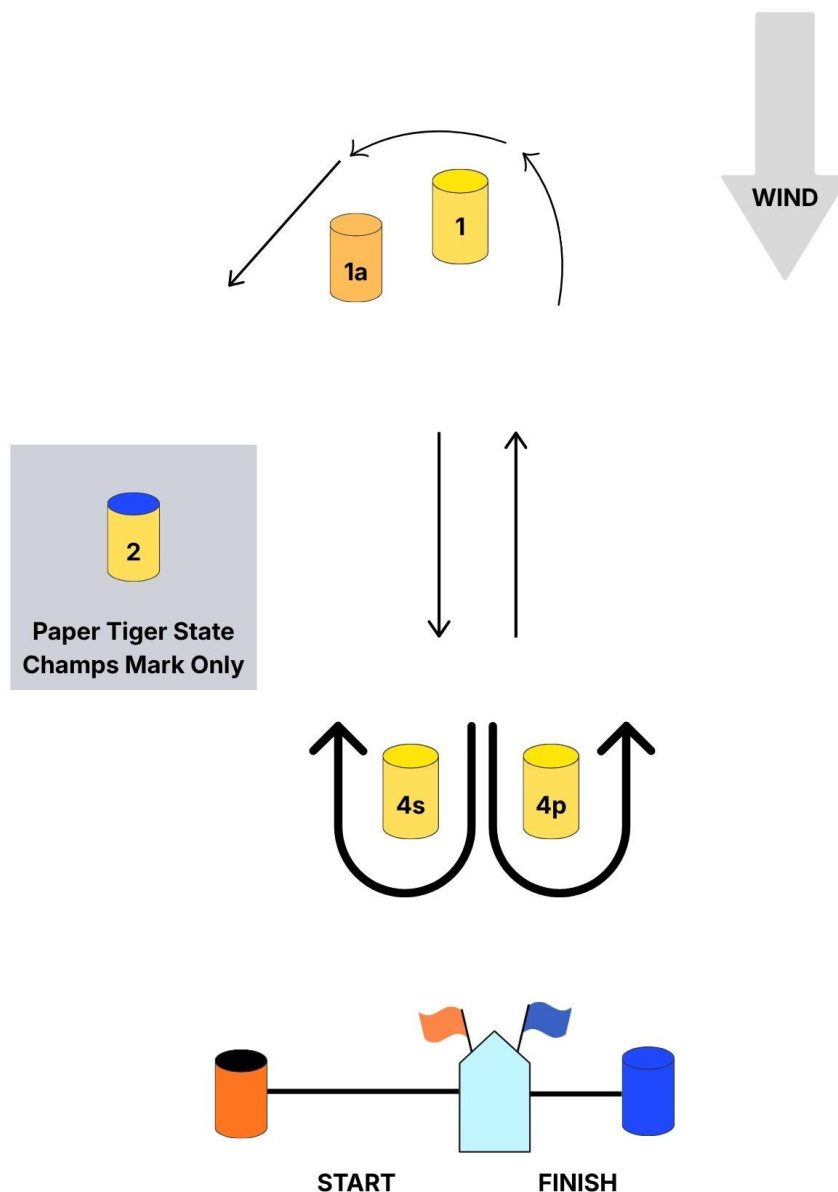
ATTACHMENT B – DEEP HOLE BACKUP RACING AREA



ATTACHMENT C – CHAMPIONSHIP WINDWARD-LEEWARD COURSES

CODE	COURSE	MARK DESCRIPTION
LA1	Start – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish	Start mark: orange cylinder with a black top.
LA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish	Finish mark: blue cylinder.
LA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish	Mark 1: yellow cylinder. Mark 1a: yellow and orange cylinder, precise colour arrangement TBC. Marks 4s/4p: two yellow cylinders.

NB: When the course description states 4s/4p, boats shall sail between Marks 4s and 4p from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. A standalone 4p is compulsory and shall be rounded before finishing.



ATTACHMENT D – FRIDAY NON-CHAMPIONSHIP PASSAGE RACE

The course will be selected by the Race Committee having regard to the conditions and will be advised at the competitors' briefing.

