



NOTICE OF RACE

Etchells

**2026 International Etchells
Victorian Championship**

13th to 15th March 2026

**To be conducted by
Royal Brighton Yacht Club
Brighton, Victoria
In conjunction with the Etchells Melbourne Fleet**

Posted 12/12/2026

The Royal Brighton Yacht Club of Brighton Victoria in conjunction with the Etchells Melbourne Fleet Inc. invites entries to the **2026 International Etchells Victorian Championship** to be sailed on the waters of Port Phillip from 13 March 2026 to 15 March 2026.

The notation [DP] in a rule in the NOR means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking this rule.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations Part 1.
- 1.2 [DP] The International Etchells Association Class Rules and the Equipment Rules of Sailing shall apply.
- 1.3 Boats shall comply with the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 Category 7 requirements including compliance with AS Variation Approval regarding use of Anchors (Class rules shall apply).
- 1.4 The event will be conducted in accordance with the Etchells Class Code of Conduct which is available on the IECA website. Competitors will be required to sign the Code of Conduct at or prior to registration for the event. Failure by a competitor to sign the Code of Conduct may result in the competitor being ineligible to participate in the event.
[Code of Conduct Approved 2023.07.25.pdf](#)
- 1.5 A Skipper shall use only those sails presented in accordance with Class Rule C10, and they shall not be recut or altered during the championship.
- 1.6 Repairs to sails pursuant to all applicable rules are permissible only upon prior approval of the Protest Committee.
- 1.7 Where a boat is using sails with a different sail number than that of the boat's hull, the skipper will inform the OA before commencement of racing. All sails being used must exhibit the same sail number.
- 1.8 If, through no fault of its personnel, a boat's hull or spar or sail is rendered incapable of continuing the series, the Skipper may petition the Race Committee for permission to substitute a replacement hull or spar or sail for the remainder of the series.
- 1.9 [DP] A boat shall not carry any unreasonable quantities of water or anything else for the purpose of adding ballast. The amount of water that is stored in containers or bottles which is permitted to be carried should be sufficient for the crew for drinking purposes during the day's racing, to this end a maximum of 10 litres of water per boat is acceptable.
- 1.10 The wearing of a Personal Flotation Device complying with AS Special Regulations Part 2, Section 5.01.2 (minimum 50S) or equivalent overseas standard by all crew members is mandatory at all times while afloat except briefly while adjusting clothing.
- 1.11 Class Rule C.5.1(b) is amended to add:
(17) Electronic devices, employing their full functionality, provided they do not interface with other devices or third parties outside of the Race Management team.
- 1.12 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be utilised by the Race Committee (RC). This changes RRS 41(c). A working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at registration shall be mounted

above any other instruments on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing. Each boat shall provide a working Atlas 2 at registration for configuration with RaceSense. Boats without an Atlas 2 shall notify the OA upon entry, and a unit will be leased to the competitor for the event at a cost of \$30. The competitor shall sign a good order commitment for \$1,500, to be paid if the unit is damaged or lost.

