



NOTICE OF RACE

1 - 7 AUGUST 2026

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WELCOME

FROM THE SAILING DIRECTOR - PHILIP WARWICK



Welcome to Cowes Week 200 and thank you for being part of this landmark regatta. For two centuries, competitors like you have been the beating heart of Cowes Week—driving standards higher, testing boundaries, and defining what great racing looks like in one of the world's most demanding natural arenas.

To briefly introduce myself, I am Phil Warwick and will be the PRO for the Regatta. As many of you already know, racing at Cowes Week is unlike anywhere else. It is busy and in addition to core skills, the Solent rewards both precision and adaptability: tides, wind shifts, commercial traffic, other competitors and a wide range of navigation challenges all shape the outcome of a race.

For this 200th edition, our objective is clear: to deliver consistently high-quality racing across all classes, supported by well-set courses, clear communication, and effective race management. Our teams ashore and afloat are deeply experienced and understand the responsibility that comes with running racing of this significance. While conditions on the Solent will inevitably vary, we are committed to making the best possible decisions to support close and fair competition.

Cowes Week is proudly recognised as a family and fun regatta, built around broad participation and shared experience. At the same time, racing is of a high standard, and competitors will find themselves racing alongside many of the finest sailors in the sport, in fleets where deep local knowledge meets broad international expertise. Whether you are targeting a class win, pursuing a personal milestone, or simply enjoying the challenge of a well-sailed week, you are part of something special. The bicentenary of Cowes Week is about recognising a well-earned heritage, while also looking forward as we shape the next 200 years of success.

We are expecting well over 500 boats this year and will work hard to provide class starts where numbers allow, alongside mini-series or championship-style racing where requested. We recognise that many of you are using this historic occasion as a core focus of your season. Having served as PRO last year, I know how important it is to maximise racing opportunities and deliver quality competition. Clear and effective communication was a priority then and will remain so in 2026. As ever, some compromise is inevitable as we manage the week, but please be assured that our large volunteer team has carefully considered feedback from 2025 and is working exceptionally hard to deliver the best possible regatta.

Safety remains integral to the racing experience. The Solent is a busy and shared waterway, and good seamanship is as important as tactical awareness. Compliance with safety requirements, along with respect for fellow competitors and other water users, enables us to deliver the full racing programme to the highest standard. Competitors are reminded that the decision to race, or to continue racing, rests with the skipper and crew of each individual boat. While the regatta has defined safety parameters and an excellent team of volunteers to provide appropriate cover, every crew will have its own limits and judgement of what constitutes suitable conditions.

With 30+ starts and hundreds of boats racing every day, it's also impossible for us to accommodate too many general recalls. To overcome that problem, we have a sophisticated "VAR" camera system on the main start lines which allows us to analyse every start frame-by-frame and quickly identify everybody who was over.

Two Protest Committee Panels, each chaired by an experienced World Sailing International Judge, will be in place every day after racing. Some protests are inevitable. They should be brought and are healthy for the sport but do remember that on the water alternative penalties are available and, if you feel you may have infringed a rule, a scoring penalty is usually far preferable to missing an evening's socials while you wait for your hearing when you may even be disqualified.

Competitors are strongly encouraged to read the various supporting documents, including the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Safety Booklet and ensure they are fully prepared to race.

The Organising Authority, the Race Committee, and Event Officials look forward to delivering racing worthy of the 200th anniversary of Cowes Week and we hope you enjoy what promises to be a memorable and fitting celebration of racing in the Solent.

NOTICE OF RACE

The Organising Authority (OA) is Cowes Week Limited (CWL).

Sentences in italics within this Notice of Race are guidance notes for information only

1 RULES

1.1 Racing will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing with Royal Yachting Association (RYA) prescriptions, the Notice of Race (NoR) and as appropriate:

- a.** For boats racing under IRC, IRC Rules Parts A, B & C except that Rule 21.1.5(d) & (e) are deleted. *Different sails may be used on different days.*
- b.** Class Rules for one-design entries, including crew limits (if any).
- c.** The RYA Aera YTC Rating System for Performance and Club Cruiser classes.
Further details at: www.rorcating.com/ryaytc

Copies of the relevant RYA prescriptions will be included with the Sailing Instructions.

