

Pittwater Sailors

2026 RACE PROGRAM AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, IMMEDIATELY
REFER TO THE 2025 PAC EMERGENCY PROCEDURE**

RACE DATES: Feb 1, Mar 1, April 12, May 3, June 14, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 1, Dec 6.

WINTER SERIES: May 3, June 14, July 5, Aug 2.

SPRING SERIES: Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 1, Dec 6.

RACE RULES: The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 -2028 apply to competing yachts except where they have been modified by these sailing instructions. The International Collision Regulations apply otherwise.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Pittwater Sailors are required to practice good sportsmanship (Rule 2 Part 1 of the Racing Rules)

Particular attention is drawn to:

- Help anyone in distress or danger.
- Avoid situations where a collision is possible. **Take early evasive action.**
- Understand and practice the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028.
- Attention is drawn to the 3-boat length zone in Rule 18, Rounding Marks.
- Do penalty turns as soon as practicable. A 360-degree turn for touching a mark and a 720 degree turn for any rule infringement (Part 2).
- Do not do anything that would bring PAC into disrepute.

Please let the PAC committee know of any boat being sailed in an un-sportsmanship manner.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE: In the case of an emergency immediately refer to the 2025 PAC Emergency Procedure. Each boat skipper and crew members are required to be familiar with the procedure and always keep a copy on board.

FLEETS: Racing will be conducted in two fleets, **BLUE & YELLOW**. Boats will be assigned to a fleet by the committee. Boats will fly a fleet colour pennant from their backstay. Both fleets will use the same start and finish line. Points & trophies will be awarded separately for each fleet.

START BOAT: The Start Boat is responsible for setting up the start line at Taylor's Point prior to the commencement of the race. The on-board Sailing Officer is responsible for selecting the course, the conduct of the start procedure, notifying any early starter, ensuring the course be shortened should it be necessary and recording the start and finish times of all boats racing. Fifteen minutes before the Start Time, the Sailing Officer will test the operation of the Channel 72 communication system with the Sailing Captain (or authorised skipper) to ensure it is operational throughout the race.

RACECOURSES: Eight pairs of courses are available, and a course will be selected by the Sailing Officer on the Start Boat, appropriate to the wind direction at the start based on the boating wind forecast. The Blue fleet will sail courses about 15% longer than those for the Yellow Fleet. Details of the courses for the current year are available on the PAC website. Location of Pittwater Marker Buoys is shown on page 7. Note: course details may change from year to year.

COURSE NUMBER: The course number selected will be displayed on the Start Boat prior to the race start warning signal. For example: Course '4'.

4

Course Number (Black numbers on white background)

START TIMES: 1.00 pm. (October to March); 12.00 pm. (April to September). The race for both fleets will start at the same time. The Start Boat will use Eastern Standard or Eastern Daylight time.

HANDICAP: Each boat will be allocated a handicap start time prior to each race to be downloaded from within the Sailors PS Handicap tab. A boat will start when Standard Clock Time reaches their respective Start Time, according to their onboard synchronised clock, phone or smart watch. Each boat's handicap may be adjusted after each race.

RACE START: Before the start time, starters will sail or motor past the Start Boat and indicate that they will be starting in the race.

Make sure the Start Boat acknowledges that you are a starter.

Whilst doing so, boats will stand clear of the start line and any boats starting.

A Red Flag will be hoisted five minutes before the Start Time followed five minutes later by a Green Flag and Horn, to indicate racing is now in progress. The start boat will transmit on Channel 72 a count down from 10 to 1 to coincide with the fall of the red flag.



Race start warning flag, 5 minutes to the start.



Race is in progress

Standard Clock Time (satellite or mobile phone time) shall take priority over flags for Start Time

EARLY STARTERS AND RECALLS: Starting on time is the sole responsibility of the skipper. Boats crossing the start line before their handicap start time by more than 5 seconds will be recalled. Attention to the early start may be brought to the skippers' attention by a verbal call from the Start Boat or a blast from the air horn. Furthermore, the Start Boat will inform the boat via a call on Channel 72 of their early start. The early starter will then return round the start boat and re start. The early starter must keep clear of any boats that are starting or have started.

