



2026 UK Match Racing Qualifier 1

NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Reservoir

21st & 22nd February

The following abbreviations apply to this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions:

PC: Protest Committee or International Jury

NoR: Notice of Race

OA: Organising Authority

RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing

SI: Sailing Instructions

RC: Race Committee

TD: Technical Delegate

[NP]: A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.3

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, including RRS Appendix C
- 1.2 The rules for the handling of boats and the equipment list, detailed as part of the Sailing Instructions, will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing and sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.
- 1.3 The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the NoR or SI means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.7 The event has applied for World Sailing Grade 4. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.
- 1.8 The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.3(b)

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The SI will be available after 1200 on Thursday 19th February on the [Royal Thames Website](#).

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board which will be found on the [Royal Thames Website](#)
- 3.2 The Race Committee will use a [Telegram group](#) to facilitate communications before and during the event. At least one member of each team should join the group for the event.
- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the mast of the Committee Vessel

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 A minimum of six (6) and maximum of nine (9) skippers will be invited.
Skippers wishing to receive an invite may register their request with the OA by [completing the online entry form](#).
- 4.2 The OA intends to accept entries from eligible skippers/teams on a first come first served basis up to the maximum number of entries.
- 4.3 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/>.

- 4.4 The non-refundable entry fee of £550 shall be paid upon entry along with agreement to the damage deposit indemnity (appendix A) for the entry to be valid. Earlybird entry of £495 is available until Sunday 25th January

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

- 4.5 If a team pays the entry fee but the event has reached capacity, their entry fee will be refunded as soon as possible. If the event is cancelled, the entry fee shall be refunded.
- 4.6 When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraw within two months of the event, or leaves the event before the end without the written approval from the OA, it is possible for a zero score to be applied to the skipper's Ranking points for that event by World Sailing (World Sailing Policy H1 5.3).

5 DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

- 5.1 Each supplied boat is insured by the OA for third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident.
- 5.2 **DAMAGE DEPOSIT:** A damage deposit is not required before racing however each boat is liable for up to £1000 of associated costs due to damage as a result of any one incident (this includes boats, sails, equipment, and property). A failure to comply with this instruction or an invoice issued may result in disqualification from the event without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b). The OA may also file a RRS 69 report to the jury.

6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper but excluding persons placed on board by the OA) shall be three(3) or four (4). All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 6.2 After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency.
- 6.3 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event, the OA may authorise an original crew member to substitute.
- 6.4 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, the OA may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.
- 6.5 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 300kg, determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.
- 6.6 Crew weight may be checked during the regatta. When crew weight was checked prior to racing, at any re-weighing the total weight limit is increased by 10 kg. Any crew weighing in excess of this increased limit shall not be penalised, but they shall reduce their weight to the increased weight limit before racing again.
- 6.7 The OA may place a person on each boat as either a guest, cameraman, or umpire observer.

7 EVENT FORMAT

- 7.1 The OA intends to provide six(6) Sonar type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, Spinnaker

- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the race committee. The intention of the RC will be to allocate boats by draw, either daily or for each round. The RC may also require boats to be exchanged in a knock-out stage.
- 7.3 The sails to be used will be allocated by the RC.
- 7.4 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.
- 7.5 The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC with the intention of the RC to start each subsequent flight as soon as practicable after the previous flight.
- 7.6 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard rounding, finishing downwind.
- 7.7 The intended racing area will be on Queen Mary Reservoir
- 7.8 (a) Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on World Sailing ranking list 30 days prior to the event.
- (b) After the First Stage the following will apply:
- (1) Crews will exchange boats after odd matches of the series, unless otherwise agreed by both skippers.
- (2) Further matches in the series will not be sailed once the first skipper scores the points required for that stage.
- 7.9 The event may consist of the following stages:
- (a) First Stage - Round Robin(s)
- (b) Second Stage - Knock-Out Semi-Finals
- (c) Third Stage – Final/Petit Final
- 7.10 The RC may change the format, terminate any stage or the event when, in its opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of matches under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favour of later stages

8 PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8.1 Schedule

Date	Event (Venue Notes)	Time(s)
Friday 20 th January	Training – Pre-Booked Sessions	1300-1500
Saturday 21 st February	Registration and Weigh-In (QMSC)	0820-0840
	Competitor Briefing	0845
	Dock out for first race	0900
	First warning signal not before	0923
Sunday 22 nd February	Boat Rigging	0845
	Dock out for first race	0900
	First warning signal not before	0913
	Last warning signal not after	1600
	Prize giving (QMSC)	ASAP

- 8.2 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:
- (a) Initial briefing for skippers.
- (b) Prize giving for the final skippers and crews.

9 ADVERTISING

- 9.1 [NP] Boats shall display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

10 [NP] CODE OF CONDUCT

- 10.1 Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions, co-operation with event sponsors and shall behave so to not bring the event into disrepute.
- 10.2 Competitors and support persons shall [handle any equipment] [or][place advertising provided] by the OA with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

11 [NP] SUPPORT PERSON

- 11.1 Support person vessels shall conspicuously display identification of the team being coached.
- 11.2 Support persons shall stay approximately 100m from the racing area while boats are racing or comply with reasonable requests from the officials.
- 11.3 The OA will/will not provide berths for support person vessels.

12 [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES, and SOUND

- 12.1 If required by the OA:
- (a) Television personnel and equipment (or dummies) supplied by the OA shall be carried on board while racing.
 - (b) Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.
 - (c) Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.
- 12.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.

13 DATA PROTECTION

- 13.1 The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the 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 organizing 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.
- 13.2 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, photographs, video footage, and audio recordings taken of them prior to, during, and after the event without compensation.

14 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 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 the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accepts responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their crew to such inherent risk while taking part in the event.
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew and any property they may bring, 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. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities
- e. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances
- f. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for this event.
- g. It is their responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the type of boat used, and the supplied equipment and are suitably experienced with its operation.
- h. It is their responsibility for ensuring all supplied equipment is carried on board.
- i. That they are fit to sail and that they believe the boat and crew is capable of competing in the anticipated conditions.

15 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows

16 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact

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