1.2 Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing & Rating Rules

1.2.1 Changes to the RRS and Rating Rules are as detailed in the NoR or in the Sailing Instructions (SIs).

1.2.2 The NoR may be changed by amendment or by the SIs. In the event of a conflict, the SIs shall prevail.
This changes RRS 63.5 (c)

1.3 Safety regulations

1.3.1 Black Group (see Table 1)

Boats shall comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Race Category 4 Monohulls except that:

- a.** Any boats that do not comply fully with the Regulations may apply to CWL for written dispensation against specific requirements. Dispensation will not normally be considered unless applied for by 17:00 on Friday 24 July 2026.
- b.** Delete paragraph 5.01.1 and replace with: "Each crew member shall have a lifejacket in accordance with ISO 12402 – 3 (Level 150) or equivalent, including EN 396 or UL 1180, clearly marked with the boat's or wearers name, and if inflatable, shall have a gas inflation system and have crotch /thigh straps."
- c.** Boats must be able to reduce sail in a seamanlike manner but are not required to carry a storm trysail nor be able to reef to 40% of their luff length.

1.3.2 White Group Classes (see Table 2)

Boats shall comply with their class safety regulations (if any) and with the current CWL safety regulations for Dayboat Classes.

Copies of the CWL safety regulations will be obtainable online at the Official Website at www.cowesweek.co.uk and will be included in the 2026 Safety Booklet.

1.3.3 All Boats

Anchors shall not be carried forward of the stem or with any part outboard, except when anchoring.

1.4 RYA Charter

Cowes Week Limited implement the RYA Racing Charter and competitors are required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028) or at www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available on the Official Notice Board from 17 July 2026.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Official Notice Board (ONB) is located at www.cowesweek.co.uk

3.2 All boats shall carry a marine band VHF transceiver in working order and with all recognised international marine channels.

3.3 The Race Committee will make broadcasts of important race information to competitors on VHF radio and via the Cowes Week App. The channels used will be stated in the SIs.

3.4 Tracking

For safety and race management purposes, all boats shall carry and use CWL approved tracking devices, which shall be as follows:

- a.** An AIS transponder. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that the AIS device is switched on and transmitting at least once every 5 seconds; or
- b.** A compatible mobile device running the Cowes Week App. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their boat has one or more such devices onboard and operating.

3.5 Declarations

Competitors are required to declare at the end of each day's racing via the Cowes Week App.

3.6 Vakaros RaceSense System for J/70 and RS21 Classes

For boats in the J/70 class competing in the Grand Slam event from Saturday to Tuesday inclusive and for boats in the RS21 class competing in the mini-series from Saturday to Monday inclusive, the following applies:

Each boat shall be equipped with a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured with RaceSense. The serial number shall be registered with their respective Class secretaries (secretary@j-70.co.uk / liam@rssailing.com) in advance and no later than 17 July 2026. Class rules and policies laid down in Class Notice of Series where applicable shall apply.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 By entering for a race, the person in charge of each boat confirms that they agree to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern this race. In particular, they confirm they have read the Notice of Race and accept its provisions and agree that their boat will conform to the requirements set out in the Notice of Race throughout the event.

4.2 If the person in charge will be under 18 years old on the first day of the regatta, then a special disclaimer, available from the Regatta Office, and downloadable from the website, shall also be countersigned by a parent or guardian. This should be returned to the Regatta Office no later than 17:00 on Friday 17 July 2026.

4.3 It is intended that the regatta will be open to boats and classes listed in Tables 1 & 2, subject to the eligibility requirements listed below and in those tables.

4.3.1 CWL reserves the right to:

a. Combine the start of one class with another.

b. Subdivide any class.

Black Group IRC, Performance Cruiser and Club Cruiser fleets will be split during July into classes based on rating, boat characteristics or exceptionally for other reasons, depending on the number of entries received.

c. Cancel racing for any class or amalgamate classes if the number of entries is less than ten.

4.4 Boat name change

The name of the boat associated with an entry shall not be changed during the Regatta except to correct an error. CWL may waive this restriction in exceptional circumstances.

4.5 One-design boats

Boats in one-design classes listed in Table 1 or Table 2 will not be permitted to enter in a rated class. CWL may waive this restriction in exceptional circumstances.

4.6 Ratings and rating changes

4.6.1 Boats racing under IRC or RYA Aera YTC shall have a valid rating. Ratings may be obtained as follows:

a. For IRC ratings in the UK, contact the RORC Rating Office at www.rorcating.com

b. For RYA Aera YTC ratings, use this link: <https://rorcating.com/ryaytc>. Applications open 16 February 2026 and a copy of a boat's valid 2026 RYA YTC certificate shall be received before the time given in 4.6.2.

4.6.2 New ratings or changes to a rating (except daily entries) will not be accepted after 17:00 on Wednesday 29 July 2026 unless the change is:

a. Due to an error made by CWL, RORC, or UNCL. In this case, the rating shall be corrected for all races.

b. As the result of a rating protest, when the RRS rules dealing with decisions on measurement protests will apply, together with the rules applicable to the rating system.

c. At the discretion of CWL with the agreement of RORC or UNCL as appropriate.