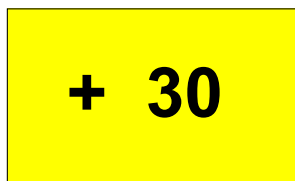
Boats starting early and not re starting will incur a 10-minute penalty.

Once starting has begun, the Start Boat will not be available to give skippers information on courses, etc.

Boats must keep clear of the Start Line until it is their turn to start. Larger Blue Fleet boats are

requested to consider smaller Yellow Fleet boats that may be starting at the same time.

DELAYED START: If the wind is gusting to 25 knots or there is no wind or any other reason that the Sailing Officer deems, the race may be delayed in the expectation for more favourable conditions. A board will be displayed showing the length of time of the delay.



Delayed Race Start Time. (Yellow board with Black numbers)

The delay time will be either 30 minutes or 60 minutes. The finish time will be increased by the length of the delay. Boats will be notified by radio on VHF Channel 72.

When the yellow board is lowered the normal start procedure will commence.

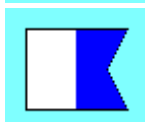
A Red Flag will be hoisted five minutes before the Start Time, followed five minutes later by a Green Flag and Horn.

This time will be added to a boat's published handicap start time and will be the new delayed start time for each boat.

ABANDONED RACE: Prior to the start of a race, if the wind is gusting to 25 knots and there is a strong breeze forecast, or there is no wind, the race will be abandoned. The following flags will be hoisted on the Start Boat to advise the race is abandoned. In addition, boats will be notified by radio VHF Channel 72.

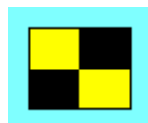


Code flag N over Code Flag A



RACE ABANDONED NO FURTHER RACING TODAY

ADDITIONAL START INFORMATION:



Code Flag 'L'

When additional information* is to be communicated to all boats before the start of a race the Code L flag will be displayed on the Start Boat. Boats should carefully approach the Start Boat to receive the information. Alternatively listen for a message on the radio. VHF Channel 72

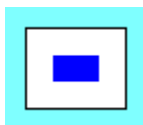
* For example: A mark of the course is missing.

RACE FINISH: Normally the Finish Line will be the Start Line.

SHORTENED COURSE: In the case that it is unlikely that boats will be able to complete the course by the race time limit, the Start Boat will advise on Channel 72 its intention to shorten the course and advise the location of the Finish Line.

The Finish Line will, if possible, be between a mark on the course, passed in the direction of the course and the repositioned Start Boat, which will display the Code Flag S. When it is not possible or practical to finish the race at a mark of the course, an alternative Finish Line will be set up

between the Start Boat and a buoy placed in the direction of the course.
Boats must keep well clear of the Finish Line, after finishing.



Code Flag S – Shortened Course

PROHIBITED WATER: The area of water between registered moorings (including Police and NSW Maritime moorings) and the adjacent shoreline shall be considered as Prohibited Water (Continuing Obstruction, AYF Rule 19). Boats racing shall not enter this area and shall allow room for other boats to keep clear.

RADIO COMMUNICATION: The Start Boat will use VHF Channel 72 to send messages.

RETIREMENTS: Once having started, each boat that is planning to retire from the race **MUST** report to the Start Boat before leaving the course.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED: Please contact the Start Boat by radio if assistance is required. The Sailing Officer will request the Start Boat to provide assistance. In the event of the Start Boat leaving the finishing line to provide assistance, the first boat finishing will become the finish boat and record the finish times for both fleets. The Start Boat will transmit on Channel 72 that it is leaving the start line to provide assistance or attend an emergency.

LATEST FINISHING TIMES: 5.00PM. (October to March) 4.00PM. (April to September), for both fleets.

BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat is allocated a Pittwater Sailors Race Number. This must be **CLEARLY** displayed to the Start Boat on crossing **BOTH** the Start and Finish Line, together with a blue or yellow fleet flag. Pittwater Sailors Race Numbers will be attached to the bow. These numbers are the principal identification of each boat. Any boat that the Start Boat cannot identify risks a DNS for that race.

Race Numbers must be such as to be seen clearly across the length of the Start/Finish Line. Each figure must be at least 200 mm wide, 30mm thick and 300 mm high (black on white is recommended). Sail numbers may also be used when it is difficult to see race numbers. It is recommended that Club Members fly their PAC Burgee from the backstay.

SCORING: Race results will not be recorded for any boat that does not have a current year's membership.

