SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB

OFF THE BEACH DINGHY DIVISION



2026 - 2027

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

OTBD DIVISION SCHEDULE – 2026/2027	
Polar Bear 1/8	Sunday 3rd May 2026
Polar Bear 2/8	Sunday 17th May 2026
Polar Bear 3/8	Sunday 31st May 2026
Polar Bear 4/8	Sunday 7th June 2026
Polar Bear 5/8 | TK Robertson Memorial	Sunday 28th June 2026
Polar Bear 6/8	Sunday 12th July 2026
Polar Bear 7/8	Sunday 16th August 2026
Polar Bear 8/8	Sunday 23rd August 2026
Sprints 1/10	Sunday 13th September 2026
Champs 1/8	Sunday 20th September 2026
Sprints 2/10	Sunday 11th October 2026
Champs 2/8	Sunday 18th October 2026
Sprints 3/10	Sunday 25th October 2026
Champs 3/8	Sunday 8th November 2026
Sprints 4/10	Sunday 15th November 2026
Champs 4/8	Sunday 29th November 2026
Sprints 5/10	Sunday 6th December 2026
Champs 5/8	Sunday 13th December 2026
Sprint 6/10	Sunday 17th January 2027
Champs 6/8	Sunday 31st January 2027
Sprints 7/10	Sunday 14th February 2027
Champs 7/8	Sunday 21st February 2027
Sprints 8/10	Sunday 28th February 2027
Sprints 9/10	Sunday 4th April 2027
Champs 8/8	Sunday 11th April 2027
Sprints 10/10	Sunday 18th April 2027

OTBD DIVISION SERIES FEES – 2026/2027	
WHOLE SEASON Discount (26 Race Days) (Includes Championship, Sprint & Polar Bear)	$275.00
POLAR BEAR SERIES (8 Race Days)	$120.00
SPRINT SERIES (10 Race Days)	$150.00
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (8 Race Days)	$120.00
Casual Race Entry (per race day)	$25.00 *SYC Member* $35.00 *Non SYC Member (max entry 3)*

ADDITIONAL SYC SPECIAL EVENTS	
Event / Regatta Name	*Date*
2025/2026 SAILING PRESENTATION	Saturday 8th August 2026
SAIL PAST & BLESSING THE FLEET	Saturday 5th September 2026
BREAKING OF THE FLAG CEREMONY & DA$H 4 CA$H	Sunday 6th September 2026
DINGHY MARATHON TROPHY RACE	Sunday 7th March 2027
DUX BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS	Sunday 21st March 2027

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1. RULES

1.1. The Organising Authority (OA) is Southport Yacht Club Inc. (SYC).
1.2. All races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–2028 (RRS).
1.3. The prescriptions of Australian Sailing apply.
1.4. The Australian Sailing Special Regulations – Part 2 (Off the Beach Boats) apply.
1.5. The relevant Class Rules apply, except as amended by these Sailing Instructions.
1.6. RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies. Arbitration will be conducted in accordance with Appendix T. If arbitration is unsuccessful, the protest shall proceed to a protest hearing. An arbitration decision is not subject to appeal.
1.7. SYC Sailing Season Policies apply.
1.8. RRS 1.1 (Helping Those in Danger) is emphasised.
1.9. When boats encounter vessels not racing, the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) apply. This does not change the application of the RRS between boats racing.

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

2.1 A minimum of five (5) Series entries at the first race of the series are required to constitute a Division. Classes not meeting this requirement will be allocated into the "Open Division" based on their relevant AS Yardstick.
2.2 There is no Green Fleet Division in the Championship Series however competent Sailors may enter the Junior Division.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official Notice Board not less than sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start time of the first race of the day, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the official flagpole located on the Grass Area on the Northern side of the Club.
4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.
4.3. When a visual signal is displayed over a course flag or class flag, it applies to that course area/class only.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1. A Compulsory Skippers Briefing will be held at the Official Notice Board each day of racing at 1200hrs for the Championship Series, Sprint Series & Polar Bear Series.
5.2. The schedule of race days is in accordance with the OTB Dinghy Series Schedule listed at the beginning of these Sailing Instructions.
5.3. A minimum of five (5) Competitors from any Division are required to Start for a Race. If there are less than the required amount, the race will be abandoned (ABN).
5.4. For the Championship Series the warning signal will be given 5 minutes prior to the start signal.
5.5. For the Sprint & Polar Bear Series the warning signal will be given 3 minutes prior to the start signal. The first warning signal for racing covered by these Sailing Instructions shall be considered to be "not before".
5.6. For the Championship, Polar Bear, there will be a maximum of three (3) races per day. For the Sprint Series there will be a maximum of four (4) races per day.
5.7. No races will be started after 1500 hours for Championship, Sprint & Polar Bear Series.

