Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta
5-8 June 2026
Notice of Race

Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, as the Organising Authority, invites entries for the 2026 Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta (AWKR), to be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip from Saturday 6 June to Monday 8 June 2026.

Amendments

Date Issued	Amendment Number	Detail

1. Rules

1.1. The Regatta will be governed by the rules as defined by:

1.1.1. The World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and Australian Sailing (AS) prescriptions

1.1.2. The Special Regulations AS Part 1 for keelboats

1.1.3. The Australian Measurement System (AMS) where applicable

1.1.4. The Offshore Racing Congress Rating System (ORC Club) where applicable

1.1.5. The event handicap system (EHC)

1.1.6. The requirements of the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) Regulations, and any published amendments

2. Advertising

2.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.

3. Eligibility

3.1. The regatta is open to keelboats on the register of a yacht club affiliated with AS. Overseas boats must be from an organisation affiliated with World Sailing through their National Authority. Documented evidence of this must be submitted with the boat's entry.

3.2. Boats are to be crewed exclusively by women. Australian crew must be affiliated with AS and

provide their AS number with entry. Overseas crews must be affiliated with World Sailing through their National Authority. Documented evidence of this must be submitted with entry. A regatta SailPass membership is available through RMYS.

3.3 All crew must be over the age of 16. Skipper, and Helm (if a different person), must each be over the age of 18.

3.4 Safety Category 6 shall apply. Teams shall ensure a current AS Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form (Category 6) has been lodged and accepted at the boat's home club prior to the event. A copy of the audit form shall be supplied by the team to the RMYS Boating Manager via email to awkr@rmys.com.au. Entries will not be confirmed until this form is received. Spot checks in relation to Category 6 audit forms may be conducted during the regatta by appropriately qualified personnel.

3.5. Marine VHF Radios shall be carried, which may be permanently installed or be waterproof handheld and must be capable of operating on channels 16 and 72. The club working channel is 72.

4. Entry Fees

4.1. Entries shall only be accepted by the online entry system available on https://www.awkr.com.au/boat-entry/ Boat Entry option.

4.2. The entry fee for the regatta is $85 per crew member payable via the online entry system on https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1520006 Individual Entry option.

4.3. Entries close at 1700hrs on Friday 29 May 2026.

4.4. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee.

5. Divisions and Handicapping

5.1. Races shall be conducted using the AMS and ORCc rating systems and an event handicap. Event handicaps (EHC) will be handicapped by the regatta handicapper.

5.2. Boats may enter in the EHC, AMS and ORCc divisions. Boats entering the AMS and ORCc divisions must have a certificate valid for the duration of the regatta.

5.3. A copy of the boat's valid AMS and/or endorsed ORCc certificate must be provided to the Boating Manager no later than 1700hrs on Tuesday 2 June 2026.

5.4. There may be up to three divisions. Boats will be allocated to division 1, 2 or 3 at the discretion of the Organising Authority, based on their allocated event handicap. Boats may not change division.
A division must have a minimum of six competitors.
A one design keelboat class with six or more entrants will have their own class results.

5.5. To be considered for any one design trophy that may be awarded, S80 class yachts are required to sail with fractional spinnakers, rather than masthead spinnakers. Should an S80 class yacht choose to sail with a masthead spinnaker, they will not be eligible for the one design trophy and will need to advise the Organising Authority as soon as possible (and no later than 1700hrs on Tuesday 2 June 2026) in order to have their handicap adjusted.

6. Schedule

6.1. A competitors' briefing will be held at RMYS from 1900hrs on Friday 5 June 2026.

6.2. The schedule of races is planned as follows:

Date	Number of Races	First Warning Signal
Sat 6 June 2026	2	0955hrs
Sun 7 June 2026	2	0955hrs
Mon 8 June 2026	2	0955hrs

6.3. One extra race per race day may be sailed provided races do not become more than one ahead of schedule.

6.4. The race committee may give prior notice about when the long race will be run so that crews can prepare accordingly.

6.5. No warning signal will be made after 1500hrs on Monday 8 June 2026.

7. Sailing Instructions

7.1. Sailing Instructions will be available no later than Friday 29 May 2026.

8. Racing Area

8.1. The race courses will be laid on the waters of Port Phillip, west of the St Kilda breakwater and east of the shipping channel. The long-distance course may extend as far as Brighton.

9. Courses

9.1. The courses will be as described in the Sailing Instructions.

10. Scoring

10.1. Six (6) races are scheduled of which three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

10.2. When three (3) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

10.3. When four (4) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

11. Support Boats

11.1. Support boats shall not enter the course area, starting area, finishing area or go closer than 100m to any boat racing between the first preparatory signal for the first division to start and when the last boat finishes, or the Race Committee signals a postponement or abandonment, except under the advisement of the regatta RO. The penalty for failing to comply with the requirement may, after protest, be the disqualification of all boats associated with the infringing support vessel.

12. Berthing

12.1. Berths will be available free of charge for visiting boats who apply for a berth via email to the Boating Manager awkr@rmys.com.au. Berths must be applied for at the time of entry.

13. Radio Communication

13.1. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

14. Prizes and Trophies

14.1. Prizes will be presented on the afternoon of Monday 8 June 2026.

14.2. Trophies will be awarded as follows (subject to paragraph 5.4):

Gai Clough Memorial Trophy	1st place on EHC in Div 1
AWKR Div 2 EHC Trophy	1st place on EHC in Div 2
Brian McDermott and Paul Andrew Measurement System Perpetual Trophy	1st place on AMS in Div 1
AWKR Div 2 AMS Trophy	1st place on AMS in Div 2
Anne Marie Pope/Tracy Luke Trophy	1st place on ORCc in Div 1
Overnewton Stephen Pride Trophy	1st place on ORCc in Div 2
Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta S80 One Design Class Perpetual Trophy	1st placed S80
Rohan Brownlee Leadership and Endeavour Perpetual Award	
Best Performed Owner/Skipper Trophy	
Women's Keelboat Championship Most Improved Performance	
Novice Skipper Trophy	

14.3. To be eligible for the Novice Skipper Trophy it must be the candidate's first time helming at the AWKR and they must have less than 12 months of regular helming experience. Candidates shall nominate themselves as a novice upon entry by emailing awkr@rmys.com.au. The Organising Authority will review and approve all nominations.

14.4. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

15. Disclaimer of Liability

15.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. "The responsibility for the decision of a boat to race or continue racing is hers alone". The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

16. Insurance

16.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of AUD 10 Million per event or the equivalent.

Further information

RMYS Boating Manager: Ann Rogers
Phone: 03 9534 0227
Email: awkr@rmys.com.au
Web: www.awkr.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AustralianWomensKeelboatRegatta