



2026 SHARPIE VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY 21 TO SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sandringham Yacht Club (SYC) as the Organising Authority (OA) invites owners of eligible boats to apply for entry to the Championship Regatta to be held on Port Phillip.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) with the following modification:
 - 1.1.1 RRS 42.3(c) is changed in accordance with the Class Association By-Laws, Part B, Clause 20(1) to allow "On a free leg of the course when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the leeward side of a wave) or planning is possible, the Yacht's crew may, in order to initiate surfing or planning, pump the sheet, boom or guy, controlling any sail a maximum of three (3) times for each wave or gust of wind."
 - 1.1.2 Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by a One-Turn Penalty.
- 1.2. The prescriptions of Australian Sailing will apply.
- 1.3. The Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 – for off the beach boats will apply.
- 1.4. Devices which indicate remotely or transmit or correlate data about wind direction, wind speed, boat speed or location shall be prohibited in accordance with the Class Association By-Laws, Part B, Clause 20(2).
- 1.5. RRS Appendix T Arbitration will apply.
- 1.6. RRS Appendix T – T1(b) is changed to read: "A post-race penalty is a 20% Scoring penalty as stated in Rule 44.3(c). However, Rule 44.1(a) applies.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) is located online at <https://syc.com.au/sharpie-states/>.

3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 90 minutes prior to the first scheduled start time on the day of racing, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals will be displayed from the mast outside the OTB clubhouse.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed on shore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes RRS race signal AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACING AND EVENTS

- 5.1. Registration, Racing and Information sessions

Date	Activity	Location	Time
Saturday 21 March 2026	Registration	Regatta Office	0900 – 1100
	Competitor Information Session	SYC OTB Area	1100
	Racing	Port Phillip	Earliest warning 1255
Sunday 22 March 2026	Competitor Information Session	SYC OTB Area	1100
	Racing	Port Phillip	Earliest warning 1255
	Prize giving	The Foredeck	Post racing

- 5.2. There will be up to six races in the series.
- 5.3. There shall be no warning signal after 1500 hours on 22 March 2026.

6. CLASS FLAG

The class (division) flag will be the code flag J.

7. RACING AREA

The races will be conducted on Port Phillip, in the vicinity of SYC.

8. COURSES

- 8.1. The diagram in Attachment A shows the course configuration, including the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2. The Race Committee will advise competitors which course configuration has been selected by flying the corresponding numeral pennant on the start boat.
- 8.3. If one of the gate marks are missing, boats shall round the one existing leeward mark to port.

9. MARKS

- 9.1. Marks 1, 2 & 3s/3p will be yellow inflatable buoys.
- 9.2. The start mark will be an orange inflatable buoy.
- 9.3. The finish mark will be a blue inflatable buoy.
- 9.4. A change mark will be the same colour inflatable buoy but with a black band.

10. THE START

- 10.1. The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port end starting mark.
- 10.2. A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

11. CHANGE TO THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

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 practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

12. THE FINISH

The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the port end finishing mark.

13. TIME LIMIT

- 13.1. The race time limit for each race is 90 minutes after the starting signal.
- 13.2. The time limit for Mark 1 on the first leg of any race is 30 minutes after the starting signal.
- 13.3. If no boat has rounded Mark 1 within the time limit noted above, then the race will be abandoned.
- 13.4. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish". This changes rule 35 and A4 and A5.

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1. Protests shall be made via the online noticeboard.
- 14.2. The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing for today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the noticeboard.
- 14.3. Notices will be posted within 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witness. Hearings will be held in the protest room, accessible via the regatta office, beginning at the time posted.
- 14.4. Breaches of NOR, SI 16, 17, 18 and 20 shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This amends rule 60.1. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification, if the Protest committee so decides. This amends rule 63.5.

15. SCORING

The scoring will be as per the Notice of Race.

16. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 16.1. All boats must sign on before leaving the shore and sign off as soon as practicable after returning to the shore and the completion of the sessions' racing.
- 16.2. The sign on period will close at the scheduled warning signal of the first race for that session on that day.
- 16.3. The sign off period will close 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the session or the race committee signals no more racing for that session, whichever is later.
- 16.4. Sign on/sign off shall be completed via the online noticeboard.
- 16.5. Failure to sign on will result in that boat being scored a penalty of 3 points on top their finishing place, but no worse than the score DSQ in their first race of the day without a hearing. The same penalty is to be applied for failing to sign off in their last race of the day, without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b), A4 and A5.
- 16.6. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as reasonably possible and sign off as soon as she returns to shore.

17. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

Substitution of skippers, crew or equipment will only be permitted if made in writing to the Race Committee before the scheduled time of the first race affected. Such permission is not valid unless it is given in writing through the official noticeboard.

18. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

19. OFFICIAL BOATS

Race management vessels will be identifiable by a blue flag with the letter A.

20. SUPPORT BOATS

- 20.1. Coach/support Boats shall conspicuously display an identification flag, provided by the Organising Authority.
- 20.2. The Organising Authority will provide berths for visiting coach/support boats under 6m on request by completion of the online registration available at <https://syc.com.au/sharpie-states/>.
- 20.3. Unless directed by the Race Management Team or Jury, or to render immediate assistance in the interests of safety, team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall not enter the course area where boats are racing, as defined in the Sailing Instructions, and shall stay more than 50 metres clear of any mark of the course from the time of the preparatory signal for the first division to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 20.4. Any interference by a coach or support boat with the racing or event organisation may result in a penalty applied at the discretion of the Jury to the appropriate skipper or team.

21. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the Notice of Race.

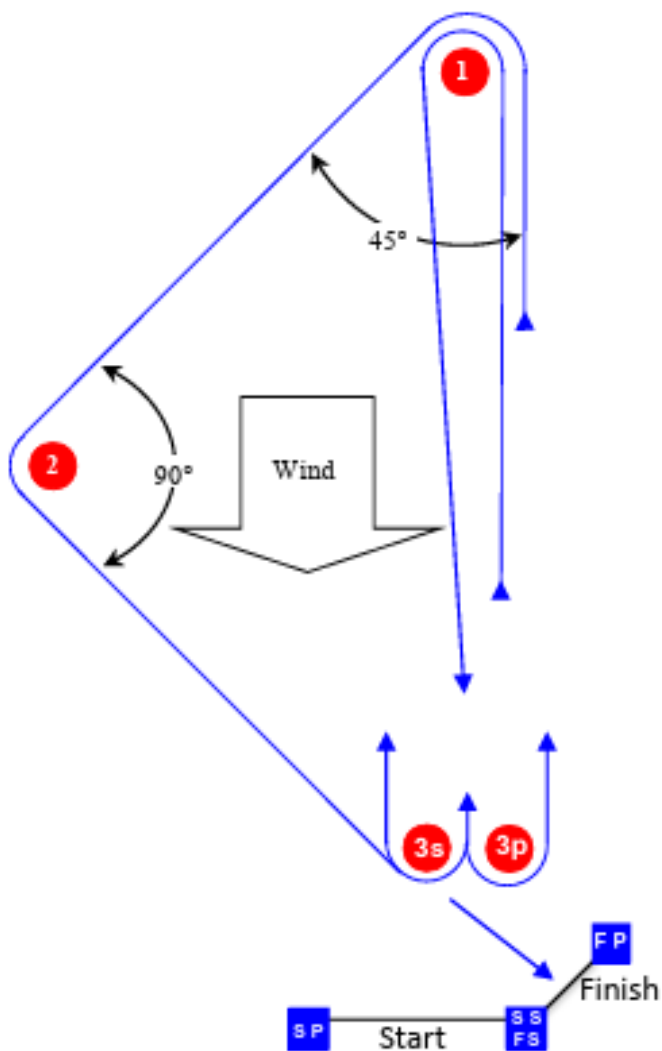
22. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

23. INSURANCE

All competing boats shall carry, as a minimum, Third Party Liability insurance, with racing risk, to the minimum value of \$10,000,000.

ATTACHMENT A



Course	Description
1	Start – 1 – 3s/3p – 1 – 2 – 3p – Finish
2	Start – 1 – 3s/3p – 1 – 2 – 3p – 1 – 3p – Finish
All mark roundings to port except for the gate mark.	