



## 5.5 METRE CLASS NATIONAL AND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

29 JUNE – 3 JULY 2026

ORGANISING AUTHORITY  
ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON  
COWES

### NOTICE OF RACE

*The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

#### 1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 [DP] The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS).
- 1.3 The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) National Prescriptions that apply are detailed in Addendum B.
- 1.4 [DP] 5.5 Metre Association Class Rules.
- 1.5 Notices to Mariners for the Ports of [Southampton](#), [Portsmouth](#) and [Cowes](#) apply.

#### 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions will be available on the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) website [www.rys.org.uk](http://www.rys.org.uk) and the following link: [RYS 5.5m Nationals](#) by 8 June 2026.

#### 3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board (ONB) will be online at [RYS 5.5m Nationals](#) and the Race Office will be at the RYS.
- 3.2 All boats shall carry a Marine VHF Radio capable of receiving all normal International VHF Channels. All VHF communication shall be on International VHF channels.
- 3.3 In addition to VHF communication, the Race Committee (RC) intend to use a Telegram Group to communicate with competitors and a "QR code & Link" will be included in the SIs. Failure to receive information broadcast using Telegram will not be grounds for redress.
- 3.4 [DP] While racing, from the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of the 5.5 Metre Class.
- 4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing the Entry Form and submitting it, together with the required fee, to the RYS Office or online via: [RYS 5.5m Nationals](#) by 8 June 2026.
- 4.3 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Organising Authority (OA).
- 4.4 To be considered an entry in the event a boat shall complete all entry requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.5 Entries shall not be open to competitors and support persons holding only Russian or Belarussian nationality or a boat that is registered with or a member of the National Association in those countries. The Organising Authority may amend this rule following any further World Sailing decisions on the situation with Russia and Belarus.

#### 5. FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee is £750 per boat.
- 5.2 Entry fees include the following:
  - (a) Race Management.
  - (b) Opening Reception (3 crew per boat).
  - (c) Prizegiving (3 crew per boat).

#### 6. CREW LIMITATIONS

- 6.1 A parental (or guardian) consent form and declaration, available via [RYS 5.5m Nationals](#) shall be submitted for crew under 18 years of age.

#### 7. ADVERTISING

- 7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

#### 8. QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES

- 8.1 Not used.

#### 9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1 The times shown in the table below are UTC plus 1 hour (British Summer Time - BST). Indicative Tide Times are for High Water (HW) Portsmouth.
- 9.2 A maximum of 3 races may be sailed on a day in order to complete the programme because of weather or other reasons, provided that the programme does not become more than one race ahead of schedule.
- 9.3 On the last day of the event, no warning signal will be made after 1200.
- 9.4 The RYS bar will be open in the Pavilion for post racing drinks.
- 9.5 See the table below for the Schedule.

DAY HWP (BST)	TIME	FIRST WARNING SIGNAL	NOTES
<b>Sunday 28 June</b>	1600 - 1800		Registration at the RYS Pavilion
	1800		Opening Reception (RYS) to include
	1830		Competitor Briefing
<b>Monday 29 June</b> <i>HW 1216 4.1m</i>	1230	1355	Briefing by Telegram Race 1
<b>Tuesday 30 June</b> <i>HW 1257 4.2m</i>	0900	1025	Briefing by Telegram Race 2 and 3 as soon as possible (asap) o/c
<b>Wednesday 1 July</b>  <i>HW 1335 4.7m</i>	0900	1025	Briefing by Telegram Race 4 Race 5 asap o/c
<b>Thursday 2 July</b> <i>HW 1410 4.3m</i>	0900	1025	Briefing by Telegram Race 6 Race 7 asap o/c
<b>Friday 3 July</b> <i>HW 1444 4.3m</i>	0900  Approx 1400 o/c racing	1025	Briefing by Telegram Race 8  Prizegiving (RYS)

**10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

- 10.1 Boats may be inspected at any time during the event.
- 10.2 Prior measurements are not scheduled. All boats, sails and equipment shall be already measured. No damaged sail or equipment shall be substituted with another measured sail or equipment without the prior written permission from the Race Committee.
- 10.3 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.

**11. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT**

- 11.1 See Class Rules.

**12. VENUE**

- 12.1 Racing will take place from a Committee Vessel in the Central and Eastern Solent.
- 12.2 To indicate the general race area a local racing chartlet can be found in Addendum A.

**13. COURSES**

- 13.1 The courses to be sailed will be a windward / leeward configuration as described in the Sailing Instructions.

**14. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 14.2 Where an offset leg at the windward mark is part of the course, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg shall be delayed and taken at the first reasonable opportunity on the downwind leg. This change is added to RRS 44.2.
- 14.3 Hearings will be in the RYS as soon as possible after racing.

