AWKR

6 - 8 June 2026
Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority for the Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta is Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron.

1. RULES

The Regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in:

- The World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025 - 2028,
- The Australian Sailing (AS) 2025-2028 Special Regulations Part 1 for Keelboats,
- The Australian Measurement System (AMS),
- The Offshore Racing Congress Rating System (ORC Club)
- The Event Handicap System (EHC), and
- The requirements of the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC).

[SP] denotes a rule for which the race committee or technical committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing or by the jury with a hearing. However, the race committee or technical committee may protest a boat if it considers a standard penalty is inappropriate. A boat that has been penalised with a standard penalty shall neither be protested by another boat for the same incident nor can another boat request redress for this committee action. A standard penalty is 3 points but, when applied shall not penalise a boat with a score higher than a boat scored DSQ. This changes RRS 60.1, and A5.

2. SAFETY

2.1. The AS Special Regulations Part 1, Sections 1 – 5, Category 6 shall apply.

2.2. No anchors shall be carried on deck forward of the stem or with any part outboard.

2.3. Races will start at the Race Committee's discretion, after review of the Bureau of Meteorology's early morning scheduled forecast and local weather station data for wind and sea conditions. Racing shall not commence if there is a consistent wind speed of 25 knots or greater (as measured by the Race Committee) or if a Gale Warning, issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, is current for two hours prior to the first scheduled warning of the session.

2.4. Attention is drawn to rule 40, which requires competitors to wear personal flotation devices when code flag Y is displayed.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board at RMYS. They may also be posted on the AWKR Website - www.awkr.com.au and nominated boat representatives may be notified by text message or the AWKR Skippers What's App group.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to the sailing instructions will be posted by 0900 hours on the day they will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect. They may also be posted on the AWKR website. Nominated boat representatives may be notified by text message.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff on the roof of the clubhouse. When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 60 minutes" in the race signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1.

Date	Number of races	Time of First Warning Signal
Sat 6 June 2026	2	0955 hours
Sun 7 June 2026	2	0955 hours
Mon 8 June 2026	2	0955 hours

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

6.3. No warning signal will be made after 1500 hours on Monday 8 June 2026.

7. DIVISIONS

7.1. Racing will be in Divisions.

The class flag for Division 1 will be code flag W.
The class flag for Division 2 will be code flag F.

7.2. Backstay Flags

All competitors shall fly conspicuously from the backstay (or in the absence of a backstay, from the starboard shroud) an identifying flag supplied by the Organising Authority as follows:

Division 1 Orange
Division 2 Grey

8. RACING AREA

The racing area will be 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. THE COURSES

9.1. Attachment A shows the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which the mark is to be left.

9.2. No later than the warning signal, the committee vessel shall signal the number of the course to be sailed by displaying the applicable numeral pennant(s).

9.3. No later than the warning signal, the committee vessel may display the approximate bearing of the next mark.

9.4. The Shipping Channel is an exclusion zone. The Race Committee may protest if it observes a boat or receives a report of a boat sailing into the exclusion zone.

10. MARKS

10.1. Marks for courses 1-6 will be orange cylindrical or conical inflatable buoys. Marks for courses 7-10 are fixed marks.

10.2. A new mark will be an orange cylindrical buoy displaying a horizontal black band.

10.3. The starting and finishing marks will be yellow cylindrical or conical buoys.

10.4. If a gate mark is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port.

11. THE START

11.1. The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel, and the course side of the starting mark. A clearance buoy may be laid near the committee vessel: if laid, boats approaching the line to start shall leave this mark on the same side as the committee vessel.

11.2. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A5.

11.3. [SP] Boats that have correctly started and are racing shall not sail through the start line whilst subsequent divisions are in their start sequence..

11.4. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practical. When, in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with an original mark. This changes RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between the signal mast on the committee vessel displaying a blue flag and the course side of the finishing mark.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15. TIME LIMIT

15.1. The time limit for courses 1-6 is 2.5 hours. Boats failing to finish within this time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35 and A5.

15.2. The time limit for courses 7-10 is 5 hours. Boats failing to finish within this time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35 and A5.