EVENT	WARNING SIGNAL (Not Before)
Championship Series	1255 hours
Sprint Series	1257 hours
Polar Bear Series	1257 hours

6. CLASS FLAGS

DIVISION	CLASS FLAG
Laser (Including Radial & 4.7)	White with red class insignia
OK Dinghy	White with black class insignia
Sabot	White with black class insignia
Optimist	White with black class insignia
Open Skiff	White with black and orange class insignia
Green Fleet	Green Flag
Open A (At the discretion of the race committee)	Code Flag E
Open B (At the discretion of the race committee)	Code Flag K
Open Junior (Yardstick > 153)	Code Flag J

7. RACING AREA

7.1 ATTACHMENT A – OTB Dinghy Racing Area shows the approximate location of the allocated racing area.

7.2 Championship Race Days may be raced in the area known as the “Deep Hole” or “Sovereign Hole”.

7.3 The Race Area will be confirmed by the Race Committee and announced at the Compulsory Skippers Briefing on race days.

8. THE COURSES

The diagrams in ATTACHMENT B - OTB DINGHY COURSE DIAGRAMS shows the courses to be sailed for the Championship & Sprint Series’, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9. MARKS

9.1 All boats shall maintain a minimum distance of 3 meters from all IALA system beacons.

9.2 Marks, including start and finish marks, are shown and described in ATTACHMENT C.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 The following areas are designated as obstructions:

10.1.1 Areas outside of the intended channel(s) defined by the IALA system beacons north of and including Q (9)15s (Crab Island West Cardinal) are considered an obstruction. For the purposes of this definition, it shall be considered that a competitor has remained

clear of the obstruction provided they have left all IALA beacons to their required side. Competitors may refer to the MSQ Boating Maps located at http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Boating-maps/Gold-Coast-guides should they require any clarification.

10.2 The finish line is an obstruction except when a boat is finishing. A boat that crosses the finishing line other than when finishing may be protested by the Race Committee.

11. THE START/S

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

11.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS Rule 26. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

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

11.1.2 Divisions may be combined at the Race Committee's discretion should there be less than 5 Competitors in a Division.

11.1.3 Divisions may be combined at the Race Officers discretion should there be less than 5 Competitors after the first race of the day.

11.1.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

11.1.5 A boat starting more than four (4) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

SPRINTS & POLAR BEAR SERIES

11.2 Races will be started using a modified World Sailing start sequence, as follows:

Minutes before Starting Signal	VISUAL SIGNAL	SOUND SIGNAL	EVENT
3	Division Flag	One	Warning Signal
2	Preparatory Flag	One	Preparatory Signal
1	Preparatory Flag removed	One Long	One Minute
0	Division Flag removed	One	Starting Signal

11.2.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Control Tower or starting vessel and the course side of the starting mark.

11.2.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

11.2.3 A boat starting more than two (2) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

11.3 BARGING BOUY

11.3.1 The Race Committee may lay a barging buoy (pink teardrop) near the starboard end of the starting line, next to the Race Control Tower, start vessel or SYC Pontoon.

11.3.2 When laid, the barging buoy is a starting mark. From the preparatory signal until she has started, a boat shall not pass between the barging buoy and the Race Control Tower, start vessel or SYC Pontoon.

11.3.3 Whether a barging buoy is in use will be confirmed at the Compulsory Skippers Briefing.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

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 in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line may be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing boat and the course side of the finishing mark or

13.2 Where the SYC Race Control Tower is used, the finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Control Tower and the course side of the finishing mark.

13.3 The direction and position of the finish can vary depending on the course used and will be confirmed at the Compulsory Skippers Briefing.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by a One-Turn Penalty, including one tack and one gybe in the same direction.

