



JOHN MESSENGER WOMEN'S MATCH RACING REGATTA

NOTICE OF RACE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA // 5 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026



2010 -
LUCINDA WHITTY
NICKY SOUTER
KATIE PELLEW

2011 -
OLIVIA PRICE
NICKY SOUTER
KARYN GOJNICH
NINA CURTIS

2012
Sophie Lahey
Rayshale Martin
Ali Sutherland
Georgia Cronin

2013
Kat Stoinovsky
Lucinda Whitty
Sam Boyd
Kate Brown

2014
Milly Bennett
Seldon Coventry
Alice Tarnawski
Kasja Doyle
Jess Russell



1 ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority (OA) will be the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA), in conjunction with Australian Sailing (AS).

2 VENUE

The venue will be the CYCA, at 1 New Beach Road, Darling Point, NSW, 2027. Racing will be conducted on Sydney Harbour, Sydney, Australia.

3 EVENT GRADING

The event is a World Sailing (WS) Grade 3. This grading is subject to review by WS. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

4 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

4.1 Schedule:

Saturday 5 September

- (a) Race office open from 0800hrs
- (b) Registration from 0800hrs until 0845hrs
- (c) Crew weighing from 0800hrs until 0845hrs

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 September

- (a) Daily briefings will be at 0090hrs at Sydney Hobart Bar
- (b) First meeting with the umpires will follow the daily briefing on Saturday 6 September.
- (c) First attention signal will be at 1023hrs unless specified by Race Committee (RC).
- (d) The latest time for an attention signal will be approx. 1600hrs on Sunday 6 September.
- (e) Prizegiving will be approx. 1700hrs on Sunday 6 September in the Morna Room.

4.2 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:

- (a) Registration and weighing
- (b) Daily briefings
- (c) Prizegiving

5 COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 Up to ten (10) female skippers will be invited. Only skippers invited by the OA will be eligible to enter this event. Request of Invitations must be lodged with the OA by Friday 31 July. Applications will have their entry confirmed by Friday 7 August.
- 5.2 All competitors shall be over the age of 13 on or before 5 September 2026. Evidence of age shall be submitted to CYCA no later than close of registration.
- 5.3 To remain eligible a skipper shall confirm acceptance of the invitation by completing the entry form to be received by the date specified on the Letter of Invitation.
- 5.4 All skippers shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at www.sailing.org/isafsailor.
- 5.5 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.

6 ENTRIES

- 6.1 Entering -
The skipper shall be entered on completion of registration, crew weighing and the payment of all fees and damage deposit.



- 6.2 **Entry Fee -**
A non refundable entry fee of \$900 shall be paid as specified in the Letter of Invitation.
- 6.3 **Withdrawal -**
When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within a month of the event or leaves the event before the end without written approval from the OA, a zero score may be applied to their ranking points for that event by WS in accordance with WS Regulation 27.2.2(d).
- 6.4 **Damage Deposit -**
(a) An initial damage deposit of \$1,300 AUD shall be paid at registration, unless extended by the OA. This deposit is the maximum payable by the skipper as a result of any one incident.
(b) If a deduction from the damage deposit is decided by the OA, it may require that the deposit be restored to its original amount before the skipper will be permitted to continue in the event.
- 6.5 **Insurance -**
Each supplied boat is insured by the OA for third-party liability insurance. It is recommended that each entrant and crew member have appropriate personal medical and liability insurance.

7 RULES

- 7.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028, including Appendix C.
- 7.2 The rules for the handling of boats will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing and sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.
- 7.3 Any prescriptions for the national authority that will apply will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB).
- 7.4 **Major Alterations to the RRS**
RRS C8.6 will be changed in the Sailing Instructions.
- 7.5 Competitors shall wear personal floatation devices at all times while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 7.6 Competitors shall wear enclosed shoes at all times around the CYCA Hardstand & Marina and while afloat.

8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be available online by 1700hrs on Friday 4 September.

9 COMMUNICATION

Notices to competitors will be posted on ONB which is located in the CYCA Clubhouse.

10 BOATS AND SAILS

- 10.1 The event will be sailed in supplied Elliott 7m type boats.
- 10.2 Up to ten (10) boats may be provided.
- 10.3 The following sails will be provided for each boat: Mainsail, Jib, Asymmetrical Spinnaker.
- 10.4 Boats will be allocated by draw or for each stage as decided by the RC.

11 CREW

- 11.1 All skippers and crew shall be female.

- 11.2 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be four (4) or five (5). All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 11.3 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 340kgs, determined at the time of registration or such time as requested by the RC.
- 11.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorise an original crew member to substitute.
- 11.5 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.

12 EVENT FORMAT

- 12.1 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin as determined by the Women's Match Racing Rankings 30 days prior to the event.
- 12.2 The event will consist of the following stages:
Stage 1 - A single round robin
Stage 2 - Finals & Sail-Offs
- 12.3 The RC may change the format, or 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.

13 COURSE

- 13.1 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard roundings, finishing downwind. It is the intention of the RC to use a leeward gate.
- 13.2 The intended course area will be Sydney Harbour.

14 ADVERTISING

- 14.1 As boats and equipment will be supplied by the OA, WS regulation 20 applies. Each boat will be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA.
- 14.2 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for breaches of any rules regarding advertising (this amends RRS 60.1).
- 14.3 The OA reserves the absolute right to require any competitor to remove any advertising displayed by competitors on clothing, boats or equipment (while racing or attending official functions), within the boundary of the event venue which may be in contravention of moral decency or government regulation.

15 PRIZES

- 15.1 The principle prize will be the John Messenger Perpetual Trophy.
- 15.2 There may be prizes for all podium places, subject to funding.

16 MEDIA, IMAGES AND SOUND

- 16.1 By participating in the John Messenger Women's Match Racing Regatta, competitors automatically grant the OA, their sponsors and WS the right in perpetuity to make use of, publish and exhibit, at their discretion, any motion pictures, live or taped film or video, television productions and other reproductions, photographs etc. of him/her taken during the period of the event, in which the competitor participates, without compensation.
- 16.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.



- 16.3 If required by the OA:
- (a) Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.
 - (b) Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.

17 COACH BOATS

- 17.1 The OA will provide overnight berthing for coach boats in the CYCA marina on Saturday 6 September. Teams with coach boats must notify the OA two weeks prior to the event requesting berthing during the event.
- 17.2 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 Protest Committee to the associated skipper.

18 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The OA will issue all competitors and officials of the event temporary membership to the CYCA for the duration of the event. Temporary membership will be issued on the basis that competitors and officials respect the rules and regulations of temporary membership and can have this privilege revoked should such request be ignored.

19 DISCLAIMER

All those taking any part in the event do so at their own risk and responsibility. Competitors must acknowledge this prior to competing and release the CYCA and its sponsors and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and Members from all liability by signing a form provided by the CYCA.

Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states:

"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

20 INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

CYCA Youth Sailing Academy
ysa.admin@cyca.com.au



CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Home of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race