4.6.3 Boats racing under YTC shall declare the YTC sail configuration with which they will compete by the above time.

4.7 Crew List

4.7.1 Prior to the start of the regatta, every boat shall provide CWL with an accurate completed Crew List using the online entry system on the Official Website.

4.7.2 Changes to crew information made during the regatta shall be notified to the Shorewatch person described in NoR 4.7.3.

4.7.3 Prior to racing, each entrant is required to supply CWL with details of a Shorewatch person who shall keep an accurate record of the crew members sailing on the boat on each day. This contact information will only be used in the event of an emergency and will not be held by CWL beyond one month after the conclusion of the regatta.

4.8 Entry Procedure

4.8.1 All entrants (except as detailed in NoR 4.8.4) should enter online at the Official Website.

4.8.2 Exceptionally, entries may be made in person or by telephone to the Regatta Office, where a member of staff will complete the entry on behalf of the entrant.

4.8.3 Some basic information about the entry will be viewable on the Official Website and can be edited by the entrant.

4.8.4 All Prometheus 41 entries in the Performance Cruiser Class will be completed by Prometheus.

4.9 Late Entries

Late entries will be accepted until 17:00 on the day prior to a race so long as they are accompanied by the full entry fee.

4.10 Entry Cancellation and Refunds

4.10.1 Cancellation by the entrant

If written cancellation of entry is received at the Regatta Office by 17:00 on Wednesday 8 July 2026, the whole fee less a £75 administration charge will be refunded. Thereafter, refunds will be made only in exceptional circumstances.

4.10.2 Cancellation by the Race Committee

In the event of one or more races being abandoned or cancelled, entry fees will not be refunded.

TABLE 1 : BLACK GROUP CLASSES

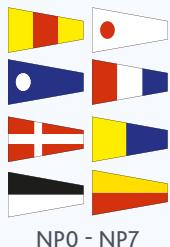
CLASS	FLAG	1A : RATED CLASSES : ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
IRC CLASSES 0 - 7	 NPO - NP7	<p>A1. Boats shall have a valid IRC rating with a TCC of between 0.750 and 1.399, and a hull length (LH) between 6.0 and 24.0m. CWL may grant dispensation to boats outside these limits at its sole discretion.</p> <p>A2. IRC class splits will be made according to entries received and will be confirmed by 17:00 on Sunday 26 July 2026. Draft class splits may be posted on the Official Website general forum approximately one week earlier in order to allow comment from competitors.</p> <p>A3. Boats shall display class numerals 0 - 7 as appropriate (see NoR 25.5).</p>
PERFORMANCE CRUISERS A - B	Pink (A)  Green (B) 	<p>B1. Boats shall have a valid RYA Aera YTC rating issued by RORC (this is free).</p> <p>B2. Performance Cruisers with a hull length between 6m and 18m are eligible. This class is for genuine cruiser/cruiser-racer boats. Boats considered to be performance racing boats are likely to be refused entry in this class and they should enter under IRC. The decision of CWL is final and not subject to appeal. CWL reserves the sole right to accept entries outside the size limits.</p> <p>B3. The class may be split into divisions depending on entry numbers. Performance Cruiser class splits will be made according to entries received and will be confirmed by 17:00 on Sunday 26 July 2026. Draft class splits may be posted on the Official Website general forum approximately one week earlier in order to allow comment from competitors.</p> <p>B4. Boats racing in the Performance Cruiser class will not be eligible for the overall Black Group Trophy.</p> <p>B5. Boats shall display class letters "A" or "B" as appropriate (See NoR 25.5).</p>
CLUB CRUISERS C - D (INCLUDING WEEKEND WARRIOR)	Blue (C)  White (D) 	<p>C1. Boats shall have a valid RYA Aera YTC rating issued by RORC (this is free).</p> <p>C2. Cruisers with a hull length between 8m and 12m are eligible. This class is for genuine cruising boats. Boats considered to be racing boats or performance cruisers should enter under the IRC class or Performance Cruiser class. The decision of CWL is final and not subject to appeal. CWL reserves the sole right to accept entries outside the size limits.</p> <p>C3. The class may be split into divisions depending on entry numbers. Club Cruiser class splits will be made according to entries received and will be confirmed by 17:00 on Sunday 26 July 2026. Draft class splits may be posted on the Official Website general forum approximately one week earlier in order to allow comment from competitors.</p> <p>C4. Boats racing in the Club Cruiser classes will not be eligible for the overall Black Group Trophy.</p> <p>C5. Boats shall display distinguishing letter "C" or "D" (see NoR 25.5).</p> <p>C6. Boats entering for the Weekend Warrior series will race as part of Club Cruiser C or D (as appropriate) from Saturday to Monday (see NoR 24.25).</p>
CLASS	FLAG	1B : ONE-DESIGN CLASSES : ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
CAPE 31	Class Flag 	D1. Boats shall comply with Cape 31 class rules.
CONTESSA 32	G 	E1. Boats shall comply with Contessa 32 class rules.
HP30	NN8 	F1. Boats shall comply with HP30 qualifying criteria and shall have a valid IRC rating. F2. Boats shall display distinguishing letter "H" (see NoR 25.5).
J/109	NN0 	G1. Boats shall comply with J/109 class rules. G2. The J/109 class association has modified the class crew limit for Cowes Week to 10 crew with no weight limit.
NATIONAL SONATA	NP8 	H1. Boats shall comply with the National Sonata class rules.
NORDIC FOLKBOAT	NN1 	J1. Boats shall comply with the Nordic Folkboat class rules. J2. Boats racing in the Nordic Folkboat class will not be eligible for the overall Black Group Trophy.
QUARTER TON	A 	K1. Boats shall comply with Quarter Ton class rules and shall have a valid IRC rating. K2. Boats shall display distinguishing letter "T" (see NoR 25.5).
SIGMA 33	NN7 	L1. Boats shall comply with Sigma 33 class rules.