In accordance with AYF Rule A2-4 Low Point System, each finishing boat receives points equal to its race position (1 point for 1st, 2 for 2nd, etc). The boat with the lowest aggregate score wins. In the event of a series score tie, the tie will be broken in accordance with AYF Rule A8.

TLE (time limit expired): A boat still racing when her time limit expires shall be scored points equal to the number of boats **finishing** within the time limit, plus 30% of the number of **starters**, rounded to the nearest whole number, but no more points than the number of starters. Such boats will be scored TLE.

DNF (did not finish): A boat that withdraws **before** her time limit expires shall be scored points, one more than the number of boats **starting** in the race. Such boats will be scored DNF.

DNS (did not start): A boat that did not start shall be scored points, one more than the number of boats **entered** in the series.

DSQ – (disqualified). If a boat is involved in an incident and a protest has been raised, a hearing will be conducted by the Protest Committee in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing. The findings of the Protest Committee will be binding.

OCS – (On-course side; Start early and did not return). Ten-minute penalty added to finishing time.

ALTERNATE START BOAT: Where a boat acts as Start Boat for a race, or a boat's crew does not race but helps man the club Start Boat, it will receive points for the race in that series, as follows:

- (a) In the ANNUAL POINT SCORE, points equal to the average of its best **three** results in the series.
- (b) In the WINTER AND SPRING SERIES, points equal to the average of its best **two** results in that series.

No points will be awarded for an abandoned race.

ANNUAL POINT SCORE SERIES: The Annual Point Score Series shall consist of up to eleven (11) races. Five (5) completed races shall constitute a Series.

When four to seven races have been completed, a boats series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race. When eight or more races have been completed, her worst two scores will be excluded. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each fleet.

WINTER and SPRING SERIES: The Winter and Spring Series shall consist of up to four (4) races each. Two (2) completed races shall constitute a Series

A boat's total score will be the sum of its race scores, excluding its worst score only if four races are completed. Trophies will be awarded for 1st in each fleet.

The Winter and Spring Series will be run concurrently with the Annual Point Score races.

CHANGE OF BOAT: If a member replaces his/her boat in the same fleet during the year the points awarded to both boats will count towards the final aggregate point scores for the year. Provided that the member has only one boat registered to sail with Pittwater Sailors at any one time, and that boat sails using a handicap set by the Pittwater Sailors handicapper for that boat at that time. If the new boat is in a different division, it will be treated as a new boat in that division.

NEW MEMBERS: A boat that enters the series after the start of the series will be recorded a DNS for the races that preceded the entry of the boat.

SAILS: Spinnakers, Gennakers, Mistresses, MPS's and the like are not permitted, however a normal jib may be poled out.

CREW In the interests of safety for all, a minimum of two crew members are required. Any boat that sails single handed will be given a DNS.

PROTEST COMMITTEE. Pittwater Sailors has prided itself on friendly racing, but disputes can arise. Rather than wonder what to do when it happens, a standing committee of 5 shall be appointed to conduct hearings into protests arising from rule infringements during races. This committee shall comprise a Chairman, 2 members from BLUE and 2 members from YELLOW Fleets.

A committee of 3, comprising the Chairman and the 2 members from the Fleet opposite to the boat being investigated, shall adjudicate individual cases.

Protests should be lodged no later than 24 hours after the incident and preferably at the BBQ after the race. The results for the boats in the fleet subject to protest will be subject to the outcome of the protest hearing.

Protest hearings will be held during the following week, subject to availability of individuals involved. If an infringement is found a penalty will be imposed as prescribed in the Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028 or in these Sailings Instructions.

INSURANCE: Boat owners are responsible that all appropriate insurances are in place and current.

SAFETY: Entrants shall ensure that they have a current signed Australian Sailing Category 7 Safety Audit form submitted with the series or race entry form.

DECISION TO RACE: The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is the owners alone.

PAC WEB SITE: The PAC web site address is: - www.paclub.com.au

Information, handicaps, courses and current catering manager are available in the Sailing Section of the website.

BBQ: A barbecue is to be held at the Clubhouse after each race.

Bookings, variations to permanent BBQ bookings and cancellations, must be made with the Catering Manager by the Wednesday before the race.*

2025 Pittwater Marker Buoy Locations