15.3. If sunset should occur prior to the time limit, the time limit shall be deemed to be sunset. For this regatta sunset each day is 1707 hrs.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1. Competitors shall communicate their intention to protest to the race committee before leaving the race area.

16.2. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the finish time of the last boat in the last race of the day, or, the Race Committee signals no further racing for the day – whichever is later. The protest time limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board after the last race of each day.

16.3. A notice will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as practical after the protest time limit, showing details of hearings. The protest committee may contact competitors by mobile phone.

16.4. An Arbitration hearing will be conducted in accordance with Appendix T for all protests lodged in accordance with rule 60 and Sailing Instructions paragraphs 16.1 to 16.4, which allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2 or Part 4. Such hearings will be held subsequent to the protest being lodged and prior to the protest hearing.

16.5. Any trackers provided to competitors or used on boats cannot be used as evidence in an arbitration hearing or protest hearing.

17. SCORING

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

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

17.3. 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.

18. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

Marine regulations require that boats shall avoid commercial shipping. Boats which find themselves in danger of interfering with commercial shipping may use their engine to avoid interference and will not be penalised under rule 42 provided that:

(a) It is used only as necessary to avoid the commercial shipping in question;
(b) No advantage is gained through its use; and
(c) A declaration containing a complete description of the circumstances is submitted to the Race Committee within the protest time limit.

This alters RRS 42.

19. SIGN ON AND SIGN OFF

19.1. Boats shall 'sign on' by passing astern of the committee vessel, on starboard tack, prior to the first race of each day, hailing their sail number, and receiving an acknowledgement.

19.2. All boats are reminded to keep clear of the start line once they have signed on, and during the start sequence of another division. Failure to keep clear of other boats that may be in their starting sequence may result in protest by the Race Committee.

19.3. A boat that retires from a race is required to notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

20. OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats may display the RMYS burgee.

21. SUPPORT BOATS

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, whichever is later, except under the advisement of the Race Officer. The penalty for failing to comply with the requirement may, after protest, be the disqualification of all boats associated with the infringing support vessel.

22. RADIO COMMUNICATION

22.1. Race communications will be via VHF Channel 72. Yachts must maintain a listening watch at all times whilst afloat.

22.2. 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.

23. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. *"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to 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.

24. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of $10,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

25. 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

ATTACHMENT A

Race Management VHF Ch. 72

RMYS Office: 9534 0227

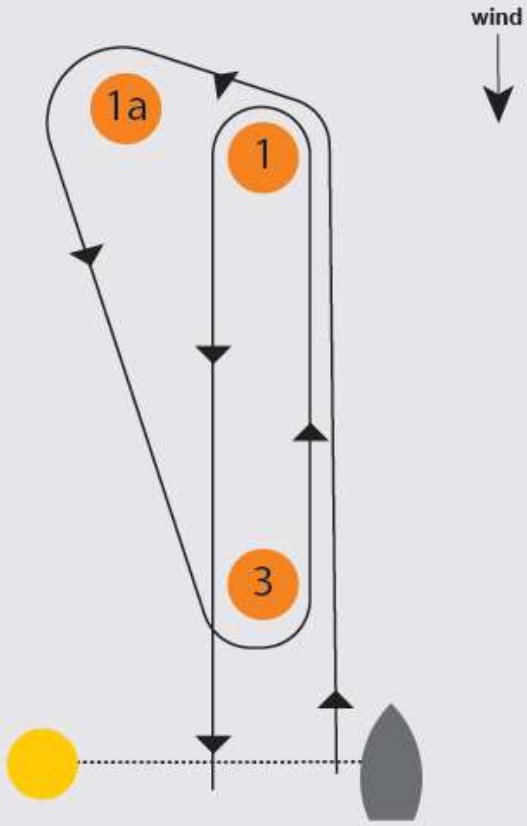
Div 1 (W) Div 2 (F)