15. TARGET TIME AND TIME LIMITS

SERIES NAME	TARGET TIME (minutes)	FINISHING WINDOW (minutes)
Championship	50	20
Sprint	30	10
Polar Bear	30	10

Boats failing to finish within the finishing window after the first boat sails the course and finishes shall be scored DNF.
This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Immediately after finishing, a boat intending to protest shall, in addition to the requirements of RRS 61.1(a), inform the Race Officer at the finish line of her intention to protest and the identity of the protested boat(s). This changes RRS 61.1(a).

16.2 RRS Appendix T- ARBITRATION applies to all Divisions for SYC Club Racing and all SYC Special Events:

16.2.1 A short mediation hearing will be conducted for all protests lodged in accordance with RRS 61 that allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2 or 4. Such hearing will be held as soon as possible after racing.

16.2.2 The time and place of the mediation hearing will be decided by the mediator and such advice may be given verbally.

16.2.3 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.

16.2.4 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**.

16.2.5 If the parties do not agree, the protest shall proceed to a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1

16.2.6 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.

16.3 Protest forms are available at the Sailing Office. Protests shall be delivered there within the Protest Time Limit

16.4 The Protest Time Limit is thirty (30) minutes for all Series, after the last boat has finished in its division. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the Race Committee and any Requests for Redress. This changes Rules 61.3 and 62.2.

16.5 Notices will be posted according to the Sailing Season Policy.

16.6 Decisions by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be emailed to parties to the hearing under Rule 65.1.

17. SCORING AND RESULTS

17.1 The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A applies.

17.2 For a Boat that Did not Finish (DNF) they shall be scored the number of boats that have started for the Race Day plus 1 point. This Changes RRS Appendix A4.2

17.3 For a boat that Did not Start (DNS) they shall be scored the number of boats that have started for the Race Day plus 2 points. This Changes RRS Appendix A4.2

17.4 A boat that did not come to the starting area (DNC) shall be scored points equal to the finishing place three (3) more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. This changes RRS Appendix A4.2.

17.5 Three (3) races are required to constitute a series. When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, all scores shall count.

17.6 When five (5) to eight (8) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17.7 When nine (9) to twelve (12) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst scores.

17.8 When thirteen (13) to sixteen (16) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three (3) worst scores.

17.9 When seventeen (17) to twenty-five (25) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her four (4) worst scores.

17.10 When twenty-six (26) to fifty (50) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her five (5) worst scores.

17.11 Australian Sailing Yardsticks (ASY) will be used in calculating results for mixed classes/divisions for Championship, Sprint, and Polar Bear Series.

17.12 Boats without an AS Yardstick number will be allocated an estimated trial number. The estimated trial number shall not be subject to protest or constitute grounds for redress. This amends RRS60.1 and 62

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

18.2 Sign On and Sign Off requirements are:

18.2.1 All helmspersons shall Sign On, on the sheets provided, prior to going afloat for racing.

18.2.2 All helmspersons shall Sign Off within forty-five (45) minutes of completing racing for that session, or later at the discretion of the Race Committee.

18.3 A boat that breaches SI 18 (Safety Regulations) may be penalised without a hearing by the Race Committee. The penalty shall be a scoring penalty equal to 20% of the number of boats entered in that race, rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 rounded upward). **This penalty shall be scored as SP**. This changes RRS A4, A5 and 63.1.

18.4 All Competitors are encouraged to carry a Harness Rescue Tool or similar device that is readily accessible in an emergency.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

21. ADVERTISING

Boats shall display advertising supplied by the organising authority for its approved Series Sponsors as required and instructed from time to time.

22. OFFICIAL BOATS

22.1 Official boats will be marked with the SYC Burgee.

22.2 During the Sprint Series and Polar Bear Series only, an SYC coach or sailing instructor may provide safety-related advice to competitors while racing. This assistance shall not constitute outside assistance. This changes RRS 41.

