

Notice of Race

RHYC Yacht & Cruiser Racing 2026

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The organising authority is the Royal Harwich Yacht Club.

RULES

The events will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, the RYA Racing Charter principles and objectives, except as any of these are changed by this Notice of Race, or the Sailing Instructions.

Where a race forms part of the “Haven Combined Clubs Series”, the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions of that series shall apply instead.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

Yachts must be owned or skippered by an RHYC club member, except the Tuning Fork Race and Regatta Race, be single hulled and with a minimum waterline length of 5.2m (17ft).

Yachts not meeting the requirements set out immediately above may be accepted with special dispensation from the organising authority, who have the right to refuse any entry at its absolute discretion.

Participants can enter the race by completing the entry form that can be found on the RHYC website. Entries must be in by the end of the Wednesday before the race date.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Yachts must meet the minimum standards laid out in the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2026 Appendix B Special Regulations for Inshore Racing, which includes a functional engine with adequate fuel, and a marine VHF transceiver.

ENTRY FEES

Entry is free to all competitors, unless set out in the Sailing Instructions.

SCHEDULE

All RHYC club yacht races in 2026 as outlined and amended in the club diary. Any changes to the club diary will be dealt with in Sailing Instructions.

The planned events are:

Tuning Fork – 25th April

Regatta Yacht Race- 30st August

Sunk & Bell Races – 3rd October

Separate NoR and SI's will apply to any yachts competing in the All in Race on 11th October.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Separate Sailing Instructions will apply for each event. These are available on the club website. It is the responsibility of the crew to be aware of these instructions and amendments. Any amendments to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the club website and may be emailed to competitors.

THE COURSE

Racing will take place in the Rivers Orwell and Stour, Harwich Harbour approaches and Dovercourt Bay.

HANDICAPS

Yachts will race on the handicap system 2026 RORC/RYA YTC unless varied by the Sailing Instructions. A yacht's handicap shall not be grounds for redress. Yachts should provide a 2026 RORC/RYA YTC for Spinnaker and/or Non-Spinnaker with their entry as appropriate. The 2026 RHYC Yacht Handicap Committee will assign a handicap to any yacht without a 2026 RORC/RYA YTC.

A spinnaker is defined under the Equipment Rules of Sailing, 2025-2028 and IRC Rules 2026 as '*A sail set forward of the mast spar or of the foremost mast spar if more than one mast, where the measurement between the half luff point and the half leech point is equal or greater than 75% of the foot length.*'

Tuning Fork: One class and yachts may choose on the day to sail under either a Spinnaker or Non Spinnaker YTC Handicap.

Regatta Yacht Race: One class and yachts may choose on the day to sail under either a Spinnaker or Non Spinnaker YTC Handicap.

Sunk Race: All yachts will sail under Spinnaker YTC Handicap.

Bell Race: Yachts may choose to sail with either 'Spinnaker' or 'Non-spinnaker' sails. YTC handicaps may be adjusted at the discretion of the RHYC Handicap committee.

MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors and/or their Guardians automatically grant to the OA and any party to which it may delegate this right, without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show (including via the internet), any motion pictures, still pictures, live, taped or filmed television or any other form of media, of or relating to the event.

4/03/2026