Course 1

start - 1 - 1a - 3 - 1 - finish
all marks to port

Course 2

start - 1 - 1a - 3 - 1 - 3 - 1 - finish
all marks to port

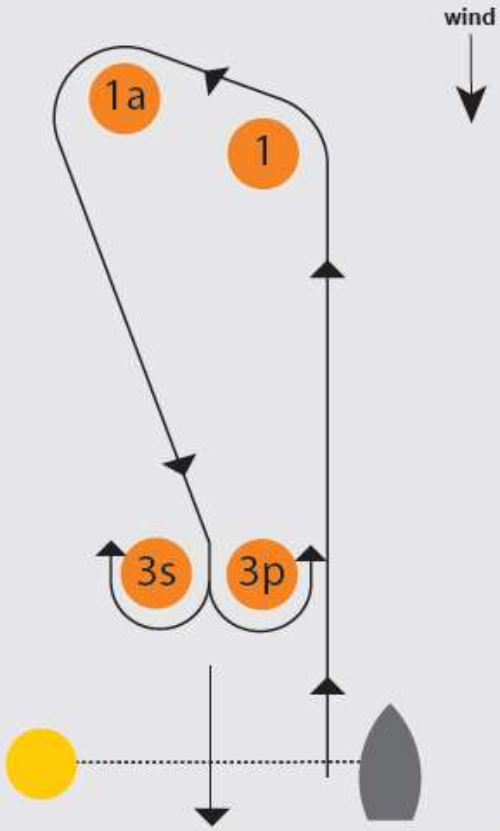


Course 3

start - 1 - 1a - 3s/3p - 1 - finish
all marks to port except 3s

Course 4

start - 1 - 1a - 3s/3p - 1 - 3s/3p - 1 - finish
all marks to port except 3s

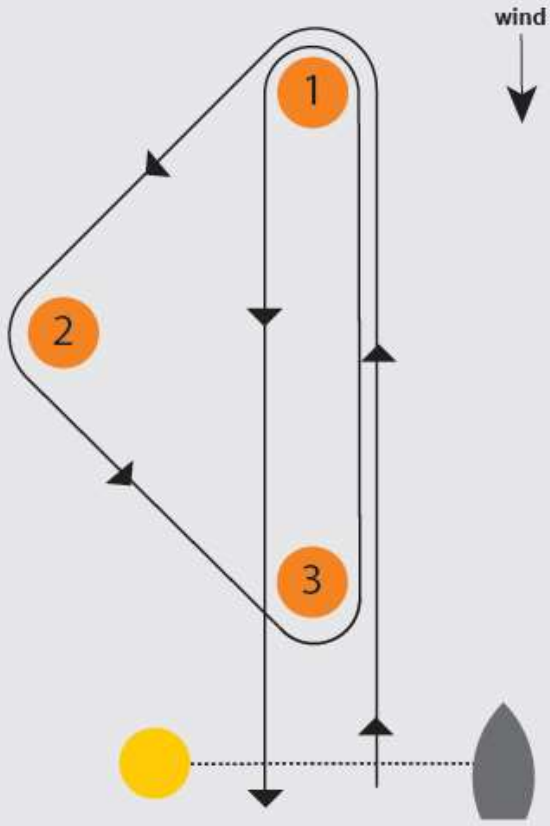


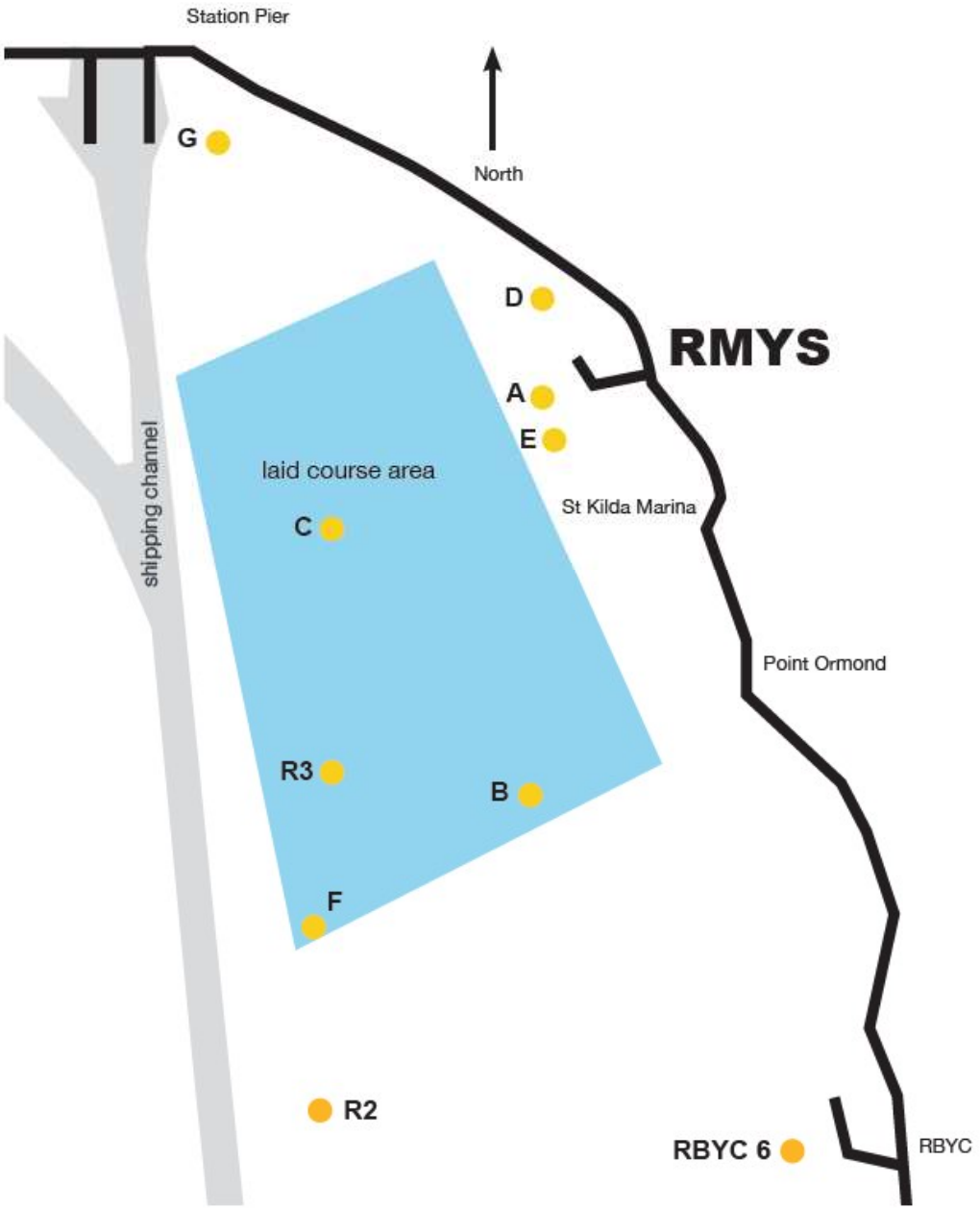
Course 5

start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - finish
all marks to port

Course 6

start - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 3 - 1 - finish
all marks to port



ATTACHMENT A

	Lat °S	Long °E
Course 7		**Approx. 12nm**
Start (approx. 1nm south of RMYS C)		
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
R2	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
R2	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
Finish (in the vicinity of RMYS C)		All marks to port
Course 8		**Approx. 12nm**
Start (in the vicinity of RMYS C)		
R2	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
R2	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
Finish (in the vicinity of RMYS C)		All marks to port
Course 9		**Approx. 12.5nm**
Start (approx. 1.5M to the west of RMYS D)		
RMYS D - to starboard	37° 51.49'	144° 57.47'
R2	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
RBYC 6	37° 54.35'	144° 58.56'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
Finish (in the vicinity of RMYS A)		All marks to port except as indicated
Course 10		**Approx. 11nm**
Start (in the vicinity of RMYS A)		
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
RBYC 6 - to starboard	37° 54.35'	144° 58.56'
R2 - to starboard	37° 54.60'	144° 56.20'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
RMYS A	37° 51.90'	144° 57.46'
RMYS C	37° 52.20'	144° 56.40'
Finish (in the vicinity of RMYS A)		All marks to port except as indicated