



Yealm Yacht Club

Riverside Road East, Newton Ferrers, PLYMOUTH PL8 1AE

Dinghy and Dayboat

Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions

Sailing Season 2026

Introduction.

This document provides a combined Notice to Race and Sailing Instructions for all Yealm Yacht Club (YYC) Dinghy and Dayboat racing for the 2026 season in one document. It covers Dinghy and Dayboat racing from the YYC Newton Creek line or from a Committee Boat in the Yealm River or Wembury Bay. It also provides some special instructions only relevant to the open Wednesday Night Series.

Information regarding the details of each race which starts from the YYC Newton Creek line will be posted on the YYC Starters Hut Notice Board or promulgated direct to competitors at that location in advance of the race.

The responsible body for these Instructions is the Yealm Yacht Club Sailing Committee as amended for each individual race by the Race Officer for the race.

Schedule of Races

Dinghy, Devon Yawl and Dayboats Races

Wed 13th May- Wed 9th September 1830 Devon Yawl Series and Handicap Dayboat Series

Dinghy events for the year will be announced later. Please watch the YYC website and notice boards for details.

1.0 Rules.

1.1 The racing will be governed by the rules as defined in ***The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2024-2028*** (See the 'World Sailing' website).

1.2 From 2025, the following RRS have been changed or are amended for Devon Yawls in YYC Races:
Rule 50.1(b) – A competitor's clothing and equipment of up to 10Kg is allowable in a Devon Yawl under the Class Rules.
Rules 21.1, 29.1, 30 and 44.2 - For the purposes of the definition of "Start" and "Finish" and *Rules 21.1, 29.1, 30 and 44.2 of the RRS* (but not any other rules) the term "hull" includes a boat's bowsprit in its normal position.

1.3 Competitors shall abide by the by-laws of the Yealm Harbour Authority and where applicable of the Port of Plymouth, including, as appropriate, display of a current licence disc.

2.0 Notices to Competitors.

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the YYC Starters Hut Notice Board at the YYC or the Notice Board in the YYC clubhouse.

3.0 Changes to Sailing Instructions.

3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the YYC Starting Hut Notice Board or the Notice Board in the YYC clubhouse.

4.0 Signals Made Ashore.

4.1 If signals are made ashore, they will be displayed from the YYC Flagstaff or for races starting in Wembury Bay at Yealm Steps.

5.0 Schedule, Classes and Flags.

5.1 The Dinghy, Devon Yawl and Dayboat races will take place in accordance with the **Schedule of Races** above.

5.2 When required the Handicap System to be used is the Portsmouth Yardstick.

5.3 Class Flags and Warning Signals will be displayed on the YYC flagstaff or Committee Boat:

Class	Flag
Laser	Flag L
Devon Yawl	Numeral Pennant 3
Handicap	Flag H

5.7 Each boat shall comply with the measurements and class rules as appropriate to the class of boat concerned. The YYC reserves the right to measure any boat before or after any race and at any point during a series. Competitors are advised to check that their equipment complies with class rules as there may be an inspection. The fact that the YYC may carry out such an inspection does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this notice of race.

5.8 The Wednesday Night Series is open to Devon Yawls and seaworthy dinghies/ dayboats. If there are any concerns about eligibility, they should be addressed to the Wednesday Night Sailing Sub-Committee.

5.9 The Wednesday Night Series boats shall be kept at their appointed places on the river between races of the series.

6.0 Racing Area, Marks and Courses.

6.1 There are two Racing Areas:

- River Yealm and Newton Creek.
- Wembury Bay.

6.2 The buoys and marks to be used for each race and the port/starboard side to be rounded will be displayed on the YYC Starters Hut Notice Board or the Committee Boat as appropriate. From the Committee Boat the direction of rounding marks will be indicated by a red (marks to port) or green (marks to starboard) flag.

7.0 Start.

7.1 Races will be started by using *RRS 26* with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

7.2 YYC Newton Creek Starting Line.
The Starting Line will be between the YYC Starting Line Poles and an Outer Distance Mark (ODM) (if present).

7.3 Committee Boat Starting Line.
The Starting Line will be between a distinguishable pole flying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and an ODM (If present).

7.4 A hooter/horn will be used for sound signals. If this is not available a whistle or other suitable sound will be used.

7.5 Prior to the warning signal all boats shall report their entry to the Race Officer at the YYC Starters Hut or the Committee Boat.

7.6 In accordance with *RRS 29*, Flag X will be displayed in the event of an individual recall with a second short sound signal and flown until all boats have complied with *RRS 29.1*. A general re-call will be

indicated by two sound signals and the display of the First Substitute Flag. Another sound signal will be made on lowering this flag and the Warning Signal made one minute later.