- 1.13 Failure of an Atlas 2 or the RaceSense system shall not be grounds for opening a hearing considering redress. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.14 Appendix T, Arbitration will apply.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions will be available at Registration and will be posted on the event website prior to the event.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board will be located online and accessible via the regatta page. A WhatsApp group will be set up to assist in communicating with competitors.
- 3.2 [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating with the race committee.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs. Failure to receive any such broadcasts will not be subject to an application for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 3.4 [DP] All boats are required to sign-on for each race day via the link provided by the OA. All boats must also sign off via this link.
- 3.5 [DP] The use of mobile/cell phones, or any device capable of sending and/or receiving external electronic communication and/or connecting to the internet is prohibited after the first Warning Signal on each race day until the boat has completed racing that day, except in an emergency threatening the safety of any member of the crew or the boat.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 This event is open to all boats of the Etchells Class. For clarity: boats originally built from Mould 11 that have completed the M11 Protocol of Modifications as approved by the IECA and World Sailing are eligible to race as Etchells, subject to compliance with the Etchells class rules as modified by this Notice of Race.
- 4.2 Rules
This Notice of Race changes the following **class rules**, as permitted by RRS 87. The changes are shown highlighted in red. Written permission of the IECA for the change has been posted on the official notice board.
 - A.11.1 (m) A certificate for a boat originally built from Mould 11 that has completed the M11 Protocol of Modifications shall have a signed copy of the M11 Protocol of Modifications attached.
 - C.7.1. (a) **Modification** of the external shape of the **hull** is not permitted in any way except as permitted in C.7.1.(b) to C.7.1.(i), or as permitted by the M11 Protocol of Modifications.
 - D.2.1 (a) The hull shall be built in compliance with the **class rules** in force at the time of **initial certification, or in compliance with the M11 Protocol of Modifications.**
 - (b) **Modifications** (*Section C*) shall comply with the current **class rules**. Modifications permitted by the M11 Protocol of Modifications are permitted.

D.2.6 (a) The boat shall be constructed according to the International Etchells Plans and Building Specifications, or according to the M11 Protocol of Modifications.

BS.B.1 (a) Moulds requiring approval, and their respective approval authority, are shown in Table 1. Approval shall be obtained before use for production.

(c) Moulds and keel chills (moulds):

(1) shall be constructed by builders approved for that purpose by WS and IECA

(2) if required to be approved, shall be approved in accordance with World Sailing/IECA Mould Approval Procedures

Boats built from Mould 11 and subsequently modified in accordance with the M11 Protocol of Modifications are deemed to have complied with BS.B.1.

BS.C.3 **Modification** of the external shape of the hull and hull appendages is not permitted except for:

(a) fairing of local imperfections inadvertently created in the moulding process, including trimming and fairing of the skeg and rudder mouldings

(b) fairing of the keel/hull join, no more than 150 mm above and 100 mm below the join, following application of the glass tape layup for the join

(c) fairing of the skeg/hull join

(d) sanding

(e) modifications in accordance with the M11 Protocol of Modifications

4.3 Boats may enter the event by registering online at www.rbyc.org.au. Entries will close on 6 March 2026.

4.4 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.5 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the race committee.

4.6 Each skipper and crew member of each boat shall be weighed prior to racing as indicated on the Schedule or required by Class Rule C2.

5 FEES

5.1 The Entry fees of \$250 (incl GST) shall be paid in accordance with the online entry system.

6 CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1 All crew shall all be members of the International Etchells Class Association. The skipper shall be an Owner member.

6.2 In addition to NOR 6.1 Guest Skippers may enter the event. A Guest Skipper is a Skipper, but for the purposes of these guidelines being a Non-Owner, the Guest Skipper must:

- a. be age 29 or under as of 1 January of the year of the event; and
- b. borrow or charter a boat from an Owner or entity in good standing in the Fleet; and
- c. be at least a Non-Owner Class Member

7 ADVERTISING

7.1 All boats shall comply with Class Rule C.4.

8. [NP] [DP] REGISTRATION AND MEASUREMENT

8.1 The organising authority will validate that the boat has a valid Etchells Measurement Certificate and, if an M11 boat, a signed copy of the M11 Protocol of Modifications.

8.2 The following documents are required to be uploaded during the registration process:

- a) A valid insurance certificate as stated in NoR 23,
- b) A valid AS Special Regulations Category 7 Equipment Audit Form,

8.3 A sail selection form comprising of up to 5 sails (one main, two jibs and two spinnaker) to be used in the regatta, including sail type, manufacturer and sail label number, shall be submitted at registration.