TABLE 2 : WHITE GROUP CLASSES

CLASS	FLAG
DARING	O
DRAGON	D
ETCHELLS	E
FLYING FIFTEEN	NN6
J/70	J
REDWING	R
RS21	NN5
RS-ELITE	NN4
SB20	NN2
SEAVIEW MERMAID	NP9
SOLENT SUNBEAM	H
SONAR	T
SPORTSBOAT	NN3
SQUIB	NN9
SWALLOW	K
VICTORY	F
XOD	W

5 FEES

Entry fees are as set out in Table 3.

6 CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1 For boats racing in IRC-rated classes, IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the crew number shown on her certificate plus 2. There is no weight limit."

6.2 A boat racing in a one-design class shall comply with her class crew limitations, as modified by the class association for Cowes Week, if appropriate.

6.3 Accredited journalists, photographers or cameramen who are not regular crew members may join and/or leave a boat at any time and by any means so long as their doing so does not directly affect another competitor and they play no part in the racing of the boat. This changes RRS 48.2. These persons are not counted as "crew" for the purpose of paragraph 6.1 above.

7 ADVERTISING

7.1 Boats may carry advertising as allowed by the World Sailing advertising code unless their class rules further restrict the advertising that may be carried.

7.2 Boats intending to carry advertising must indicate this on their entry form, together with the names of companies and/or products to be advertised.

7.3 As permitted by the World Sailing advertising code, boats may be required to display official event sponsor advertising.

7.4 Boats may not carry or display advertising on the forward 20% of their hulls.

7.5 No more than 5 boats in a class listed in Tables 1 & 2, may carry advertising for the same organisation, person, product, service, brand or idea without the written permission of CWL. CWL reserves the right to refuse entry to any class of boat that contravenes this rule.

Any class considering accepting sponsorship that might be affected by this rule is advised to contact CWL as soon as possible.

8 NOT USED

9 SCHEDULE

9.1 Registration

9.1.1 All entrants or their representatives shall register in person at the Regatta Centre before the end of their protest time limit on the day of their first race.

9.1.2 Registration packs will be available for collection from the Regatta Office from 09:00 on Friday 31 July 2026.

9.2 Skippers' Briefing

There will be a skippers' briefing for all classes which will take place on Friday 31 July at 18:30, details of which will be in the Sailing Instructions.

It is strongly recommended that one or two people from each boat attend the briefing.

4.11 Sportsboat Class

4.11.1 Sportsboats that are not eligible for a one-design class should comply with NoR 1.3.2 and the following:

- A valid IRC rating of 1.150 or less.
- A maximum length (LH) of 8.55 metres.
- A displacement ratio (DLR), as shown on her IRC certificate, of 160 or less.