23. SUPPORT BOATS

23.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay no less than one hundred (100) metres outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

23.2 No disturbing wash is to be created near a competitor on the race course.

24. RUBBISH DISPOSAL

Boats shall not put trash in the water. Rubbish may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

25. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

25.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

26. PRIZES

26.1 A presentation of results will be held after each day of racing at the earliest possible convenience.
26.2 Six (6) daily prizes are awarded randomly from the sign-on sheet.
26.3 The Skipper or a crew member of the boat must be present at the Daily Race Prize Presentations to receive prizes or the prize will be redrawn and re-awarded.

27. PERPETUAL TROPHIES

27.1 The Sailing Presentation for Club Championships and other Off the Beach Dinghy Series and events will take place at the Clubhouse of SYC.
27.2 Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

28. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

28.1 All those taking part in races conducted by Southport Yacht Club do so at their own risk and responsibility.
28.2 The Southport Yacht Club, any sponsor and any party involved in the organisation of any event disclaims any and every responsibility for any loss, damage, injury to persons and/or things, both ashore and at sea, as a consequence of participation in any way in the races covered by these sailing instructions.
28.3 Attention is drawn to RRS 3 which states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

29. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance, with a minimum cover of $20M (AUD) for any one incident. By taking part in a race all boat owners are deemed to have made a declaration that they have such cover.

30. RESULTS

Results will be posted on the Southport Yacht Club’s website on the Off The Beach Dinghy Division page and may be posted on the official notice board outside the Sailing Office.

31. MEDIA RIGHTS

In participating in the Off the Beach Dinghy Division Club Racing, a competitor grants to the Organising Authority and the sponsors, the right in perpetuity, to make, reproduce, edit, use and show, from time to time and at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or film television and other reproductions of him/ her taken during the Sailing Season and to use his / her likeness, voice, name and any other information in any material related without compensation.

32. SYC SAILING COMMITTEE

SYC Vice Commodore of Sail:
Wayne Kirby | 0418 950 250 | wayne@kirbyfamily.id.au
OTBD – Off the Beach Dinghy Division Representative:
Stuart Waters | 0400 155 600 | stuartwaters@live.com.au
HC – Handicap Committee Representatives:
Russell Birse | racing.admin@sycgc.com.au