8.0 Finish.

- 8.1 The Finish Line will be as indicated on the course instructions.
- 8.2 A hooter/horn will be used for sound signals. If this is not available a whistle or other suitable sound will be used.
- 8.3 Boats racing should be particularly vigilant for a shorten course instruction when approaching the YYC Starting Line or the Committee Boat.

9.0 Time Limits and Target Times.

- 9.1 Target Times for each race will be agreed between participants and the Race Officer.
Time limit for the Wednesday Night Series will be 2000 unless otherwise advised by the Race Officer.

10.0 Penalties, Protests and Requests for Redress.

- 10.1 A boat may take a One Turn Penalty only when she may have broken one or more of the *RRS Part 2* in an incident while racing. This changes the *RRS Section 4 Rule 44.2*.
- 10.2 A boat over the start line at the start (therefore On the Course at the Start - OCS) and failing to return and re-cross the start line may at the discretion of the Race Officer have a position penalty imposed of an additional twenty percent to her actual finishing position rather than being marked OCS. For example: such a boat finishing first out of ten finishers may be awarded third place.
- 10.3 Although non club members may on occasions participate, these are essentially Club Sailing Events and there will be no protests in accordance with *RRS Section 5*. If there is an incident where the participants feel strongly then the Race Officer, or another Designated Person, will act as the arbitrator. The Race Officer's/ Designated Person's decision will be final and there is no further redress on the dispute.
- 10.4 In any event, for any on the water dispute, competitors shall comply with the requirements of *RRS Rule 61.1* informing the protestee, if they intend to bring the dispute to the notice of the Race Officer.

11.0 Safety.

- 11.1 All dinghy and dayboat crews shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. *RRS Rule 40* is deemed to be in effect even though Code Flag Y is not flown. This changes *RRS Rule 40*.
- 11.2 The Safety Officer for the race, if present, on the water in the Patrol Boat designated as Safety 1 is responsible for controlling the other Patrol Boats (designated Safety 2, etc.), allocating their patrol areas and reacting to any boat requests for assistance or emergencies. The Safety Officer shall liaise with and be under the overall direction and guidance of the Race Officer.
- 11.3 For dinghies racing outside the Sand Bar two Patrol Boats must, normally, be used. One of those boats may be the Committee Boat. In light conditions and small fleets one Patrol Boat containing the Race Officer and Safety Officer, if present, may be adequate.
- 11.4 Competitors and Patrol Boats are to note the use of the term Code Red, used in communications, that signifies a serious emergency has arisen and that the Crisis Management Plan is being followed. All Patrol Boats are to carry a copy of the Crisis Management Plan.

11.5 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Management Team as soon as possible. This can be reported through one of the Patrol Boats or direct to the Committee Boat or Newton Creek line team. The Race Management Team will also be monitoring boats completing each lap of the race.

11.6 Dinghy racing will not generally be started and courses may be shortened in wind speeds forecast or rising to a steady force 5 (17-21 knots). This will depend on wind direction and sea state. The Race Officer will consult the dayboat fleet before starting a race in force 5 or above.

12.0 Radio Communication.

12.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications which are not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

12.2 The Race Officer, Safety Officer and Patrol Boats will communicate on VHF CH 72.

13.0 Scoring and Prizes

13.1 Save as modified below, the scoring system uses the Low Point System (as described in *Appendix A of the RRS*) as follows:

- (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores;
- (b) When 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score;
- (c) When 10 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her 2 worst scores; and,
- (d) When 15 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her 3 worst scores.

13.2 For the Wednesday Night series A5.3 of *Appendix A of the RRS* shall apply.

13.3 For the Wednesday Night Series, a boat may be helmed by a person other than the Skipper/ Helm or Declared Crew as stated on the entry form in no more than two races in the series. The scores for the third and any subsequent races helmed in such a way shall not be counted. Whenever a person different to the Skipper/ Helm or Declared Crew is helming the boat that fact shall be reported to the Race Officer in the Committee Boat. This may be varied where a YYC cadet is to be the helm so as to permit the scores of the boat concerned to be counted in more than two races when helmed by a YYC cadet.

13.4 For the Wednesday Night series prizes will be awarded as follows:
Bobtail trophy, ½ model, pin, sheave, crutch, jammer, broken knee and others depending on the numbers and classes of boat which participate. At the discretion of the Wednesday Night Sailing Sub-Committee, a mini-series of 6 races with one discard may be declared within the series and prizes awarded for that mini-series.

