

Yealm Yacht



Club

Riverside Road East, Newton Ferrers,

PLYMOUTH PL8 1AE

Sailing Instructions

RNLI YACHT AND DINGHY PASSAGE RACE

PLYMOUTH SOUND TO THE RIVER YEALM

SATURDAY 11 June 2022

This is an annual race in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute open to large and small sailing boats. We hope to encourage friendly and safe participation by those new to racing, and those who do not race frequently, as well as regular competitors. Entry fees will be regarded as donations to the RNLI and will not be refunded if the race is cancelled or if an entrant withdraws.

1 Rules

1.1 The race will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Attention is drawn to Part 1, Rule 3 which states that “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

1.2 The race is split into the following classes (handicap framework in brackets):

Class 1 – Yachts & Sportsboats (PPSA Port Handicap)

Class 2 - Devon Yawls, Dayboats & Keelboats (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Class 3 – Dinghies (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Class 4 - Multi-hulls (MOCRA Handicap)

1.3 Details of the PPSA Port Handicap system, are on the Port of Plymouth Sailing Association website, published by the PPSA Handicap Manager:

<https://ppsa.org.uk/ppsa-plymouth-handicap-system/> .

Yachts are recommended to comply with World Sailing Rules:

<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/>

1.4 The documentation for the race will be available on the Yealm Yacht Club (YYC) website www.yealmyachtclub.co.uk or by email from the Passage Race Secretary passagerace@yealmyachtclub.co.uk . Please consult the website for any updates and changes.

1.5 Entry forms should be completed and signed (and countersigned by parent or guardian if the helm is under 18 years old) and returned with the appropriate entry fee to the RNLI Passage Race Secretary, Yealm Yacht Club. Entries must arrive before **1800 on Friday 10 June**. Late entries may be accepted, if the entry fee has been paid and the entry form has been completed and presented to the Race Officer before the start.

1.6 Dinghy entries may be limited to 40 boats; in fair weather additional entries may be allowed at the discretion of the Race Officer.

1.7 Boats that do not have a sail number must display a clear unique identification mark (e.g. sail marking, additional flag/pennant) and describe it on the entry form.

1.8 Helms must be aged 14 or over on the day of the race.

2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the notice board at Yealm Yacht Club and the Mount Batten Water Sports Centre.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

3.1 It will be the responsibility of boats to obtain changes and amendments. Changes to instructions will be displayed at Yealm Yacht Club and Mount Batten Watersports Centre (MBWSC) noticeboards by **1200** on the day of the race. Notices, changes and cancellations may also be available at www.yealmyachtclub.co.uk/ and [www.facebook.com /Yealm-Yacht-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Yealm-Yacht-Club). Exceptionally, last minute changes will be indicated by Code Flag L on the Committee Boat when on station.

3.2 If the forecast wind and sea state make it unsafe unless either the helm or crew is at least 18 years old, notices will be posted at YYC, Yealm Steps and MBWSC from **0930** on the day of the race to indicate that the race has been cancelled for younger competitors. Parents or guardians may telephone for advice from the Passage Race Secretary.

3.3 If the forecast wind and sea state make it unsafe for Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2) and Dinghies (Class 3) to race, Flag N with Pennants 2 & 4 will be flown at the YYC from 1300 on the day of the Race to indicate that the race has been cancelled. Notices will be displayed as soon as possible at MBWSC. This allows Classes 1 and 4 to race.

3.4 In the event of conditions being so extreme that all racing has to be cancelled, notices will be displayed as soon as possible at Yealm Steps, MBWSC and broadcast on Channel 77.

4 Signals

Signals may be made afloat at the Committee Boat, Plym YC Flagpole, or at the YYC; for example, if the event is abandoned (Flag N & A).

5 Schedule of the Race (All Times BST)

5.1 Classes will start at 5 minute intervals as follows using numeral pennant class flags:

1400 – Class 1, pennant 1

1405 – Class 2, pennant 2

1410 – Class 3, pennant 3

1415 – Class 4, pennant 4

6 Courses

For Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2) and Dinghies (Class 3):

From the Start Line in Plymouth Sound

Leave the Western End of Plymouth Breakwater to Port

Leave the Mewstone to Port

and thence to the finish line at the YYC

Note: There is no race requirement to pass to Port of the Sandbar Navigation Marks at the Mouth of the Yealm.

For Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1), and Multihulls (Class 4)

From the Start Line in Plymouth Sound

Leave the Western End of Plymouth Breakwater to Port

Leave Draystone to Port

Leave the Mewstone to Port

and thence to the Yealm Yacht Club finishing line at Mouthstone Point

7 Obstructions

Isolated rocks in the immediate vicinity of the coast or headlands (especially around the Mewstone, Slimers, Prawl Point, the Breakwater etc) that could constitute a hazard to any boat must be passed in a safe and seamanlike fashion.

8 The Start

8.1 The Start Line will be between the mast of the Committee Boat and the yellow spherical Dunstone Buoy in Jennycliff Bay. Alternatively, the race may be started from the shore using the Plym Yacht Club line on the end of the Mountbatten Breakwater. The line is between an orange pole with an orange triangle on top and the mast on the Plym Yacht Club Start Box. The outer limit mark is the West Mallard green conical buoy.

8.2 All boats shall pass in front of the Race Officer with their mainsail raised (clearly indicating their intention to race) preferably before the first Preparatory Signal, displaying their sail number to aid the Race Committee with identification of all starters. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep well clear of the starting area.

8.3 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal, i.e.

Warning signal:	Start minus 5 minutes	Class Flag broken out	1 sound
Preparatory signal:	Start minus 4 minutes	Flag P broken out	1 sound
	Start minus 1 minute	Flag P down	1 long sound
Start:	Start Time	Class Flag down	1 sound

8.4 VHF Channel 77 may be used for race communication.

8.5 If any boats are over the line at the start, the Individual Recall will be signalled with the Class flag remaining at the dip followed by a second short signal. The Class flag will be kept at the dip until all such boats have returned to re-cross the line (Flag X will not be flown; this is an exception to Rule 29). Boats subject to recall should return and restart no later than 4 minutes after her starting signal. For Class 1 & 4, a broadcast message may be transmitted on VHF Ch 77 after the start detailing boats subject to recall. Failure to pay attention to a recall flag hoist or receive a VHF transmission shall not constitute grounds for redress.

9 The Finish

9.1 The finish line for **Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2)** and **Dinghies (Class 3)** will be the Yealm Yacht Club line in Newton Ferrers opposite the Club house – a transit of a mast on top of the shower block and a mast on the edge of the quay. Please note, the main flag pole is not on the finish line.

9.2 All entrants in Classes 2 & 3 must sign off with the Race Officer at Yealm Yacht Club.

9.3 The finish line for **Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1)**, and **Multihulls (Class 4)** will be the YYC Mouthstone Transit (two white poles on the headland, positioned on the South side of the estuary entrance).

The Committee Boat will act as the outer distance mark if it can be anchored on station. If the Committee Boat is unable to hold station at Mouthstone, Classes 1 and 4 must record their own times in BST. The names and approximate times of boats finishing ahead and astern should also be recorded if practical. Finishing times should be given to the Race Officer as soon as possible after finishing by telephoning Yealm Yacht Club 01752 872232 or in person at the Club.

9.4 If the Course is shortened for Classes 1 & 4, Flag S will be flown and instructions will be communicated on VHF Channel 77. The Committee Boat will take up station on a suitable mark of the shortened course and finish the race between the Committee Boat and the mark, rounding in the direction of the original course. Times should be noted.

10 Retirements

Please ensure all retirements are reported promptly to the Race Officer or one of the Patrol Craft as soon as possible, and in any case within one hour of the expiry of the time limit, stating the boat's and helm's names to Yealm Yacht Club on 01752 872232, in person at the Club or on VHF Channel 77.

11 Time Limits

Any boat which has not finished the course by **1600 BST** will be deemed to have retired, regardless of the start time being adjusted.

12 Equipment and Measurement Checks

The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect boats for seaworthiness at any time. The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

13 Protests

13.1 Competitors are encouraged to behave in a manner that ensures safe and enjoyable racing and to take the appropriate penalty if they infringe the racing rules. Competitors can discuss incidents with an adviser and resolve them promptly in an informal but positive way (an Advisory Hearing).