4.11.2 Boats outside these limits may be accepted at the sole discretion of CWL.

4.11.3 The Sportsboat Class will race in White Group.

TABLE 3 : ENTRY FEES

CLASSES		'Super Early Bird' discounted entry fee for entries and fees PAID on or before Friday 6 March 2026		'Early Bird' discounted entry fee for entries and fees PAID on or before Sunday 3 May 2026		Standard entry fee for entries and fees PAID on or before Sunday 19 July 2026		Late entry fee for entries and fees PAID from Monday 20 July 2026	
		Whole Regatta	Daily Entry	Whole Regatta	Daily Entry	Whole Regatta	Daily Entry	Whole Regatta	Daily Entry
WHITE GROUP	Flying Fifteen, Squib	£326	£82	£342	£86	£378	£94	£429	£107
	Redwing, Seaview Mermaid, Solent Sunbeam, Sonar, Swallow, Victory, XOD	£398	£100	£414	£104	£455	£114	£517	£129
	Dragon, RS21, RS Elite, SB20	£466	£117	£486	£122	£538	£135	£611	£153
	Daring, Etchells, J/70, Sportsboat	£486	£122	£516	£129	£564	£141	£640	£160
BLACK GROUP	Less than 7m LOA	£445	£111	£471	£118	£509	£127	£578	£145
	7m - under 8m LOA	£478	£120	£505	£126	£546	£137	£620	£155
	8m - under 9m LOA	£514	£129	£543	£136	£587	£147	£666	£167
	9m - under 10m LOA	£661	£165	£698	£175	£755	£189	£857	£214
	10m - under 11m LOA	£733	£183	£775	£194	£838	£210	£951	£238
	11m - under 12m LOA	£802	£201	£847	£212	£916	£229	£1,040	£260
	12m - under 13m LOA	£856	£214	£912	£228	£986	£247	£1,119	£280
	13m - under 14m LOA	£1,033	£258	£1,092	£273	£1,180	£295	£1,339	£335
	14m - under 15m LOA	£1,088	£272	£1,150	£288	£1,243	£311	£1,411	£353
	15m - under 16m LOA	£1,137	£284	£1,202	£301	£1,299	£325	£1,474	£369
	16m and above LOA	£1,188	£297	£1,256	£314	£1,358	£340	£1,541	£385
	Weekend Warrior Series under 10m LOA	£260	-	£260	-	£260	-	£260	-
	Weekend Warrior Series 10m and above LOA	£310	-	£310	-	£310	-	£310	-
	Cape 31	£793	-	£838	-	£906	-	£1028	-

Fees shown above are for all methods of payment.

9.3 Race Schedule

9.3.1 It is intended that all classes, as detailed in Tables 1 & 2, will have one race scheduled per day from Saturday 1 August to Friday 7 August, except as follows:

- a. The Nordic Folkboat class will have a mini-series from Saturday to Monday with up to two races scheduled per day. Boats entering to race on later days will be included in the appropriate IRC or Cruiser class on those days.
- b. The National Sonata class will have two series. The first is from Saturday to Tuesday with two races scheduled per day. The second series is for the whole week from Saturday to Friday, comprising the racing from Saturday to Tuesday (scored in accordance with NoR 15.2.e) plus one race per day Wednesday to Friday.
- c. The J/70 class will have two series. The first is from Saturday to Tuesday with three races scheduled per day. The second series is for the whole week from Saturday to Friday, comprising the racing from Saturday to Tuesday (scored in accordance with NoR 15.2.e) plus one race per day Wednesday to Friday.
- d. The RS21 class will have two series. The first, the RS21 mini-series, is from Saturday to Monday with three races scheduled per day. The second series is for the whole week from Saturday to Friday, comprising the racing from Saturday to Monday (scored in accordance with NoR 15.2.e) plus one race per day Tuesday to Friday.
- e. The SB20 class will have two series. The first, the SB20 Grand Slam, is from Saturday to Tuesday with three races scheduled per day. The second series is for the whole week from Saturday to Friday, comprising the racing from Saturday to Tuesday (scored in accordance with NoR 15.2.e) plus one race per day Wednesday to Friday.
Note: the Class is considering the use of the Vakaros RaceSense System for the Grand Slam series. The decision will be advised when known.
- f. The Swallow class will race from Sunday to Friday with a total of 9 races, scheduled as two races per day on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday and one race a day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Friday's race may be followed by a passage race to Itchenor, not forming part of the Regatta.
- g. The Cape 31 class will have two series. The first, the Cape 31 mini-series, is from Sunday to Tuesday with three races scheduled per day. The second series is for the whole week from Saturday to Friday, comprising the racing from Sunday to Tuesday (scored in accordance with NoR 15.2e) plus one race per day on Saturday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

9.3.2 Any class listed in Tables 1B and 2 may make an official request to CWL for extra races to be scheduled for that class during the regatta. Any such request must be received not less than four weeks before the start of the regatta. If agreed by CWL, the schedule for each class will be published at least one week before the start of the regatta, in accordance with the Sailing Instructions.