**15. SCORING**

- 15.1 Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.2 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 15.3 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races excluding her worst score.

**16. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS**

- 16.1 Support person vessels shall be marked with 5.5 Metre Class Flag.
- 16.2 [DP] Team leaders, coaches, other support personnel and their coach and support boats shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the First Warning Signal of the first class to start until all boats have finished or until the RC signals no more racing today.
- 16.3 All support person vessels shall carry a marine VHF radio and comply with RRS 37 'Search and Rescue Instructions'.

**17. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS**

- 17.1 Not used.

**18. BERTHING**

- 18.1 Berthing and craning has been arranged by the Class at the Cowes Yacht Haven but is not included in the entry fee.

**19. LAUNCHING AND HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS**

- 19.1 [DP] Boats shall not be launched, re-launched or hauled out after 1200 on 29 June until the end of the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the RC.

**20. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**

- 20.1 [DP] Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the last race.
- 20.2 [DP] No person shall undertake any swimming, underwater or diving activities of any kind within the harbour without a valid permit to dive from the Cowes Harbour Master or the manager of the marina you wish to dive at. This prohibited activity is legislated under Cowes Harbour Commission General Direction 4.4 & 4.5.
- 20.3 [DP] Competitors may at any time and within the existing marina regulations; scrub the hull using flossing, sponging or mechanical devices as long as no person enters the water.

All correspondence should be directed to:

The Royal Yacht Squadron, The Castle, Cowes, UK, PO31 7QT. Tel: 01983 292191, Email: [mail@rys.org.uk](mailto:mail@rys.org.uk)

**21. DATA PROTECTION**

- 21.1 The personal information you provide to the Organising Authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the Events (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal 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 Organising Authority's 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 event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 21.2 Competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event provided that they do not infringe the privacy rights of participants.
- 21.3 The Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) and Royal Yacht Squadron Limited (RYSL) Armorial, Burgees and all other associated logos shall not be used by any club or individual without the prior written permission of RYS.

**22. RISK STATEMENT**

- 22.1 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."
- 22.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the 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 the 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 event and they are fit to participate;
  - (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) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
  - (g) It is their responsibility to familiarize 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 competitor or safety briefing held for the event.

**23. INSURANCE**

- 23.1 All boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million or equivalent and that such cover will be maintained throughout the event.

**24. PRIZES**

- 24.1 The event prize giving will be at the RYS on 3 July as soon as possible after racing and any protest(s).
- 24.2 Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third boats in the series.
- 24.3 Subject to entries, prizes may also be awarded for best placed 'Classic' and 'Evolution' designs.

**25. FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information please contact:

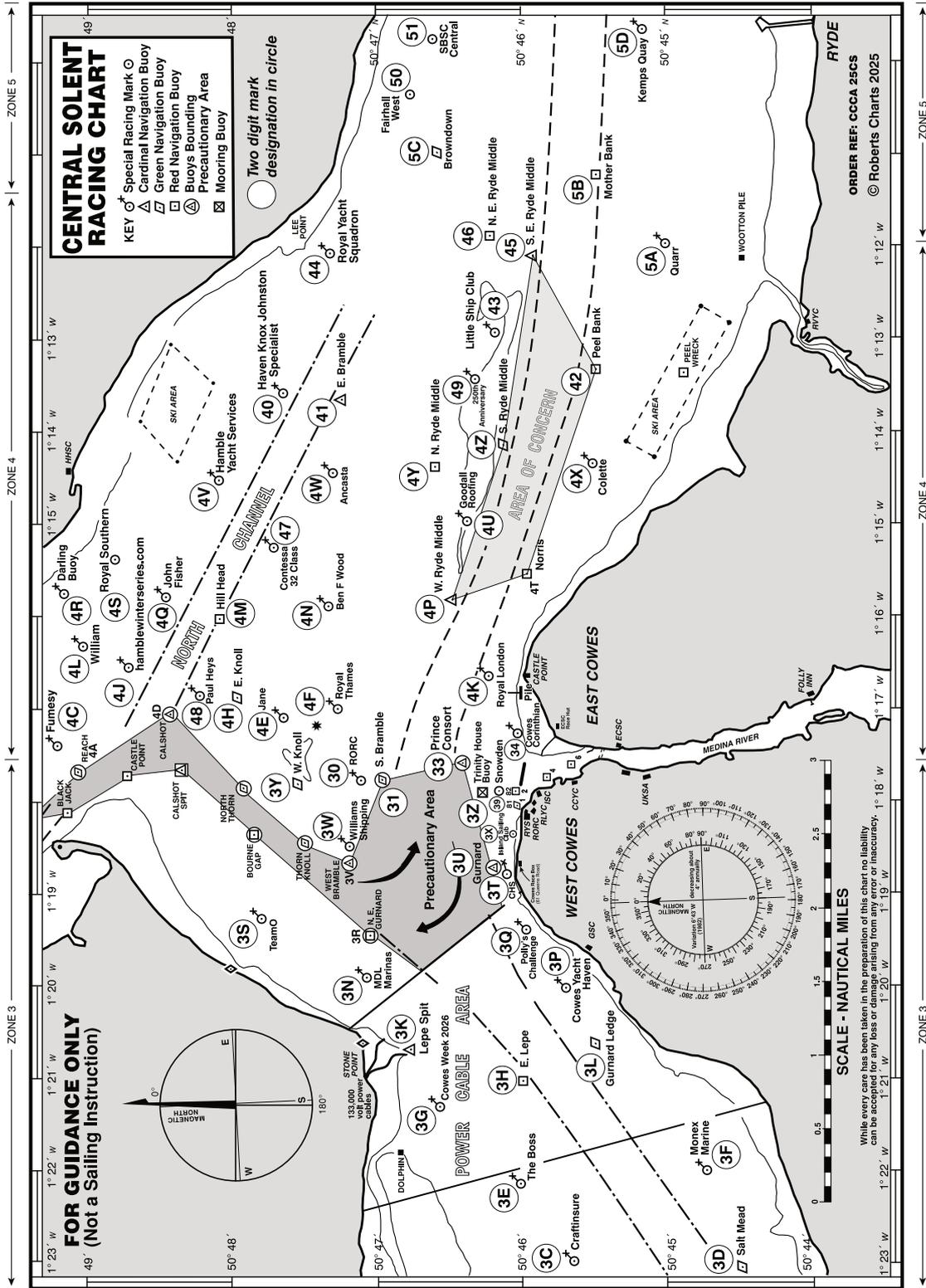
The Royal Yacht Squadron  
The Castle  
Cowes, UK, PO31 7QT  
Tel: +44 1983 292 191  
[mail@rys.org.uk](mailto:mail@rys.org.uk)