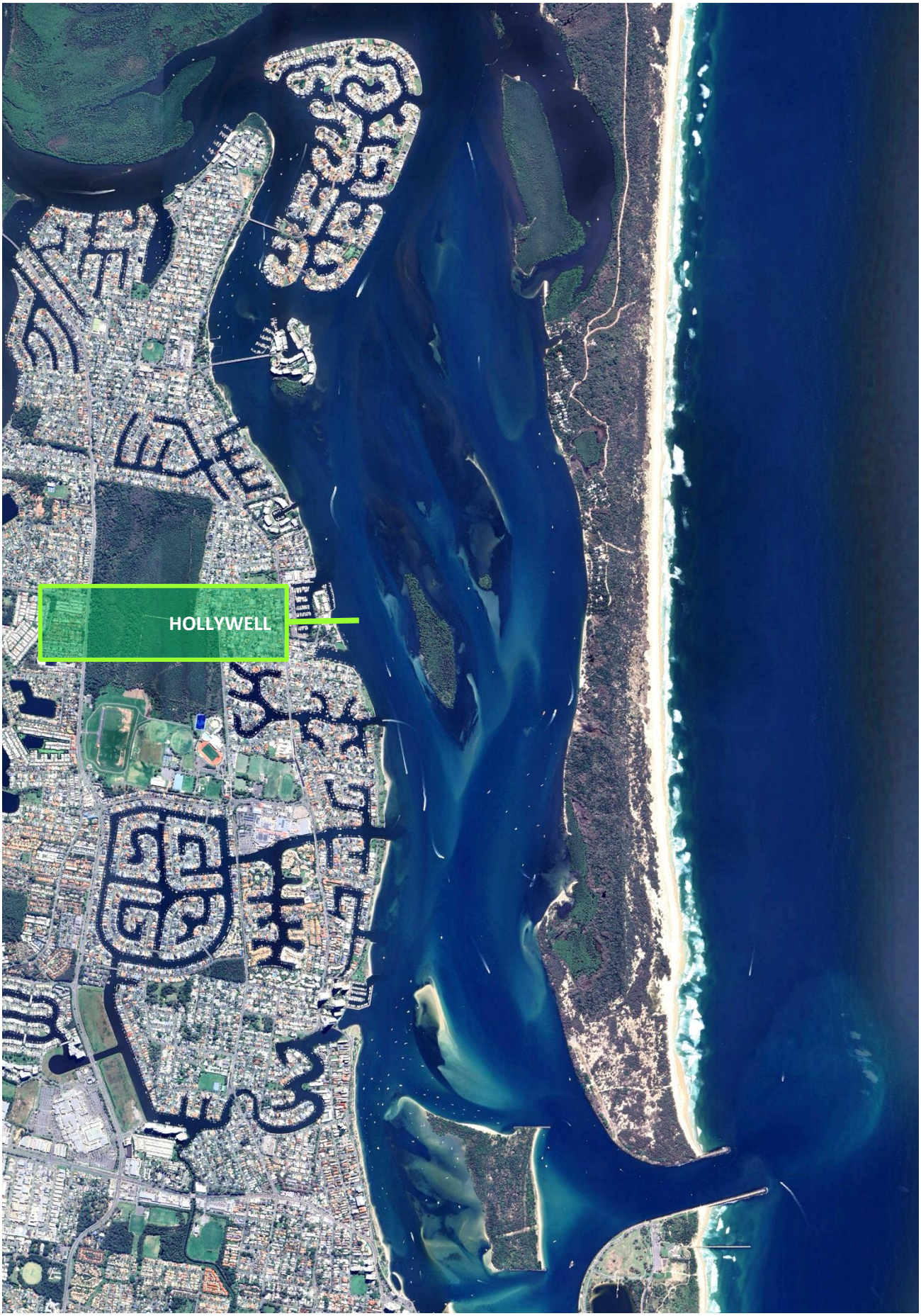
33. SYC SAILING CONTACTS

SYC Racing Coordinator:
Kayla Boothby | 0481 711 950 | racing.coordinator@sycgc.com.au
SYC Volunteers Coordinator:
Mike Latter | 0499 941 982 | volunteers@sycgc.com.au
SYC Hollywell Sailing Office:
(07) 5537 7030 | racing.admin@sycgc.com.au