9.3.3 The first Start Time each day will not be before 10:00. Details will be in the Start Times Supplement to the SIs.

10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1 Officials from the Race Committee may inspect boats at any time during the regatta.
- 10.2 A boat that is found to be in contravention of the safety regulations or class rules or fails to comply with any reasonable request of an official scrutineer may be protested by 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 NOT USED

12 VENUE

- 12.1 The regatta will take place in the Solent and adjacent waters.

13 COURSES

- 13.1 White Group courses will be located in the central Solent.
- 13.2 Black Group courses will be located in the Solent and its approaches (approximately Anvil Point to Nab Tower).
- 13.3 Full lists of marks will be included in the Sailing Instructions and will be available for download from the Official Website.
- 13.4 It is intended that all boats will be issued with a chartlet of the racing area, together with the marks to be used. The chartlet will be diagrammatic only and should not be used for navigation.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 Alternative penalties (in the form of a scoring penalty) will apply to infringements of RRS 31 and Part 2 for all classes, with any exceptions detailed in the SIs. A yellow flag will be required.
- 14.2 The penalty for a breach of a rule, other than a rule of Parts 1 & 2 of the RRS may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification.

15 SCORING

15.1 Individual Class Overall points series

- 15.1.1 Overall points series will be run for each class listed in Tables 1 & 2. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.1.2 Scoring and abbreviations will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A except that:
 - a. RRS A5.3 will apply for all classes
 - b. For rated classes in the Black Group (Table 1A) when five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. When four or fewer races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - c. For White Group (Table 2) and other Black Group classes (Table 1B) the races to count for a boat's series score will be determined by CWL in conjunction with the relevant class associations and will be detailed in the SIs. Class associations wishing to request specific scoring should apply in writing to the Race Committee.

- d. For the Sunbeam class, rule A5.2 is changed so that a boat that did not come to the starting area, did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that started.

Trophies awarded by individual class associations may use a different system of races and discards as may be determined by the class.

15.2 Black and White Group cross-class points series

For all trophies that require scoring across more than one class, scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A except that:

- a. Races that are abandoned will be scored in accordance with RRS A9(a) for the boat in question.
- b. Boats that have entered fewer than five races will not be eligible for the series.
- c. A boat's series score will be the total of her seven race scores excluding her worst score and multiplied by a Class Weighting Factor (to recognise the added difficulty of achieving a particular position in a larger fleet).
- d. The Class Weighting Factor for each boat will be: 10 divided by the square root of $(N+17)$, where N is defined as the number of boats in her class entered for at least five races (as at 18:00 on Friday 31 July).
- e. When more than one race is completed on a day, a boat's score for that day will be the average of the individual race scores.

15.3 Additional results listings

- 15.3.1 Performance 40 boats racing in IRC will have a mini-series from Saturday to Tuesday, scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A (where rule A5.3 will apply) using results extracted from the relevant IRC class.
- 15.3.2 Other one-designs and/or specific types of boat racing within the rated classes may be given additional daily results listings and overall points series (but normally not CWL prizes) at the discretion of CWL. Class associations wishing to request this option should apply in writing to the Race Committee.

16-20 NOT USED

21 DATA PROTECTION

- 21.1 Cowes Week is a registered trademark of Cowes Week Limited, and the logos, burgeses and other brand identifiers of Cowes Week Limited and Cowes Combined Clubs Limited shall not be used without prior written permission.

21.2 Use of Event-related still images and footage by CWL

CWL and, as authorised by CWL, its agents, sponsors, licensees and other partners may use event-related still images and footage taken at any time, which may include images of competitors, their boats, support vessels, crew and sponsors, provided that CWL shall not use such images to create a direct endorsement by or from a competitor or any person, sponsor,

product or service associated with a competitor, without the prior consent of the competitor. CWL reserves the right to make alterations to images and footage to include the addition of "virtual" official sponsor branding.

21.3 Privacy Statement

- 21.3.1 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 RRS and the other rules that govern the event (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.
- 21.3.2 Competitor personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the OA's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with your National Authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 21.3.3 Competitors' contact details may be given to other competitors with a valid need (eg. parties to a protest) or to any relevant Harbour Authority requiring such information.

22 RISK STATEMENT

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 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 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 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 briefings held for the event.
- h. They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to face all weather conditions that might be experienced during the event, that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

23 INSURANCE

The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims including cover for racing in the sum of at least £5,000,000 sterling (or near equivalent in foreign currency). By entering, entrants declare that such cover will be maintained in full force throughout the regatta and agree to allow CWL, at its discretion, to pass on their contact details to other competitors with a valid need or to third party insurers in the event of a possible insurance claim.

