Australian Maxi Championship 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA // 4 - 8 December

CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



Australian Maxi Championship 2026
NOTICE OF RACE



The Australian Maxi Championship 2026 will be conducted on the waters of Sydney Harbour and the Tasman Sea. Owners and charterers of eligible boats are invited to enter on the conditions of this Notice of Race (NoR). The series is organised and conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA).

1 RULES

1.1 General

The races will be governed by the current versions of:

- the rules, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 ("RRS") of World Sailing;
- the IRC 2026 Rules Parts A, B and C;
- the prescriptions and special regulations of Australian Sailing ("AS Special Regulations").

1.2 Amendments

Amendments to this NoR will be published on the Official Notice Board and on the event website (www.cyca.com.au).

1.3 Official Notice Board

The Official Notice Board is a notice board bearing that name in the Clubhouse of the CYCA.

1.4 Sailing Instructions

The Sailing Instructions will be available on the CYCA website from Monday 30 November 2026.

When an Australian Maxi Championship Race is held in conjunction with a CYCA Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Race (ACSBWPS) or the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge (SBBC), the ACSBWPS Sailing Instructions or SBBC Sailing Instructions shall respectively take precedence over the Australian Maxi Championship Sailing Instructions to the extent of any inconsistency.

2 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Race	Race Category	Time of Warning Signal
Friday 4 December	Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Race 5 - Cabbage Tree Island Race	2	1655 (AEDST)
Sunday 6 December	Up to two Passage Races	4	1355 (AEDST)
Monday 7 December	Up to two Passage Races	4	0955 (AEDST)
Tuesday 8 December	SOLAS Big Boat Challenge	7	1225 (AEDST)
	Prizegiving	NA	As soon as possible after racing

3 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Boats

3.1.1 General Requirements

A boat shall:

- be single hulled;
- have a Hull Length (as defined in The Equipment Rules of Sailing of World Sailing and referred to in IRC as "LH" and ORC/IMS as "LOA") not more than 30.48 meters and not less than 18.29 meters.
- a boat must satisfy the stability criteria of the AS Special Regulations Part 1 Appendix B;
- a boat shall have an 2026 IRC Time Corrector of 1.450 or higher;
- comply with AS Special Regulations Part 1 for the relevant Race Category (refer NoR 2); and
- have a crew that satisfies the requirements of NoR 3.2.



3.1.2 Insurance
The owner or charterer of a boat entered in the Australian Maxi Championship 2026 shall hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the boat current when racing, with a sum insured of not less than A$10 million (or its equivalent in another currency).

3.1.3 Divisions
Racing may be conducted in Divisions as follows:

(a) Maxi: a boat shall have a Hull Length not less than 24.09 meters and not more than 30.48 meters;

(b) Mini Maxi: a boat shall have a Hull Length not less than 18.29 meters and not more than 24.08 meters.

3.1.4 Handicap Categories/Class

(a) IRC Handicap Category Boats

A boat may only enter the IRC Handicap Category if the boat has a current, valid Endorsed IRC Certificate.

3.2 Crew

(a) All crew shall meet the requirements of World Sailing Regulation 19 (World Sailing Eligibility Code).

(b) Race 1: Cabbage Tree Island Race – Refer CYCA Sailing Program ACSBWPS Sailing Instructions

(c) Races 2 and 3: Passage Race(s)

(i) The minimum number of crew on a boat shall be 6, of whom at least half shall be 18 years of age.

(d) Race 4: Refer SOLAS Big Boat Challenge Sailing Instructions

4 DOCUMENTATION AND FESS

4.1 Documentation
A boat shall complete the entry form (including the Conditions of Entry) through the online entry system (https://cyca.com.au/race-entry/) by 1200 hours on Monday 30 November 2026 .

A Separate entry shall be completed and separate entry fee paid for the ACSBWPS Cabbage Tree Island Race and the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge.

Documentation Requirements will be as per the separate sailing instructions.

If the current versions of the following are not already held by the Organising Authority, the following documentation shall be submitted:

(a) **Race 1: Cabbage Tree Island Race** – Refer CYCA Sailing Program ACSBWPS Sailing Instructions.

(b) **Races 2 and 3: Passage Race(s)**

(i) Audited Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form for Race Category 4 or higher (NoR 3.1.1); and

(ii) Current Rating Certificate (if applicable).

(c) **Race 4: SOLAS Big Boat Challenge** – Refer SBBC Sailing Instructions.

The above items may be accepted after that date at the discretion of the Organising Authority subject to a request being made to the Organising Authority.

A boat that does not meet the requirements for NoR 4 may be scored DNC in the series (this changes RRS 78.2)

4.2 Fees
An entry fee of A$750 (for CYCA Financial Members the entry fee is reduced to A$675) shall be paid by 1200 hours on Monday 30 November 2026.



Boats are also required to enter and pay the entry fee for the Cabbage Tree Island Race and the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge.

Note:

- All fees include Australian Goods and Services Tax (a tax invoice will be issued on request).
- The owner or charterer shall be a financial CYCA member for CYCA member fees to apply.
- All fees are not refundable or rebatable.

