



THE ROYAL
YACHT CLUB
OF TASMANIA



2026 Musto Australian Optimist Championship

9 – 15 January 2026

Sailing Instructions – Open & Intermediate Fleets

Including [Amendment 1](#) (9/1/2026)

[Amendment 2](#) (11/1/2026)

[Amendment 3](#) (13/1/2026)

Organising Authority

Australian International Optimist Dinghy Association

In conjunction with the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

MUSTO

Abbreviations

[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the Jury.

[NP] denotes that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

[SP] denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(a) and RRS Appendix A5.

1. Rules

- 1.1. The Championship shall be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The prescriptions of Australian Sailing and Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the Beach Boats shall apply.
- 1.3. RRS 60.2(a)(1) is changed to "If the protestor is a boat, she shall hail 'Protest' at the first reasonable opportunity and she shall inform the Race Committee at the finishing line promptly after finishing of the boat/s being protested in the manner described in SI 17.1, or as soon as practicable after she retires."
- 1.4. Appendix T, Arbitration shall apply.
- 1.5. Appendix P shall apply as amended by SI 15.3.
- 1.6. English shall be the official language of the Championship.

2. Communications with Competitors

- 2.1. All notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board online located at www.optimist.org.au/nationals.
- 2.2. Secondary to the Official noticeboard "instant messaging" system WhatsApp may be used to notify skippers of timely information, confirmation of days course, Protest Time limit etc. the group can be joined at: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ESDC8NKBe6i3i1wNi5svP0>
- 2.3. Signals made ashore will be display from the official flagpole located at the corner of the RYCT dinghy storage .
- 2.4. [NP][DP] Flag D with one sound means 'The warning signal will be made not less than 45 minutes after D is displayed. Boats shall not launch until this signal is made.'
- 2.5. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP.
- 2.6. [DP] Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 2.7. The radio channel will be VHF Ch. 10 for Course Area A and VHF Ch. 13 for Course Area B.

3. Code of Conduct

- 3.1. [NP][DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct.
- 3.2. Sailors, parents, team members and officials shall observe the codes of conduct available on the Official Notice Board <https://www.optimist.org.au/nationals/official-notice-board> . The Organising Authority will take a zero tolerance approach to breaches of the codes of conduct.

4. Changes to the Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. Any change to the sailing instructions (SIs) will be posted no later than 2 hours prior to the first warning signal on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

5. [DP] Boats

- 5.1. Charter boats are not mandatory. Competitors sailing on charter boats shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the Charter Supplier immediately after returning the boat ashore.
- 5.2. Failure or loss of chartered equipment will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 5.3. Hulls, foils and daggerboards of chartered and non-chartered equipment shall not be cleaned or polished using any substance other than water after the boat has completed measurement and registration unless permitted by the AIODA Technical Committee.

6. Format of Racing

- 6.1. The regatta will consist of up to twelve (12) races for each of Open Fleet and Intermediate Fleet with three (3) races required to constitute a series.
- 6.2. **For the Open Fleet**, the regatta will consist of a Qualifying Series and may be followed by a Final Series. In the absence of a Final Series, the regatta will be decided by the Qualifying Series.
- 6.3. Qualifying Series:
 - (a) The Qualifying Series will take place on the first 3 days of racing, if 3 races have not been completed by all fleets by the end of the third racing day, the Qualifying Series will continue until the end of the racing day in which the fourth qualifying race is completed.
 - (b) Boats sailing in the Open Fleet will be divided into two or more coloured divisions when the total entry in the fleet exceeds 80 boats.
 - (c) The Race Committee will carry out the initial allocation into divisions after 1800 on 9th January with the list of registered competitors.
 - (d) For subsequent daily reallocations, boats will be reassigned to divisions after each day of racing. The series scores for reassignment will be calculated for those races completed by all fleets. Assignments will be based on the ranking available at 2000 hours that day, regardless of protests or requests for redress not yet decided.
- 6.4. Final Series:
 - (a) Allocation of Gold and Silver Division boats for the Final Series will be based on the results of the Qualifying Series, [after all protests or requests for redress from the last day of the Qualifying series have been decided](#).
 - (b) The Final Series divisions will be, as nearly as possible, of equal size, but so that the Silver Division will not be larger than the Gold Division.
 - (c) Any recalculation of Qualifying Series ranking after boats have been assigned to Finals Series divisions will not affect the assignments except that a redress decision may promote a boat to a higher division.
- 6.5. **For Intermediate Fleet**, the regatta will be sailed as a single series.
- 6.6. **[NP][DP]** Identification of Coloured Division

All boats shall display a coloured ribbon (corresponding to the colour of their division flag for that day's sailing) fixed with not less than 60cm of ribbon free to fly from the top of the sprit. Ribbons of each applicable colour will be provided by the Organising Authority at registration. Sailors are responsible for ensuring they check their division assignment each morning and ensuring they attach the correct ribbon colour for that day.