24 PRIZES

24.1 **Daily prizes** will be awarded to the first three boats in all classes listed in Tables 1 & 2. Where a class has more than one race in a day, a prize will be awarded to the three boats with the lowest aggregate score in the overall day's racing, with ties resolved in accordance with RRS Appendix A. Any daily prizes not collected by 17:00 on the Friday four weeks after the regatta may be disposed of by CWL as it sees fit.

24.2 **Daily perpetual trophies** will be awarded by the member clubs of Cowes Combined Clubs and by class associations, in accordance with the trophy list for each day as detailed in the Official Programme.

24.3 **Overall class trophies** will be awarded to the first three boats in each of the Individual Overall Class points series described in NoR 15.1.

24.4 Bicentenary Gold Cup

To mark the 200th anniversary of the first Cowes Week Regatta in 1826, a Bicentenary Gold Cup will be awarded. Eligibility and scoring details will be advised later.

24.5 Overall Black Group Trophy

The Overall Black Group Trophy and the King George V International Cup will be awarded to the overall winner of Black Group. To be eligible, boats must have won a class that is included in Table 1 (excluding the Nordic Folkboat, Performance Cruiser and Club Cruiser classes, which are not eligible for the Overall Black Group trophy), for which at least five valid races were completed and in which there were a minimum of ten boats entered for five or more races as at 18:00 on Friday 31 July 2026. Scoring will be as described in NoR 15.2.

24.6 Overall White Group Trophy

The Overall White Group Trophy and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Cup will be awarded to the overall winner of White Group. To be eligible, boats must have won a class that is included in Table 2, for which at least five valid races were completed and in which there were a minimum of ten boats entered for five or more races as at 18:00 on Friday 31 July 2026. Scoring will be as described in NoR 15.2.

24.7 The Cowes Week Overall Winner Trophy

will be awarded to the Overall Black or White Group Trophy winner with the lowest points score in accordance with NoR 15.2.

24.8 **The Musto Young Skipper's Trophy** will be awarded to the top skipper in any Black or White Group class who is under 25 years on Saturday 1 August 2026. The skipper must have registered prior to the first race sailed. Scoring will be as described in NoR 15.2.

24.9 **The Under 25 Trophy** will be awarded to the best performing boat in any Black or White Group class whose crew are all under 25 years on Saturday 1 August 2026. Boats must have registered prior to the first race sailed. Scoring will be as described in NoR 15.2.

24.10 **The Youth Trophy** will be awarded at the discretion of CWL to a young sailor (under 25yrs) in recognition of outstanding commitment and achievement in sailing in the past year.

24.11 **The Nautor's Swan Trophy** will be awarded to the top Nautor Swan sailing in IRC classes 0-7, using average corrected speed calculated using IRC ratings in each day's racing in the regatta and using the same points system as for individual classes.

24.12 **The Edmund Whelan Celebration Trophy** will be awarded to the top performing bona fide skippered sailing school or charter company boat (not bare boat) racing under IRC, using average corrected speed calculated using IRC ratings in each day's racing in the regatta, and using the same points system as for individual classes.

24.13 **The Ariel Trophy for Best Female Helm** will be awarded to the Black or White Group boat with the best result on Women's Day, Tuesday 4 August 2026, with a female helm. Entrants should ensure that their intention to compete for this trophy is included in the entry details, either on initial entry or by registering at the Regatta Office before 18:00 on Monday 3 August. In the event of a tie, the boat racing in the class with the largest number of finishers will win. If there is still a tie, the trophy will be shared.

24.14 **The Mermaid Trophy for Best Female Crew** will be awarded to the Black or White Group boat with the best result on Women's Day, Tuesday 4 August, with an all-female crew. Entrants should ensure that their intention to compete for this trophy is included in the entry details, either on initial entry or by registering at the Regatta Office before 18:00 on Monday 3 August. In the event of a tie, the boat racing in the class with the largest number of finishers will win. If there is still a tie, the trophy will be shared.

24.15 **The Equal Seas Trophy** will be awarded to the best performing boat in any Black or White Group class on which 30% to 70% of the crew are female.

24.16 **The Sailing Today Cruiser Trophy** will be awarded to the overall winner of the Performance Cruiser classes. Scoring will be as described in NoR 15.2.

24.17 **The Bridgestone Tyres Trophy** will be awarded to the overall winner of the J/109 class.