5 SCORING

5.1 All boats

(a) The Australian Maxi Championship will be scored by the Low Point Scoring system (RRS Appendix A2) with no discard. A minimum of 2 completed races shall constitute a series.

(b) Each boat's series score will be the total of the boat's race scores. The boat with the lowest series score will be scored first and the other boats ranked accordingly.

(c) For the Cabbage Tree Island Race, first place in each division shall receive 0 points.

5.2 IRC

(a) Results will be calculated by the application of the IRC Time Corrector (TCC) as a multiplier of elapsed time.

(b) The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

5.3 Line Honours

A boat entered in the Maxi Division will be scored in IRC as well as the line honours category.

6 CHANGES TO RATING SYSTEM RULES AND RRS AND ADDITIONS TO AS SPECIAL REGULATIONS

6.1 Changes to the IRC Rules

(a) IRC Rule 8.2.1: all boats may additionally hold a secondary valid Endorsed IRC Certificate. Owners shall declare to the Sailing Office which of the primary or secondary certificate will be used prior to the rating deadline (refer NoR 6.2(c)). If a boat does not declare which certificate, the primary certificate will be used.

(b) IRC Rule 15.1 is deleted (refer NoR 6.2(b)).

(c) IRC Rule 21.1.5 (d) is amended to: On a scheduled race day, boat's sails shall remain the same from when the boat leaves their mooring prior to the commencement of racing until the completion of racing on that day. Boats do not have to carry all sails declared on their IRC Certificate nor do they have to carry the same sails for the duration of the series.

(d) IRC Rule 22.4: The maximum total weight of crew in kilograms that may sail aboard a boat shall not exceed the crew number printed on the boat's IRC certificate multiplied by 85.

6.2 Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

(a) RRS 51: Only those boats whose Rating Certificate(s) have been computed taking into consideration variable ballast are allowed to move this and only this ballast. All other moveable ballast shall be properly stowed.

(b) RRS 52: RRS 52 is changed to: the rotation of a boat's rudder shall be adjusted and operated only by the power provided by the crew.

(c) RRS 78.2: Valid rating/class certificates shall be produced and submitted no later than 1900 hours on the Thursday prior to Race 1. Boats shall declare which of the primary or secondary IRC Certificates will be used for each race to the Sailing Office via email (sailingoffice@cyca.com.au) at this time. A boat's result shall not be retrospectively amended due to a rating change.



6.3 Changes to the Special Regulations

(a) Special Regulation 5.01.1 (h): A lifejacket shall be worn by each member of the crew at times such as, but not limited to:

(i) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise

(ii) When alone on deck

(iii) When the true wind speed is 25 knots or above

(iv) When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile.

(b) Special Regulation 5.01.5: Each inflatable lifejacket shall be checked and serviced at the intervals as prescribed by the manufacturer by an authorised servicing agent.

7 MEASUREMENT AND INSPECTION

7.1 The Organising Authority may require re-measurement of any boat prior to the boat racing.

7.2 A boat requiring an equipment audit at the CYCA should make a booking with the Sailing Office.

8 SAIL IDENTIFICATION

A boat shall comply with the Australian Sailing prescriptions to RRS Appendix G, Identification on Sails. An Australian boat chartered or borrowed by an international entrant may carry on the mainsail the national letters of the country represented, but may have local sail numbers on other sails (this changes RRS Appendix G).

9 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

9.1 With the exception of the ACSBWPS Cabbage Tree Island Race, RRS 44.2 Two-Turns Penalty will apply for an infringement of a rule of RRS Part 2.

9.2 Instead of disqualification, the Protest Committee may, at its absolute discretion, impose the following percentage penalties for each incident:

(a) an infringement of RRS Part 2 – not less than two or more than 10 places;

(b) an infringement of any other rule or instruction, at the discretion of the Protest Committee – not less than two or more than five places.

9.3 A boat penalised which is competing in more than one handicap category shall have the percentage penalty and adjustment of points applied to each of its racing divisions independently and separately.

10 COURSES

The courses for the Australian Maxi Championship 2026 will be a mix of offshore passage courses and harbour courses, as described in the sailing instructions.

11 MEDIA RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

The conditions of entry include a requirement that the owner or charterer of the boat and all crew members:

- acknowledge that the Organising Authority owns all media rights to the Australian Maxi Championship and may exercise those rights as it sees fit;
- grant the Organising Authority the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, the names, images and biographical information relating to the crew and photographs, video footage and audio recordings taken of the boat and its crew prior to, during and after any race.

12 DISCLAIMER

All those taking part in the race do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Organising Authority, or any sponsor and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, accept no liability for any injury, loss or damage that may be suffered by any competitor, and any liability for harm to persons that results from breach of an express or implied warranty that the Australian Maxi Championship and all services relating thereto will be conducted or rendered with reasonable care and skill is excluded.



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"

13 TROPHIES

13.1 Trophies will be awarded to the winners and placegetters of each division of the IRC handicap category and the Line Honours winner.

13.2 A prize giving will be held at the CYCA on Tuesday 8 December 2026 after the conclusion of racing.

Contact Details

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