7. Schedule of Races

7.1. The schedule is as per the following table:

Date	Event	Open
Thursday 8 th January	Teams Racing Measurement	1000-1700
Friday 9 th January	Official Arrival Day Registration and Measurement Team Racing Competitors Meeting Teams Racing Championships Official Welcome	0900-1600 1030 1200 1830
Saturday 10 th January	Coach & Support Boat briefing (Compulsory) Regatta Briefing (Compulsory) Championship Racing (First Warning Signal)	1000 1030 1300
Sunday 11 th January	Coach & Jury Meeting Daily Briefing Championship Racing (First Warning Signal)	1015 1030 1300
Monday 12 th January	Coach & Jury Meeting Daily Briefing Championship Racing (First Warning Signal)	1015 1030 1300
Tuesday 13 th January	Coach & Jury Meeting Daily Briefing Championship Racing (First Warning Signal) AIODA AGM	1015 1030 1300 1800
Wednesday 14 th January	Coach & Jury Meeting Daily Briefing Intermediate Fleet (First Warning Signal) Open Fleet (First Warning Signal)	1015 1030 1230 1300
Thursday 15 th January	Official Departure Day Coach & Jury Meeting Daily Briefing Championship Racing (First Warning Signal) Closing & Presentation Ceremony	0930 0945 1200 Approx 1700

7.2. The target is two races per day. No more than three races will be sailed back to back.

7.3. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound not less than five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

7.4. On the last day of the regatta no warning signal will be made after 1500 hours.

8. Division Flags

a) Division flags for Open Fleet:

Qualifying Series Division	Final Series Division	Flag
Yellow	Gold	Yellow flag with black Optimist logo
Pink	Silver	Pink flag with black Optimist logo

b) Fleet flag for Intermediate Fleet will be a Blue flag with white Optimist Logo.

9. Racing Areas

9.1. Attachment 1 shows the location of the racing areas.

10. The Course

10.1. The diagram in Attachment 2 shows the course including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

11. Marks

11.1. The marks are described in Attachment 2.

11.2. If only 1 of the gate marks is in position at a gate it shall be rounded to port.

12. The Start

- 12.1. The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel on the starboard end and a mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the port end.
- 12.2. **[NP][DP]** Once a starting sequence has commenced, all boats not involved in that start shall wait inside the waiting area. The waiting area windward boundary shall be designated by 2 buoys. Boats may approach the starting line only after the starting signal of the previous fleet has been made and no ~~individual or~~ general recall has been signalled.
- 12.3. **[NP][DP]** Boats that have finished shall return directly to the waiting area or ashore, keeping well clear of all boats racing and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.
- 12.4. A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.5. The starting order of the fleets will be Yellow, Pink then Intermediate for all races during the Qualifying series and Gold, Silver and Intermediate for all races during the final series.
- 12.6. During the Qualifying series there shall be at least 10 minutes between starting signals. During the Final series there shall be at least 8 minutes between starting signals.

13. Change of the Next Leg of the Course

- 13.1. 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 possible.

14. The Finish

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a mast displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel at the Starboard end and Port end finish mark.

15. Penalty System

- 15.1. The penalty for breaches of the Class Rules will be standard penalties [SP] applied by the Race Committee or Technical Committee without a hearing and may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 60.5(a) and A5.1.
- 15.2. **For Intermediate Fleet only:** The Jury may issue an onwater penalty to any boat they observe to commit a breach of good sportsmanship or fair sailing.
- 15.3. Appendix P will apply to all races and is amended as follows:
 - a) If a first penalty is signalled after a boat has crossed the finish line, the penalty will be a 10% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c).
 - b) The words "or subsequent" are added after the word "second" in P2.2.
 - c) P2.3 is deleted.