13.2 Protest forms will be available at the YYC Clubhouse and on the RYA Website, and are to be delivered to the Race Officer within one hour of the last boat finishing. Protests will be heard as soon as possible. Protest notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

13.4 If a protest form is lodged, a boat or the protest committee may request RYA arbitration. If the boats and a member of the protest committee or race committee agree that arbitration is appropriate, one or more arbitrators hear the evidence of the parties and give an opinion on whether any boat broke a rule and, if so, which and why. The arbitrator will then invite each boat that appears to have broken a rule to accept an exoneration penalty.

13.3 In the event of injury or serious damage, a full Protest Hearing will be held.

14 Safety Regulations

14.1. Helms and crews in Classes 2 and 3 must wear adequate buoyancy aids at all times (this changes RRS 1.2 and 40). Wetsuits will not be adequate.

14.2 Patrol Craft are provided for competitors only and may not be able to assist with the salvage of boats and equipment. Craft with VHF are requested to keep a listening watch on Channel 77, and all boats will be expected to render assistance if an official rescue craft is not immediately available. Your attention is drawn to RRS Part 1, Fundamental Rule 1.1.

14.3 Boats shall comply with port regulations. Entrants are reminded that in addition to the normal regulations for avoiding collision at sea, Royal Navy ships and other large vessels, including cross channel ferries have right of way AT ALL TIMES within the limits of the Sound, extending 2 miles South of the breakwater. Boats are referred to the current Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order (see Local Notices to Mariners). A report of an alleged breach of such regulations may result in disqualification from the race in addition to any legal action taken by the Port Authorities (Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 1998 as amended, RRS 60.2(c), RRS69.1(a)).

14.4 Entrants must maintain a lookout for vessels engaged in diving and their accompanying divers and give them a wide berth. Patrol Craft will fly a Red Flag to alert competitors to the presence of divers.

15 Prizes

Class 1: **Plymouth Sound Cup** for fastest Yacht or Sportsboat on Corrected Time (Port Handicap)

Class 2: **Margaret Andrews Trophy** for fastest Dayboat or Keelboat on Corrected Time (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Class 3: **Holman Bowl** for fastest Dinghy on Corrected Time (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Classes 2 & 3: **Plymouth Sound Tankard** for fastest Dinghy or Dayboat Helm under 18 years (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Class 4: **Fastest Multihull** on Corrected Time (MOCRA Rating)

16 Disclaimer of Liability / Risk Statement

16.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

16.2 By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

(a) They are aware of the inherent risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such risk whilst taking part in the event;

- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, boat and other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is in good order, equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to participate and withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew; and,
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event; and,
- (g) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims.

Chris Tullett, RNLI Passage Race Secretary passagerace@yealmyachtclub.co.uk

Robert Jeffery, Race Officer robert.jeffery03@gmail.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Before the Race

Members of the Race Committee will be available to answer any questions at a pre-Race Briefing **at 1800 on Friday 10th June** at the Yealm Yacht Club, or from **1200 on the Saturday 5th June** at the Mountbatten Sailing Centre.

Before the race entrants may use the Mountbatten Sailing & Watersports Centre where any last minute notices will be posted. Normal landing charges may be levied. Anchoring in the Cattewater Channel is forbidden. Trip lines are advised if anchoring elsewhere.

Reception After the Race

Entrants are welcome to use the facilities of the YYC clubhouse. Food and Refreshments will be served from **1500** onwards for all competitors and those who have assisted in running the race. Preliminary Results may be available at the YYC from about **1630**. Trophies will be awarded at the YYC Annual Prize Giving later in the year.

Boats may anchor off the Yealm Yacht Club but please keep to east of the finishing line and beware the falling tide. While Noss Mayo Creek (opposite the Club) dries out, there should be sufficient water for most boats **until about 1800**. The Patrol Craft and Club Launch will endeavour to provide a launch service to and from the Clubhouse for yachts mooring in the Pool.

Overnight Mooring, Storage and Parking of Boats in Yealm River

Entrants from other clubs may wish to stay overnight in Noss Mayo or Newton Ferrers. The River Yealm has a number of moorings and pontoon spaces for visiting yachts. Space ashore or afloat may be found for dinghies and dayboats by making advance contact with the Harbour Master on 01752 872533 or office@yealmharbourauthority.co.uk.