**NOTICE OF RACE ENDS****SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Further details of social arrangements will be issued separately.

**ADDENDUM A.**

See below a chartlet of the Racing Area showing the Solent Two Character Codes.



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## **ADDENDUM B.**

### **RYA prescriptions that apply**

#### **Rule 4 Acceptance of the Rules**

Add new rule 4.6:

Each competitor and boat owner shall ensure that their support persons comply with the rules.

Add new rule 4.7:

The penalty for a breach of rule 4 shall be at the discretion of the protest committee.

#### **Rule 6 Anti-Doping**

The national authority procedural rules required to implement the World Anti-Doping Code through World Sailing Regulation 21 are the RYA Anti-Doping Rules, as published on the RYA website.

#### **Rule 67 Damages**

1. Any issue of liability or claim for damages arising from an incident while a boat is bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts and not considered by a protest committee.
2. A boat that takes a penalty or retires does not thereby admit liability for damages or that she has broken a rule.

#### **86.3 Rule Changes**

An Organising Authority wishing to develop or test alternative racing rules, other than test rules approved by World Sailing, shall obtain prior approval from the RYA. An application form is available from the RYA. The notice of race shall include the approved alternative rules. The Organising Authority shall promptly report the results of the development or test to the RYA.

#### **88.2 Changes to National Authority Prescriptions**

Notices of race and sailing instructions shall not change a prescription of the RYA. However, when an international jury has been appointed for an event, only the prescriptions to rules 4, 6, 67, 86.3 and 88.2 shall apply.

### **Additional RYA prescriptions that apply if no international jury has been appointed.**

#### **Rule 40 Personal Flotation Devices**

When a rule requires a personal flotation device to be worn, the device shall comply with the specifications for the personal flotation devices that the boat is required to carry. If more than one specification applies, the personal flotation device worn shall comply with the highest of them.

#### **Rule 70.5 Right of Appeal**

1. RYA approval is not required to deny the right of appeal under rule 70.5(a).
2. The RYA will not consider approving the denial of the right of appeal under rule 70.5(b) unless
  1. (a) the RYA decides there is good reason to approve. The cost of an international jury which would otherwise be appropriate for the event is not a good reason.
  2. (b) the protest committee is approved by the RYA.
  3. (c) application to the RYA is made no later than one month before the notice of race is to be issued. In exceptional circumstances, the RYA may consider a later application.A copy of the RYA letter of approval shall be displayed on the official notice board.
3. However, the denial of appeal shall not apply to a party to a hearing under rule 69.2, Misconduct, but the decision of the protest committee shall determine the results of the event.

#### **Rule 78 Compliance with Class Rules; Certificates**

Add new rule 78.3:

The race committee or technical committee may inspect or measure any boat or personal equipment, at any time. Terms in **bold** are as defined in the Equipment Rules of Sailing.

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