16. Time Limits and Target Times

- 16.1. Time limits and target times (in minutes) are as below:
- 16.2. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

Fleet	Time Limit	Mark 1 Time Limit	Target Time
Open	80	20-30	45
Intermediate	80	20-30	45

- 16.3. Open Division boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat in their division sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5.
- 16.4. Intermediate Fleet boats deemed to be still racing by the Race Committee, but failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes may be scored an allocated place. See SI 19.12. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

17. Protests and Requests for Redress

- 17.1. Boats intending to protest shall in addition to hailing *protest* at the time of the incident, inform the race committee immediately after finishing by approaching the starboard side of the race committee vessel at the starboard end of the finish line and hailing the protested boat's sail number and receive acknowledgement from the race committee. This changes RRS 60.2(a)(1).
- 17.2. Protest forms are available at the Regatta Office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 17.3. The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat of the relevant fleet has finished the last race of the day, or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 17.4. Notices shall be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in a Jury Room which will be specified on the notice board. Protests may be heard before the end of the Protest Time Limit if all the parties are present.
- 17.5. Notices of protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee or Jury will be posted on the noticeboard within the time limit to inform competitors this shall satisfy the requirements of RRS 60.2(a)(2).
- 17.6. An International Jury has been appointed and decisions of the Jury will be final as provided in RRS 70.3(a).

18. Arbitration

- 18.1. RRS Appendix T shall apply.

19. Scoring

- 19.1. **For the Open Fleet**, the series will consist of up to twelve (12) races, three (3) of which are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 19.2. When a qualifying and final series are used:
 - (a) The Qualifying Series shall consist of a maximum of six (6) completed races.
 - (b) The Final Series shall consist of a maximum of six (6) completed races.
- 19.3. Open Fleet will be scored as follows:
 - (a) When fewer than four (4) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - (b) When from four (4) to ten (10) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.
 - (c) When eleven (11) or twelve (12) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores, excluding her worst two scores.
- 19.4. The racing for the Australian and Open Championships will be scored as one fleet.
- 19.5. **For the Intermediate Fleet**, the series will consist of up to twelve (12) races, three (3) of which are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 19.6. Intermediate Fleet will be scored as follows:
 - (a) When fewer than four (4) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores;
 - (b) When from four (4) to ten (10) races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score;
 - (c) When eleven (11) or 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.
- 19.7. A boat that did not start, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the maximum number as per SI 19.8. This changes RRS A5.2.

- 19.8. The maximum number for SIs 19.7 is:
- (a) Open Fleet: For races in the Qualifying Series one (1) more than the maximum number of boats in any division.
 - (b) Open Fleet: For races in the Finals Series one (1) more than the maximum number of boats in her division.
 - (c) Intermediate Fleet: One (1) more than the number of boats in the fleet.
- 19.9. During the Qualifying Series, only races that have been completed by all divisions will be included in the series scoring.
- 19.10. To request correction of an alleged error in a posted race or series results, a boat shall complete an Online Scoring Enquiry via the Results website.
- 19.11. Allocated place determination for the Intermediate Division: Boats may be scored using their current standing at a position on the course determined by the Race Committee.

20. Safety Regulations

- 20.1. Sign on and sign off will be located in the marquee adjacent to the regatta office each day.
- 20.2. **[NP]** Failure to sign on will result in that boat being penalised ten (10) points for the first race of the session (but not worse than a Did Not Finish). Failure to sign off shall result in that boat being penalised ten (10) points for the last race of the session (but not worse than Did Not Finish).
- 20.3. **[NP][DP]** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.
- 20.4. Competitors who require assistance should blow a whistle or wave the paddle or one arm. The Race Committee reserves the right to assist competitors who in its opinion require assistance, regardless of the wishes of the competitor. This will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

21. **[SP][DP]** Replacement of Equipment

- 21.1. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved in writing by the Technical Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the Technical Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 21.2. Substitution of damaged equipment may be permitted providing that the relevant form has been filled in at the regatta office and the damaged and substituting equipment has been checked by the Technical Committee.
- 21.3. If the substitution was made on the water between races, both the damaged and the substituting pieces of equipment shall be presented to the Technical Committee after the end of the day's racing. In this case, the substitution is subject to the approval of the Technical Committee given retrospectively.

22. **[SP][DP]** Equipment and Measurement Checks

- 22.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules, the NOR and the SIs.
- 22.2. Sails measuring to the maximum limits during the measurement days may be scrutinized again at any point of the regatta.

23. Official and Accredited Vessels

- 23.1. Official vessels will be identified, prominently displayed on a flag or sticker:

Jury Vessels	White flag with black letters JURY
Race Committee- Course A	White flag with black letter A
Race Committee- Course B	Pink flag with a black letter B
Media	Red flag with black letters MEDIA