14.0 Risk Statement

14.1 *Rule 3 of the RRS* states:

'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in an event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

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

- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their 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) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the events and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances; and,
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to the racing venue or the event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing for any event.

15.0 Insurance

- 15.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with a valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or equivalent.

16.0 Privacy Statement

The personal information you provide to the YYC will be used to facilitate your participation in the racing covered by this documentation. If you have agreed to be bound by the *RRS* and the other rules that govern the racing (the rules), the legal basis for processing that information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the YYC privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the racing and decisions may be published.

Enclosures:

1. Wednesday Night Series – Entry and Declaration Form
2. Dinghy Race Entry and Declaration Form

Wednesday Night Series for Dayboats and Seaworthy Dinghies

Entry and Declaration Form 2026

Name of Boat	Sail Number
Make/Class	Skipper/Helm
Hull Colour	Declared Crew

Declaration

- I agree to pay all fees in advance (mooring, harbour and racing).
- I am aware of and agree that the races will be governed by the current World Sailing Racing Rules, Prescriptions of The National Authority when they apply, the Rules of each class concerned, the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and any other applicable rules.
- If alterations likely to affect the handicap are made, such as those to sail plan, rig, mast, ballast, trim I will notify the Rating Authority and the Sub-Committee.
- Before racing I will effect adequate and suitable third-party Insurance to a minimum value of £3,000,000.
- I understand the race organizers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races.
- Legal liability
 - a) By signing this entry form, participants accept that they are responsible for themselves, their crew and their boats, whether afloat or ashore.
 - b) Nothing done by the organizers (i.e., the Club, race management team, patrol craft and anyone helping the event) will relieve participants of their responsibilities.
 - c) By launching (or putting to sea) participants imply the suitability of their boat and the competence of their skipper and crew for the expected forecast conditions.
 - d) The provision of patrol craft does not relieve participants of their responsibilities.
- I will ensure that crew members understand and accept these conditions.

Signed	Date
Surname	Forename(s)
Address including Postcode	
Email	Telephone

Entry fee £30.00 for the series (including, for those who are members of the YYC, YYC dayboat races marked in the racing programme)-or £5.00 per race.

If using a Club Dayboat mooring the annual fee for the mooring is **£130** in addition to the series entry fee.

Please, if leaving the form and making payments at the YYC Bar, ask the staff to register your YYC membership card or name, use a till product of "RACE FEES", and to print TWO RECEIPTS, one for you and one to remain in the till with your Name, Boat name and "Dayboat Series" written on the back. Please also make sure that your Entry Form is endorsed as paid.

You may also hand the form with cash to a member of the Wednesday night sub-committee.

2026 Dinghy Race Entry and Declaration Form

Name of Dinghy	Sail Number
Make/Class	PY Number
Skipper	Hull Colour
Where kept	Owner

Declaration:

1. I agree to pay all fees in advance (storage, harbour dues and race fees) prior to sailing with the YYC.
2. I am aware and agree that the races will be governed by the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing, the Prescriptions of the National Authority when they apply, ORC Special Regulations, the Rules of each class concerned, the Sailing Instructions and any other applicable rules.
3. If alterations likely to affect the handicap are made, I will notify the Rating Authority and Race Committee.
4. Before Racing I will effect adequate and suitable third-party Insurance to a minimum value of £3,000,000.
5. I understand the race organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, personal injury or death howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, skipper or crew as a result of their taking part in the race or races.
6. Legal liability. By signing this entry form participants accept the following;
 - A. That they are responsible for themselves, their crew and their boats whether afloat or ashore.
 - B. Nothing done by the organisers will relieve participants of their responsibilities.
 - C. By launching (or putting to sea) participants imply the suitability of their boat and the competence of their skipper and crew for the forecast weather conditions.
 - D. The provision of safety craft does not relieve participants of their responsibilities.
7. I will ensure that all crew members understand and accept these conditions.

Signed (Parent or Guardian if under 18)	Date
Surname	Forename(s)
Address including Postcode	
Email	Telephone

Entry fee £45.00 for the series

Please, if leaving the form and making payments at the YYC Bar, ask the staff to register your YYC membership card or name, use a till product of "RACE FEES", and to print TWO RECEIPTS, one for you and one to remain in the till with your Name, Boat name and " DinghySeries" written on the back. Please also make sure that your Entry Form is endorsed as paid.

Limited boat storage spaces for YYC Members (adults & cadets) are available at both the Club Slip and the Patch. Both are allocated at the beginning of the season and applications should be made via the online Dinghy Storage Application Form [HERE](#) – please sign into the membership system when prompted and then follow the green "Register" link.