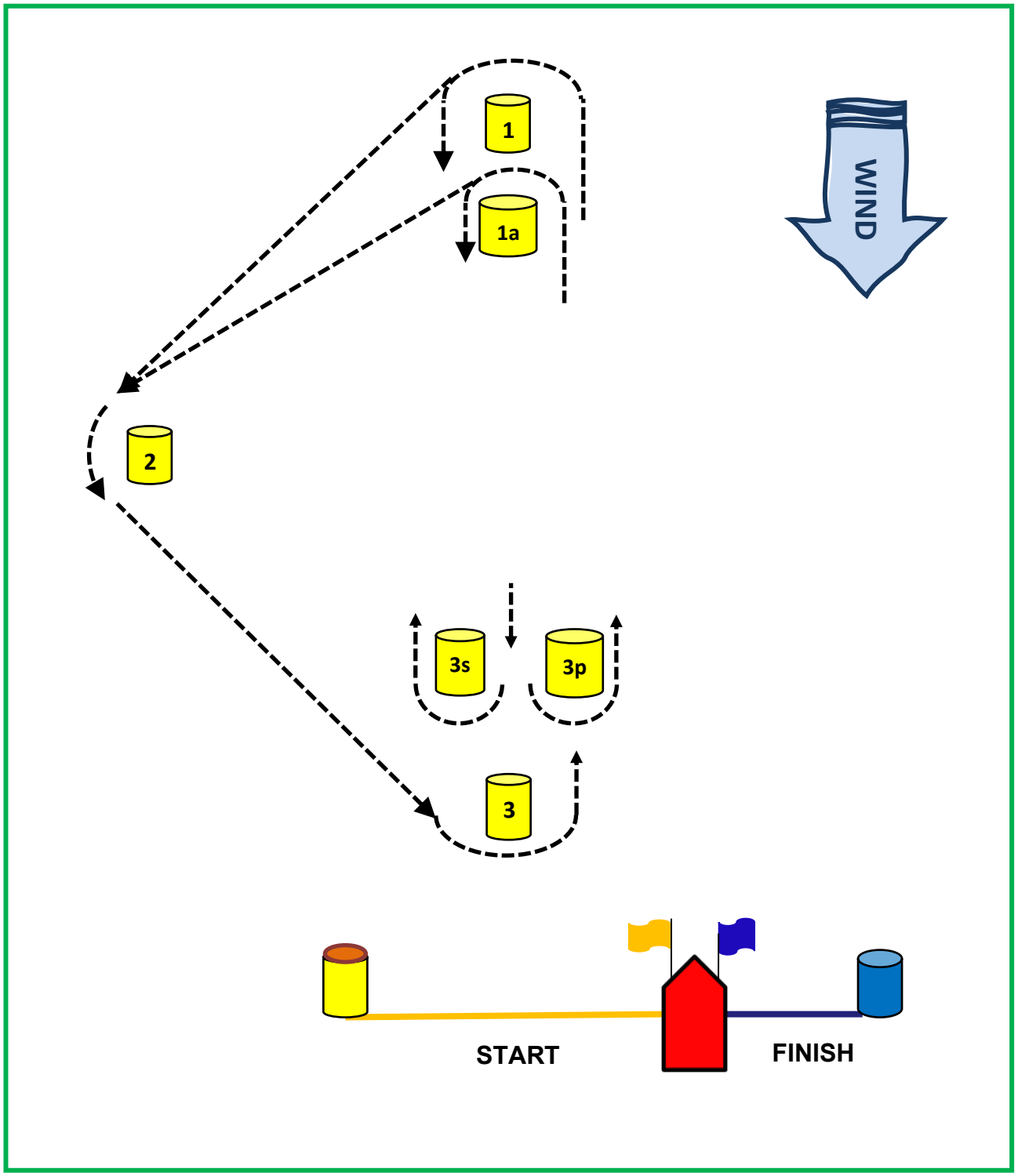
34. PARENT CONSENT FORM

Parent Consent Form
For participants under 18 years old.
Scan QR Code / Click the link
https://form.jotform.com/253497312363055

ATTACHMENT A – OTBD RACING AREA & COURSE LOCATION



ATTACHMENT B – WINDWARD/LEEWARD & TRIANGULAR COURSES



NB: The SYC Pontoon may be used as a substitute for either the start/finish mark(s) or boat. The start/finish line will be described in detail at the Compulsory Skippers briefing. Gates (3s/3p) may be substituted at mark 3.

ATTACHMENT C - OTBD MARK DESCRIPTION & COURSE

BUOY	DESCRIPTION
START	Yellow with Orange Top
FINISH	Blue
1 | 2 | 3 | 3s/3p	Yellow inflatable cylinders
1a	Yellow inflatable cylinder with Blue Top
Barging Buoy	Pink Teardrop. Laid near the Starboard end of the starting line when in use. See SI 11.3.

COURSE	MARK ROUNDINGS	TYPE
W1	START – 1 - FINISH	W/L
W2	START – 1 - 3s/3p – 1 - FINISH	W/L
W3	START – 1 – 3s/3p – 1 – 3s/3p – 1 - FINISH	W/L
W1A	START – 1a – FINISH	W/L
W2A	START – 1a - 3s/3p – 1a - FINISH	W/L
W3A	START – 1a – 3s/3p – 1a – 3s/3p – 1a - FINISH	W/L
T1	START – 1 – 2 – FINISH	TRI
T2	START – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – 1 - FINISH	TRI
T3	START – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – 1 – 3s/3p – 1 – 2 - FINISH	TRI
T1A	START – 1a – 2 – FINISH	TRI
T2A	START – 1a – 2 – 3s/3p – 1a – FINISH	TRI
T3A	START – 1a – 2 – 3s/3p – 1a – 3s/3p – 1a – 2 – FINISH	TRI
TBA	As described at the Compulsory Skippers Briefing	

ATTACHMENT F - DECLARATION

To: SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB. Racing Admin: racing.admin@sycgc.com.au, Phone (07) 5537 7030

BOAT NAME		SAIL NUMBER	

I declare that during the race the following Rules were NOT observed and / or Infringements occurred and / or Penalties taken, with an explanation given as follows:

Witnessed by (Boat Name/s, Skipper/Crew Name/s):

Name of Person-In-Charge: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Signature of Person-In-Charge: _____.