

Ajax Nationals 2026



Notice of Race

Ajax National Championships

19th to 21st June 2026

The Organising Authority is the Royal Harwich Yacht Club.

Notice of Race

1. Rules

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028*.
- 1.2 The Port of Ipswich and Harwich Haven Authority Byelaws also apply.
- 1.3 The penalty for a breach of any rule apart from RRS 2, RRS 31, or a rule of Part 2 of the RRS may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.2.
- 1.4 Boats shall have three persons on board while racing.
- 1.5 RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices, Basic Rule) applies at all times while afloat. The personal flotation device worn by each competitor to comply with RRS 40.1 shall meet or exceed standard ISO 12404/5 (CE 50 Newtons).
- 1.6 RRS 44.1 is changed by replacing "Two-Turn Penalty" by "One-Turn Penalty" throughout.
- 1.7 All boats shall have on board a working marine VHF radio.
- 1.8 While racing, boats shall use only sails displaying their allocated sail number, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the organising authority or race committee.
- 1.9 Competitors and support persons that attend the event and are not members of RHYC will be temporary members of the club for the duration of the event and shall abide by all RHYC club rules.

2. Eligibility and Entry

- 2.1 The event is open to all boats of the Ajax 23 class. Boats shall comply with the Class Rules.
- 2.2 The helm of each boat shall be a fully paid-up Full member of the Ajax 23 class.

- 2.3 Eligible boats may enter the event by completing the online entry form on the Royal Harwich Yacht Club website and by paying the required entry fee.
- 2.4 The entry fee is £75. A late entry surcharge of £25 may be levied after the 18th June.
- 2.5 There are boats available to hire from the club at a cost of £60 for the event. Bookings must be made directly with the club (office.manager@royalharwich.co.uk or 01473 780319) and will be dealt with on a first payment made basis.
- 2.6 Competitors under the age of 18 years shall not take part in the event unless and until a consent form completed in respect of that competitor and signed by their parent or guardian has been delivered to the Organising Authority. Please request such a form from the club office (office.manager@royalharwich.co.uk
- 2.7 Competitors under the age of 16 years shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone over 18 years of age acting *in loco parentis* while at the club. The responsible adult shall remain available to take responsibility for the competitor at all times while the competitor is at the club or otherwise taking part in the event.

3. Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 Sailing instructions will be available on the club website before the event

4. Communication

- 4.1 The Official Noticeboard is located online
- 4.2 From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or to communicate with the Race Committee, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

5. Schedule

- 5.1 Racing is scheduled to take place on the following dates, with the scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race on each day and the anticipated number of races scheduled for that day as follows:

Date	Scheduled time of warning signal for first race	Number of races scheduled for the day	Predicted tide times at Harwich	
			LW	HW
Friday 19th June	10:55	3	09.07	15.52
Saturday 20th June	10:55	3	09.54	16.42
Sunday 21st June	10:55	2	10.45	17.33

- 5.2 Races scheduled on the same day will normally be sailed back-to-back, with the warning signal for each subsequent race being made shortly after the last boat has finished the previous race. The maximum number of races that may be sailed on any day will be 4.
- 5.3 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 13:55

6. Venue

- 6.1 Racing will be in Dovercourt Bay unless conditions are, in the opinion of the race committee, unsuitable for racing at sea, in which case racing may take place in the rivers Orwell and/or Stour.

7. Courses

- 7.1 If racing is in Dovercourt Bay the course will be windward-leeward or triangle/sausage, all with port mark roundings – see sailing instructions for details. If racing is in the rivers Orwell and/or Stour the course may be round-the-cans.

The finish of the last race on Sunday may be varied to facilitate an easy return to the club.

8. Scoring

- 8.1 Two races need to be completed to constitute the series.
- 8.2 The series score for each boat will, subject to RRS 90.3(b), be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race scores as follows:
- a) When three or fewer races have been completed no race score will be excluded;
 - b) When four or more races have been completed, one race score will be excluded.

9. Equipment Inspection

- 9.1 Boats and equipment may be inspected for compliance with the rules at any time during the event,
- 9.2 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of boats and/or equipment does not reduce the responsibilities of each boat and competitor under the rules.

10. Support Persons and Vessels

- 10.1 Support persons shall not provide support to boats in the race area unless and until the relevant support vessel has been registered with the race committee.

11. Privacy Statement

- 11.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in this event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

12. Risk Statement

- 12.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused

by their own actions or omissions;

- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, support boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of support boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances; and
- g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event, and to attend any competitor briefing held for this event.

13. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2m per incident or the equivalent.

14. Prizes

14.1 Perpetual trophies will be awarded as follows:

- 1st in the series Gimpel Trophy
- 2nd in the series Du Sautoy Tray
- 3rd in the series Mike Rowe Memorial Trophy
- 4th in the series Victory Salver

Highest placed visitor not in the first four: Vim Trophy

Highest placed crew from the Royal Harwich Yacht Club not in the first four: The Geoffrey Wrinch Challenge Cup

This event will form part of the Thomas Spence Lyme Challenge Cup series for RHYC boats.

- 14.2 Keeper prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third boats in the series. Further prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority and/or class association.
- 14.3 The prize giving will be at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club after racing on the Sunday.

15. Further Information

15.1 For further information please contact the club office.