24. [NP][DP] Support Vessels

- 24.1. For the purpose of these sailing instructions, spectator vessels shall be classified as support vessels. All support vessels and coach vessels shall be registered with the organising authority. All vessels shall be identified with a numbered flag available at registration upon the completion of the online support/coach boat registration. This shall be prominently displayed such that it is visible from the front and or starboard side. At the conclusion of the event all flags are to be returned to the RYCT Regatta Office.
- 24.2. Each coach/support vessel is required to have the appropriate current insurance for their vessel and the support vessel driver must have a current vessel driver's licence. The vessel shall also carry all safety equipment required to comply with local maritime regulations and be equipped with a working VHF radio.
- 24.3. Coach/support vessels shall maintain a listening watch on VHF Ch. 10 course area A, VHF Ch. 13 Course area B, or any other channel as instructed by the Race Committee.
- 24.4. Whilst afloat all occupants of vessels under 6m in length must wear a PFD at all times and the operator of all support boats must be wearing a kill chord.
- 24.5. Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside the course areas 100m outside the Start line, Mark 1, Mark 2, Gate, Start line and the laylines between these marks from the time of the warning signal for a sequence of first starts until all boats in all divisions have finished or the Race Committee signals flag V and requests assistance.
- 24.6. During the starting sequence from the preparatory signal until all boats in a division have started all support and coach vessels (not following another division elsewhere on the course) are to remain in the waiting area.
- 24.7. To observe a race, support vessels will be permitted to move forward from the waiting area via the starboard layline between the start line and Mark 1 or the port layline between marks 3S/3P and mark 2 keeping approximately 100 metres outside the course area. No support vessels are permitted in the middle section of the course. **This means support vessels are not permitted at the Finish area.** Race committee or Jury vessels may request a support or coach vessel to move further from the course area, in which case the mentioned vessel shall do so immediately.
- 24.8. Following the finish to a race, support boats are to wait in the waiting area for their sailors to return. Support boats are not permitted to meet boats at the finish or in the return channel between the finish and the Start pin.
- 24.9. When the wind is less than 8 knots all coaches and support vessels shall proceed at no wake speed within 200m of the area where boats are racing.
- 24.10. When flag V is displayed with a long sound signal on a committee vessel all support vessels are to remain afloat and assist all sailors until flag V is removed.
- 24.11. The flying of drones in the race area by a coach or support person during a race session is not permitted. A race session is defined as from the first scheduled warning signal of the session to the time the last boat completes the last race of the session or, when the race committee signals no further racing for the session.

25. [NP][DP] Rubbish Disposal

- 25.1. Rubbish may be placed aboard support and race committee vessels.

26. [NP][DP] Berthing

- 26.1. Boats shall be kept in their assigned area in the boat park.
- 26.2. Boat trolleys may be shared during the regatta, all trolleys must be in good and serviceable condition and should be clearly marked with the owners name and/or sail number to ensure their return at the end of the regatta. Owners are not permitted to move other boats in order to retrieve their trolley except for after racing on the last day of the regatta.

27. Prizes

- 27.1. Refer to NoR 16.
- 27.2. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

28. Disclaimer of Liability

- 28.1. Competitors participate in the championship entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta. In addition to this the following clauses are applicable:
- 28.2. A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore and nothing, whether in the NOR or the SIs or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility. In this paragraph and the following paragraphs, wherever the context so permits 'boat' includes the helm and their parents or guardians.
- 28.3. It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and that her helm is competent to sail and compete in them.
- 28.4. Nothing done or omitted to be done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of taking part in the racing or other parts of the event. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the events and their associated activities, afloat or ashore and include the Organising Authority, the Race Committee, the race officers, safety and support vessels and beach masters.
- 28.5. The provision of safety vessels does not relieve the boat of its responsibilities.
- 28.6. The fact that the Race Committee conducts inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in these conditions.
- 28.7. The Race Committee may hold a boat ashore, or require a boat to go ashore at any time when afloat, whether racing or not, if it considers that (a) the boat, the equipment or the clothing of the helm, or (b) the physical condition of the helm is not adequate for conditions.

