

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 1 June 2024, 1130 start

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, 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. Entrants are encouraged to join the RNLI or consider making an additional donation.

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):

1130 Class 1 – Yachts & Sportsboats (YYC Handicap*)

1135 Class 2 - Devon Yawls, Dayboats & Keelboats (Portsmouth Yardstick)

1140 Class 3 – Dinghies (Portsmouth Yardstick)

1145 Class 4 - Multihulls (MOCRA Handicap)

*New yachts and non-YYC yachts entering the Passage Race will be assigned a YYC handicap number when you enter the race.

1.3 Yachts should comply with World Sailing Rules:

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

1.4 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 at passagerace@yealmyachtclub.co.uk. Please consult the website for updates.

1.5 Please complete entry forms on line at www.yealmyachtclub.co.uk, as early as you can, so that we know likely numbers. Entries can be accepted on paper, 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 should arrive by **Wednesday 29 May**. Late entries may be accepted before the start at the Race Officer's discretion.

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 website and/or on the notice board at Yealm Yacht Club and the Mount Batten Watersports Centre.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

3.1 It is the responsibility of helms, parents and guardians to obtain changes and amendments. If possible, cancellations and changes to sailing instructions will be made before the day on the Yealm Yacht Club website, or by 1000 on the day of the race at Yealm Yacht Club and Mount Batten Watersports Centre (MBWSC) noticeboards. Exceptionally, last minute changes will be indicated by Code Flag L on the Committee Boat when on station.

3.2 **Under 18s:** If the forecast wind and sea state make it unsafe to race unless either the helm or crew is at least 18 years old, the race will be cancelled for younger competitors.

3.3 **Dayboats and dinghies:** 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 & 3 will be flown at the YYC by 0900 on the day of the Race to indicate that their race has been cancelled. This allows Classes 1 and 4 to race.

3.4 **Yachts:** In the event of conditions being so extreme that all racing has to be cancelled, notices will be displayed at Yealm Steps and 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:

1130 – Class 1, pennant 1 Yachts & Sportsboats

1135 – Class 2, pennant 2 Devon Yawls, Dayboats & Keelboats

1140 – Class 3, pennant 3 Dinghies

1145 – Class 4, pennant 4 Multihulls

6 Courses

For Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2), Dinghies (Class 3) & small Multihulls (Class 4):

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

Dinghies & dayboats can pass **either side** of the **red port channel markers** at the Mouth of the Yealm.

Give plenty of space to swimmers, paddleboards, kayaks and other craft, even if you have right of way. This is particularly important with fast dinghies.

Be safe and courteous.

For Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1)

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 and hazards near the coast or headlands (especially around the Mewstone, Slimers, Prawl Point and the Breakwater) 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.

8.2 All boats shall pass in front of the Race Officer with their mainsail raised 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 min	Class Flag broken out	1 sound
Preparatory signal:	Start minus 4 min	Flag P broken out	1 sound
	Start minus 1 min	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 Classes 1 & 4, a broadcast message may be transmitted on VHF Ch 77 after the start indicating 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), Dinghies (Class 3)** and small **Multihulls (Class 4)** 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 flagpole is not on the finish line.

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

9.3 The finish line for **Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1)** 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 **1400 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. This 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** (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 (YYC 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.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Before the Race

Members of the Race Committee will be available to answer questions at pre-Race Briefings **at 2000 on Wednesday 10 May** at the Yealm Yacht Club, and at **0930 on Saturday 13 May** at Mount Batten Watersports Centre.

Before the race entrants may use the Mountbatten 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 about **1200** onwards for competitors and those who have assisted in running the race. Preliminary results may be available at the YYC from about **1415**. 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. There should be sufficient water for dinghies **until about 1430**. 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.

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