2026 Open Match Racing Regatta

12 and 13 September 2026

Notice of Race

The venue will be the RGYC, at 25 Eastern Beach Road, Geelong, VIC, 3220.
Racing will be conducted on Corio Bay, Geelong, Australia.

The Organising Authority (OA) will be the Royal Geelong Yacht Club (RGYC).

ABBREVIATIONS

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
RCV Race Committee Vessel
WS: World Sailing
ONB: Official Notice Board
[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.

1.4 Any prescriptions for the national authority that will apply will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB).

1.5 Major alterations to the RRS

1.5.1. RRS C8.6 will be changed in the Sailing Instructions.

1.5.2. Competitors shall wear personal floatation devices at all times while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.

1.5.3. Competitors shall wear enclosed shoes at all times around the RGYC hardstand and marina and while afloat.

1.6 The event will apply for World Sailing Grade 5. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available online by Friday 11 September 2026.

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the ONB which is located on the event website www.rgyc.com.au/sailing/match-racing

3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole in the northwest corner of the RGYC Clubhouse lawn.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 Up to eight (8) skippers will be invited. Skippers wishing to receive an invite may register their request with the OA by 31 July 2026 at https://www.revolutionise.com.au/rgyc/events/361842 Applications will have their entry confirmed by 7 August 2026.

4.2 Only skippers invited by the OA, and who confirm acceptance of the invitation, as detailed in the letter of invitation, will be eligible to enter this event.

4.3 Competitors shall have Competition Eligibility as detailed in the World Sailing Eligibility Code.

4.4 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/. Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.

4.5 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any entry fee, arrange the damage deposit of $1,000 AUD and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing, all between 0830hrs and 0900 hrs Saturday 12 September 2026 unless extended by the OA. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.6 When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within 21 days 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).

4.7 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.

4.8 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.

4.9 All competitors shall be current members of Australian Sailing.

4.10 A non-refundable entry fee of $550 shall be paid as specified in the Letter of Invitation.

5. DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

5.1 Each supplied boat is insured by the OA for third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of $10,000,000 AUD per incident.

5.2 Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. The damage deposit is the limit of liability of each skipper for each incident. In the event that a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to the original value to continue in the event.

5.3 The OA will refund any remaining damage deposit within 10 days after the event.

5.4 An initial damage deposit of $1,000 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.

6. CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPERS)

6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be four (4) or five (5). 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 350kgs, determined at the time of registration or such time as requested by the RC.

7. EVENT FORMAT

7.1 The OA intends to provide six (6) RS21 type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, Gennaker.

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. Competitors may be requested to exchange sails during a series to satisfy sponsorship commitments.

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 roundings, finishing downwind. It is the intention of the RC to use a leeward gate.

7.7 Skippers may be seeded into a round robin as determined by the Open Match Racing Rankings 30 days prior to the event.

7.8 The event will consist of the following stages:
Stage 1 - A single round robin.
Stage 2 - Semi-Finals and Sail Offs
Stage 3 - Finals and Petit Finals

7.9 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 PROGRAM

8.1 Saturday 12 September
(a) Race office open from 0830hrs
(b) Registration from 0830hrs to 0900hrs
(c) Crew weighing from 0830hrs until 0900hrs

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September
(e) Daily briefings will be at 0900hrs
(f) First meeting with the umpires will follow the daily briefing
(g) First attention signal will be at 0955hrs unless specified by the RC.
(h) The latest time for an attention signal on Sunday 13 September will be 1600hrs
(i) Prizegiving will be approx. 1700hrs on Sunday 13 September.

8.2 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:
(a) Registration and weighing
(b) Daily briefings
(c) Prizegiving

9. ADVERTISING

9.1 Boats shall display advertising for event sponsors in accordance with the World Sailing Advertising Code

9.2 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for breaches of any rules regarding advertising. This amends RRS 60.1.

9.3 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 regulations.

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 by the OA with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

11. [NP][DP] SUPPORT PERSON / TEAMS

11.1 Support vessels shall stay approximately 100m from the racing area while boats are racing.

11.2 Support vessels are to comply with Appendix A Support Teams.

12. [NP] MEDIA, IMAGE AND SOUND

12.1 By participating in the Open 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.

12.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.

12.3 If required by the OA:

12.3.1. Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.

12.3.2. Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.

13. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

13.1 The OA will issue all competitors and officials of the event temporary membership to the RGYC 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.

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.' 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.**

15. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please refer to the event website at https://www.rgyc.com.au/sailing/match-racing or contact the RGYC Sailing Office:

Sailing Manager: Drew Malcolm

Email: sailing@rgyc.com.au
Phone: 0439 275 294

Sailing Coordinator: David Nalder
Email: sailing@rgyc.com.au
Phone: 0422 813 204

Appendix A
Support Teams

Support Teams, including all Support Persons, Coaches, Team Leaders and their vessels, shall comply with the following:

1. All vessels shall be registered with the OA via the link on the event website http://www.rgyc.com.au/sailing/aymrc
2. All vessels will be required to comply with the local marine legislation. Local marine regulations specify the safety equipment to be carried.
3. All vessels shall only be moored in the location as directed by an RGYC representative.
4. All vessels shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. All vessels shall keep a minimum of 50 metres to leeward of the start line and its extension and more than 50 metres clear of any racing boat or mark of the course.
5. No Support person is to operate a drone within 200 metres of the RCV at any time.
6. All vessels shall have a current boat insurance policy with a minimum cover of AUD $10 million.
7. All skippers and their crews shall wear a personal flotation device securely fastened at all times when afloat.
8. All vessels will be required to assist in the event of an emergency as directed by the Race Management Team.
9. All vessels shall have a working VHF radio and maintain a listening watch on the nominated VHF Channel/s announced at the Volunteers Briefing.
10. All support boat drivers shall:

10.1 Attend the daily volunteers briefing with the Race Management Team.
10.2 Wear an engine kill cord/safety lanyard or automatic engine immobilizer.
10.3 Hold a current Marine Licence or equivalent powerboat licence.

The penalty for failing to comply with the above requirements may, after protest, be the disqualification of all competing boats associated with the infringing vessel.