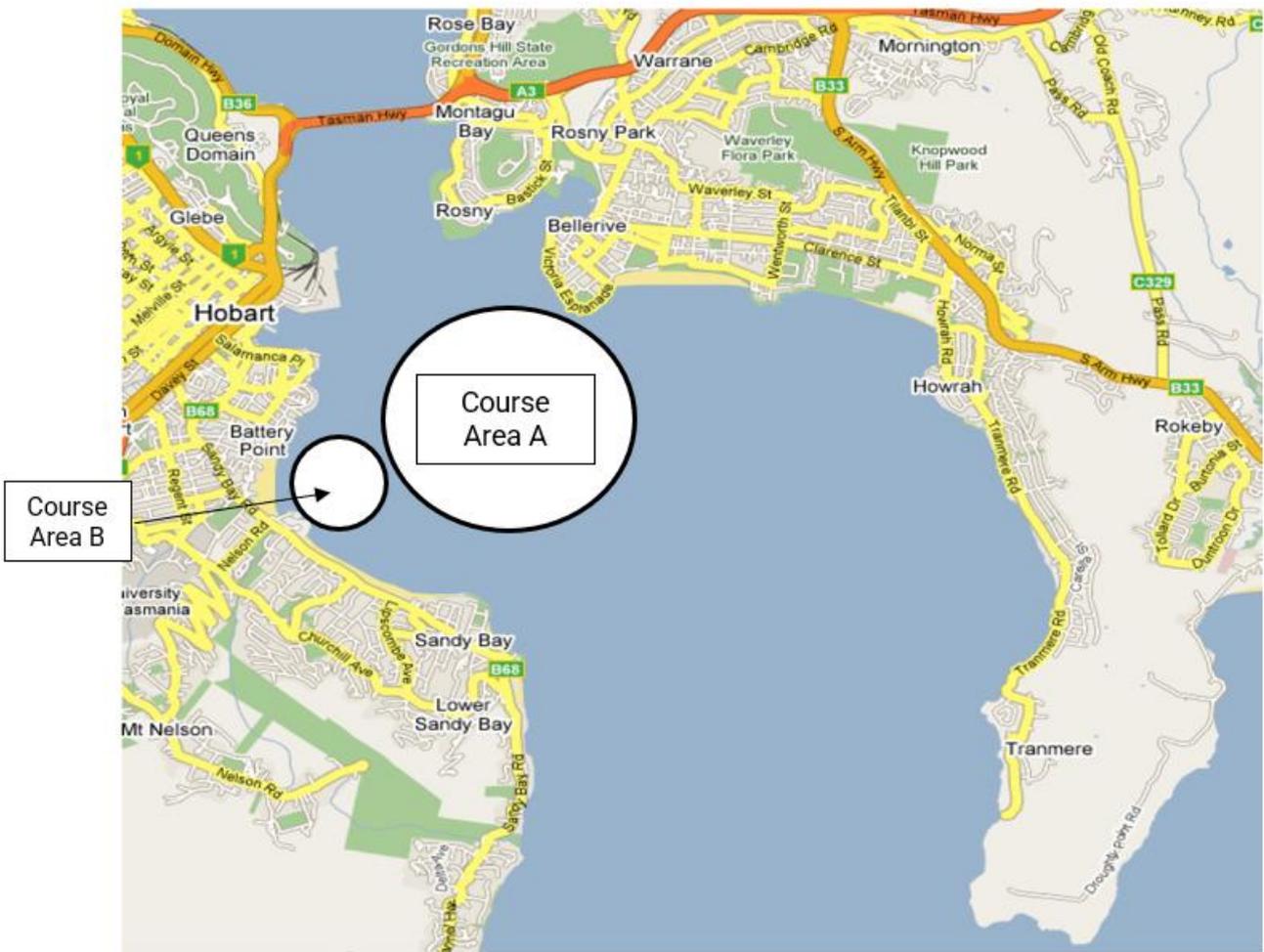
29. Insurance

- 29.1. All boats shall have third party insurance cover of not less than AUD 5 Million (recommended AUD 10 Million or the equivalent thereof in any other convertible currency) per incident. All owners/competitors who sign the entry forms are deemed to have made a declaration that they hold such cover. Owners/competitors not holding this cover shall withdraw their entry. The skipper of each boat must be able to display proof of cover if requested to do so.

Attachment 1: The Championship Course Areas

REGATTA SITE & COURSE AREAS (indicative only)

Course Area A- Open & Intermediate Fleets
Course Area B- Green Fleet

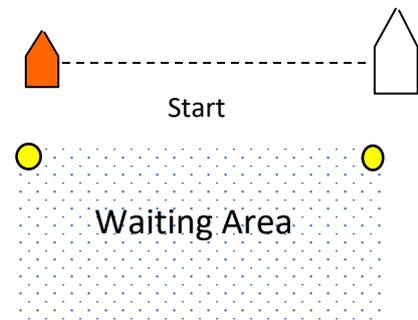
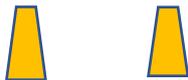


Attachment 2: The Australian & Open Championship Course

All marks, except for the gate, to be left to port.

OPEN FLEET: Start – Mark 1- Mark 2 – Mark 3S/3P – Finish

INTERMEDIATE FLEET: Start –Mark 1 – Mark 2 – Mark 3A - Finish



Mark	Description
1, 2, 3S and 3P	Orange inflatable buoys
3A	Yellow inflatable buoy
aNew (Change) Mark	Orange inflatable buoy with a black band
Finish	Black and White chequered inflatable buoy
Waiting Area Marks	Yellow Inflatable buoys