24.18 **The Britannia Salver** will be awarded at the discretion of CWL to a person, boat or organisation that has, in the opinion of CWL, performed an act of outstanding seamanship, sportsmanship or benefit to the regatta.

24.19 The Westmacott Trophy will be awarded to the boat with the best overall performance in one of the four classes designed by Alfred Westmacott (Seaview Mermaid, Solent Sunbeam, Victory and XOD).

24.20 The Commodores' Challenge Trophy is open to challenges from any boat in an IRC class owned or sailed by a present or past commodore of a yacht club in Britain or the USA. Full details can be obtained from CWL.

24.21 The Newcomers Trophy will be awarded to the most successful entrant in either Black or White Group who has not sailed at Cowes Week before, as decided by CWL.

24.22 The Mount Gay Club Cruiser Trophy will be awarded to the highest overall placed cruising boat within the Club Cruiser Classes.

24.23 The Red Funnel Sustainability Trophy will be awarded to the boat sailing the most carbon-free miles during Cowes Week.

24.24 Solent Team Trophy

The Solent Team Trophy will be awarded to the best performing team of three boats nominated by any National Authority or Club recognised by a World Sailing National Authority or a National Authority, as follows:

- a. Each Club or National Authority may nominate one team.
- b. Boats may race for only one team.
- c. Boats may be from any Black or White Group class and must not contain more than one boat from a class but must include at least one boat from each of Black and White groups.
- d. Each boat's score will be calculated in accordance with NoR 15.2.
- e. The winner will be the team with the lowest aggregate score.

24.25 Weekend Warrior Trophy

The Weekend Warrior Trophy will be awarded to the best performing Weekend Warrior Club Cruiser in the three races from Saturday to Monday. Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A, except that:

- a. Races that are abandoned will be scored in accordance with RRS A9 (a) for the boat in question.
- b. Only boats that entered as a Weekend Warrior Club Cruiser for the three races from Saturday to Monday will be eligible for the series. Club Cruisers racing for the whole week are not eligible for this trophy. Weekend Warrior Club Cruisers will not be eligible for the Club Cruiser Overall Series.
- c. A boat's series score will be the total of her three race scores multiplied by a Class Weighting Factor. The Class Weighting Factor for each boat will be: 10 divided by the square root of $(N+17)$, where N is defined as the number of boats in her class entered for the three races from Saturday to Monday (as at 1800 on Friday 31 July).

25 BOAT IDENTIFICATION

25.1 It is the responsibility of each boat to provide its own class flags, number dodgers and class-distinguishing numerals or letters as described below.

Advice on where it is possible to purchase these items can be given by CWL on request.

25.2 Class flags

25.2.1 Class flags as shown in Tables 1 and 2 shall be displayed by all Black and White Group boats unless specific dispensation has been given in writing by CWL.

25.2.2 Class flags shall be of the following minimum sizes:

- a. For White Group boats 200mm x 150mm.
- b. For Black Group boats: 300mm x 230mm for rectangular flags; 610mm x 150mm for numeral pennants.

25.2.3 Class flags shall be flown from the backstay, or if no backstay is fitted, from the leech of the mainsail, between 1.5 - 2.5m of the deck or clew as appropriate.

25.3 Sail numbers

All boats must comply with RRS Appendix G1.2 so that the letters and numbers identifying the boat shall be clearly legible when the sail is set.

25.4 Sail number dodgers

25.4.1 As well as sail numbers described in NoR 25.3 all Black Group boats are required to display a sail number dodger on their approach to the finish and for at least two minutes after finishing.

25.4.2 The numerals and suffix letters shall be at least 375mm high for boats of 8.5m or greater hull length (LH), and at least 300mm high for boats less than 8.5m LH. The dodger does not need to include national letters.

25.4.3 Alternatively, equivalent sized sail numbers with suffix letters may be displayed on both sides of the hull, with the top edge of the numbers not more than 200mm below local deck level, in such a way and in suitable colour(s) as to be visible to the Race Committee.

25.5 Class numerals / letters

25.5.1 IRC 0-7 and some other classes are additionally required to display class-distinguishing numerals or letters. See Table 1.

25.5.2 The numerals/letters shall be displayed in both the port and starboard lifelines forward of the mast, so as to be clearly visible by the race committee at all times. Each letter or numeral shall be black or dark blue on a white background and shall be at least 300mm high (available from CWL).

25.5.3 Alternatively, equivalent sized class-distinguishing numerals or letters may be displayed on both sides of the hull, forward of the shrouds, with the top edge of the numbers not more than 200mm below local deck level, in such a way and in suitable colour(s) as to be visible to the Race Committee at all times while racing.