RYA Schools Match Racing Championships 2026

WPNSA

21/22nd November 2026

Notice of Race

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
Other abbreviations which may be used in this document are (RRS: World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing; NoR: Notice of Race; OA: Organising Authority; RC: Race Committee; SI: Sailing Instructions)

1. **Organising Authority**
The Organising Authority (OA) will be the Royal Yachting Association.

2. Venue
The venue will be Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy.

3. **Event Grading**
World Sailing grade 4 has been applied for. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded at any time when there is a clear reason to do so.

4. Provisional Programme

4.1. Schedule

Date	Event (Venue Notes)	Time(s)
Friday 20th November	Training – Pre-Booked Sessions	1300-1500
Saturday 21st November	Registration and Weigh-In (QMSC)	0820-0840
	Competitor Briefing	0845
	Dock out for first race	0900
	First warning signal not before	0923
Sunday 22nd November	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

4.2. Unless excused by the OA attendance at the following is mandatory.[NP]
a) Competitor Briefings for skippers and crews.
b) Prize giving for skippers and crews.

5. Communication

5.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official noticeboard which is located at www.matchracingresults.com and via a Telegram group circulated with invitations.

5.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the committee boat mast at her berth in the marina.

6. Request for Invitation

6.1. Entry to the event will be by invitation only.

6.2. Requests for Invitation are encouraged from Teams representing a school, educational association/establishment, or combination of either.

6.3. Requests for Invitation should be made by no later than 1200 on Thursday 1st October 2026 by using the form available at https://www.cognitoforms.com/RYA2/SchoolsMatchRacingRequestForInvitation

7. Invitation to Enter

7.1. From the request for invitations received, a maximum of 9 entries will initially be invited. The OA may increase the number of invitations at their sole discretion.

7.2. Initial invitations for entry will be issued within a week after the closing date for requesting invites, using the following criteria applied in order:

a) A team with crew of more than one gender, representing a single school.
b) A team with crew of more than one gender, representing an association or school combination (e.g. crew made up of students from more than one school).
c) A Team representing a single school.
d) A team which is representing an association or school combination.
e) Each school or organisation will be invited to make a first entry before being invited to make a second entry and so onward.
f) In all other respects, entries will be allocated on the date and time of receipt of the Request for Invitation.

7.3. Requests for Invitation which did not receive an initial invitation will be placed, in order, on a waiting list using the criteria above.
7.4. Additional invitations may be issued at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.

8. Entry

8.1. When invited, for an entry to be valid the online entry form and payment must be submitted to the OA with all the required information completed by the 16th October 2026 (12pm).
8.2. 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. If teams wish to be invoiced for the entry fee, an additional admin fee of £50 plus vat, per organisation, shall apply.
8.3. A World Sailing ID is required for skippers upon entry. Sailors wishing to obtain a World Sailing ID should register with World Sailing.
8.4. Organisations shall complete the declaration in the crew form confirming they hold parental consent for all sailors or, complete a parent/guardian declaration form for any sailor under the age of 18 years old by the 20th November 2026.
8.5. Competitors must have a nominated adult team manager responsible for them at the venue. [NP]
8.6. Crew changes will be permitted up to registration for the event providing that the constitution of the team does not change from the criteria (as defined in 7.2) the original invitation was issued against. Skipper changes may be permitted in exceptional circumstances up to 24hrs before registration.
8.7. The team manager and a sailor from each team will be required to join the Telegram group for the event, which will be linked in the Sailing Instructions. [NP]
8.8. All organisations are required to make at least one person available who can assist the OA with conducting the event, either on or off the water, if required. [NP]

9. Crew (Including Skipper)

9.1. All sailors must be at least 14 years old at the event and be attending secondary education as a student in the equivalent of National Curriculum Year 13 or below.
9.2. The number of crew, including the nominated skipper, shall be 3 or 4.
9.3. After the warning signal for a match, the nominated skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency. Such an emergency shall be reported to the OA immediately after completion of that race.
9.4. The total weight of crew (including skipper) dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed the maximum weight limit of 272kgs, determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.
9.5. Crew weight may be checked during the event. At any re-weighing the total weight limit is increased by 10kgs. Any crew weighing in excess of this increased limit shall not be penalised, but they shall reduce their weight to the increased limit before racing again.
9.6. When a registered skipper is unable to continue helming in the event, the OA may authorise an original crew member to be their substitute.
9.7. When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, the RC may authorise a substitute, temporary substitute or other adjustment which will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

10. Rules

10.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the RRS, including Appendix C.
10.2. The 'Rules for the Handling of Boats' will apply and will also apply to any practise sailing.
10.3. The RYA prescriptions and RYA Racing Charter shall apply.
10.4. The byelaws of WPNSA and Portland Harbour Authority shall apply.
10.5. Rule 40.1 applies at all times whilst afloat.
10.6. The right of appeal is denied in accordance with RRS 70.3.

11. Boats

11.1. The events will be sailed in Elliott 6M keelboats.
11.2. Up to 6 boats will be provided.

11.3. The following sails will be provided for each boat: Mainsail, Jib and spinnaker.
11.4. Boats will be allocated by draw either daily or for each round as decided by the Race Committee.
11.5. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.
11.6. The OA may place a person on each boat as either a guest, umpire observer or coach.

12. Event Format

12.1. The event will likely consist of the following stages:
a) **Stage 1 – Single Round Robin**, Skippers will be seeded based on world sailing rankings 1 month before the event.
b) **Stage 2 – Semi-Finals** & **Fifth to Eighth place**
c) **Stage 3 – Knock-out Third and Fourth Place** & **Knock-out Final**

12.2. The RC may change the format, terminate, or eliminate any stage or the event when, in its opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of the matches under the existing conditions or the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favour of later stages.

13. Course

13.1. The course will be windward/leeward with starboard rounding, finishing downwind.
13.2. The intended course area is Portland Harbour.

14. Advertising

14.1. As boats and equipment will be supplied by the OA, World Sailing Regulation 20.4. applies. Each boat will be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA. [NP]

15. Prizes

15.1. The NSSA Trophy will be awarded to the team in first place. The Spanish Trophy to the 2nd placed team.
15.2. The RYA Shield will be awarded to the first female helm.
15.3. Additional Prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

16. Media, Images and Sound

16.1. If required by the OA: The OA may require television personnel and equipment (or dummies) to be carried on board while racing and may require competitors to be available for interviews.
16.2. The OA have the right to use any images and sound recorded during the event free of any charge.

17. **Support Persons & Coach Boats**

17.1. Coach boats shall conspicuously display identification of the team being coached.
17.2. The OA will not provide berths for coach boats.
17.3. Coach boats shall remain outside the racing area between the display of the Attention Signal (Foxtrot) and until all boats in a flight have finished racing.
17.4. Support persons and coach boats shall comply with reasonable requests from the officials.

18. Risk Statement

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 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 evet 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 crew and the boat and crew is capable of competing in the anticipated conditions.

19. Privacy Statement

19.1. The personal information you provide to the organising authority, or its representative, 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 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.

19.2. Details of the team managers may be shared with the NSSA and BSDRA.