9 SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Event
Thursday, 12 March	1530-1830	Registration & weigh-in
Friday, 13 March	0830-1300	Registration & weigh-in
	1330	Competitor Briefing
	1455	Race day 1 – 1 st warning signal (2 races scheduled)
Saturday, 14 March	1325	Race day 2 – 1 st Warning signal (3 races scheduled)
Saturday, 15 March	1055	Race day 3 – 1 st Warning signal (2 races scheduled)
	After Racing	Presentation Ceremony

9.2 The race committee at its discretion may elect to sail more than the days scheduled races on any race day and as a result may amend the time of the warning signal for the first race of that particular day. If the race committee decides to sail another race after the scheduled race, this will be signalled by displaying code flag “L” at the finish boat.

9.3 No Warning Signal will be made after 1500 hrs on the last scheduled day of racing.

10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

10.1 Boats may be inspected at any time.

11 CLOTHING

11.1 See Class Rule C3.2.

12 VENUE

12.1 Sailing will be in the waters of Port Phillip off Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

13 COURSES

13.1 The courses to be sailed will be a windward / leeward configuration as described in the Sailing Instructions.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: “A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty”.

14.2 In RRS 44.2 insert after the first sentence: "However, if Mark 1a (spreader mark) is set, a boat may take a penalty for an incident in the zone around Mark 1 or on the leg between Mark 1 and Mark 1a, as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark 1a".

14.3 A Protest Committee will be appointed by the Organising Authority.

15 SCORING

15.1 7 races are scheduled.

15.2 4 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

15.3 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

15.4 When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This amends RRS Appendix A2.

16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

16.1 [DP] Team leaders, coaches, other support personnel and their coach and support boats shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the first Warning Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day. Between races, coach and support boats shall not approach, communicate with or transfer provisions or equipment to or from their supported boats unless in a medical or emergency requirement threatening the health of the crew or the flotation of the boat and only with the expressed permission of the Protest Committee.

16.2 [DP] Support person vessels shall be identified whilst on the water by means to be specified in the SI's.

18 BERTHING

18.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned area while in the marina.

19 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

19.1 [DP] All boats shall be afloat before 1430 hrs on Friday 13th March 2026 and shall not be hauled out during the Regatta except with, and according to, the terms of prior written permission of the Race Committee.

21 MEDIA RIGHTS

21.1 By lodging an entry, all competitors, including owners, gives absolute right and permission for any photographs and/or video footage of their boat and crew to be published in any media stream for editorial, publicity or advertising purposes.

22 RISK STATEMENT

22.1 It is the competitor's decision to enter the Event or to start and continue in any race. Competitors shall accept that their participation in the Event is at their exclusive risk in every respect. By way of entry in the Event competitors must indemnify the Organising Authority their officers, members, staff and agents in respect to all claims and demands of whatever nature which may be made upon them in connection with or howsoever arising from their participation or intended participation in the Event.

22.2 The Organising Authority their officers, members, staff and agents accept no responsibility in respect of loss of life, personal injury or loss or damage to property which may be sustained by reason of their participation or intended participation in the Event or howsoever arising in connection with the Event.

22.3. Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS 3 – Decision to Race.

23 INSURANCE

- 23.1 Each participating boat must be insured with current third-party property insurance cover and a valid third-party Personal Liability Insurance cover of not less than AUD\$10,000,000 (10 million dollars) for any one claim event in Australia.
- 23.2. All owners/competitors who lodge an entry are deemed to have made a declaration that they hold such cover. Competitors must produce evidence of such insurance at registration.
- 22.3. Each Skipper and/or Co-Skipper is liable for any third-party property and personal injury claims.

24 PRIZES

- 24.1 Prizes will be awarded to boats finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the series.
- 24.2 The Victorian Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner.
- 24.4 The Corinthian Trophy will be awarded to the first boat where the skipper and all crew hold a World Sailing Sailor Classification Category 1.
- 24.5 A Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to winner of the Masters Division (Helm over 60 years of age).
- 24.7 A Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to winner of the Grand Masters Division (Combined age of crew not less than 165 years for a 3-person crew and 220 years for a 4-person crew).
- 24.8 Age is that applicable at midnight on the 12th March 2026.
- 24.9. Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

26. FURTHER INFORMATION

Royal Brighton Yacht Club

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