

**MEDWAY YACHT CLUB**  
**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**2026 CRUISER SPRING SERIES**  
**12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May**



**1.0 RULES**

- 1.1 Racing shall be conducted in accordance with the RYA Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-28 (RRS).
- 1.2 The Prescriptions of the RYA are applicable.
- 1.3 The following documentation shall apply:
  - i. RYA Racing Charter
  - ii. Notice of Race (NOR)
  - iii. Bye Laws and Directives issued by the Local Port Authority
  - iv. MYC 2025 Cruiser Class Minimum Equipment List (MEL) and 2025 One Design MEL
- 1.4 All IRC yachts must comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B.

**2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the MYC Spring Series 2026 WhatsApp Group. Entrants will be added to this group.
- 2.2 Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on The WhatsApp Group.
- 2.3 Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on The WhatsApp Group before 14:00 on the day before the race affected.

**3.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES & CLASSES**

- 3.1 Dates of racing: As above.
- 3.2 The entries will be allocated by the organising authority between classes denoted as Divisions 1 & 2 and published on the MYC website not less than twenty-four hours before the first race in the series.
- 3.3 Separate results will be published under YTC and IRC handicaps classes 1&2.
- 3.4 There will be one race a day for each of the classes.
- 3.5 Boats will fly the numeral pennant (pennant 1 or pennant 2) of their class from the backstay or equivalent rigging while racing.

**4.0 COURSES**

- 4.1 The race area is the River Medway and Thames Estuary.
- 4.2 The courses will be notified to competitors using the WhatsApp group prior to the warning signal for each race except for race 1.
- 4.3 The race committee may in addition broadcast the course and other race management information by VHF, on channel 72 and the WhatsApp Group.
- 4.4 No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.
- 4.5 All courses where passage is made beyond Stangate Creek vessels shall pass Z2 and South Kent Buoys on the southern side of the Buoy.
- 4.6 All marks are passing marks unless specifically identified as a rounding mark.
- 4.7 Marks are listed in the appendix to these Sailing Instructions.

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**5.0 THE START**

- 5.1 Races will be started from a committee boat line down-river from MYC.
- 5.2 Boats shall signal their intention to race by notifying the number of crew on the WhatsApp group prior to the warning signal.
- 5.3 Class 1 warning signal will be at 09:55 and the warning system of subsequent classes will follow at 5 minutes intervals provided the start of racing is not postponed.
- 5.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 5.5 Any changes will be broadcast by the Race Committee via The WhatsApp Group and may be by VHF channel 72 before the warning signal of the first start.
- 5.6 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 5.7 Boats not racing (as defined by RRS) shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.
- 5.8 In the event of an individual recall, the sail number of the boat or boats judged OCS may be transmitted by the Race Committee on VHF 72 or via The WhatsApp Group at least one minute after the start. Failure to receive such a message shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 29.1.

**6.0 OBSTRUCTIONS**

- 6.1 This series is held on a navigable river and large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws shall apply to ships or vessels using jetties, piers, berths, moorings etc.
- 6.2 Vessels must abide by the exclusion zones around the gas terminal which are deemed to be obstructions.
- 6.3 Boats shall not sail between Folly Beacon and Hoo Island; nor between Darnett Beacon and Darnett Ness; nor between the yellow sewer outfall buoy off Garrison Point and the Kent shore; nor cross Bishop Marsh which lies between Darnett Ness and Bishop Ness.
- 6.4 Vessels on moorings or at anchor are deemed to be obstructions for the purposes of RRS. Any reasonable means of propulsion including the use of an engine, may be used by a boat to get clear of a moored or anchored vessel, provided the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear, and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- 6.5 If a boat or its crew make contact with a moored or anchored boat, she shall declare the contact when signing off at the end of the race and accept a 20% Scoring Penalty pursuant to RRS 44.3(c). If a boat causes injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire. A boat deemed to have contravened this instruction will be subject to protest and liable to be scored DNE. A mooring or anchor line or chain or an object accidentally attached to a moored or anchored vessel is not part of it.
- 6.6 Boats shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.

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**7.0 FINISHING**

- 7.1 Boat retirements must be notified to the Race Committee via the WhatsApp Group at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2 The finish shall be the Upnor Line as defined as the transit from the race box located immediately upriver from MYC.
- 7.3 If boats are requested to self-finish, the boat name and its finishing time should be communicated by the WhatsApp Group as soon as possible. The finishing time should be recorded preferably by a screenshot.
- 7.4 The time limit for finishing the race will be 17:00 but the Race Committee will make every effort to set courses that can be finished in that time by the fleet and to shorten the course if tide and wind conditions make finishing in time impossible.

**8.0 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 8.1 Protest forms are available at the MYC Club House. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be advised on The MYC Spring Series 2025 WhatsApp group and delivered to the Class Captain in the Club House within the appropriate time limit.
- 8.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later.
- 8.3 Notices will be posted on The WhatsApp Group no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Protest hearings will be held in the MYC Library.
- 8.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 8.5 The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

**9.0 RESULTS AND SCORING**

- 9.1 The provisional results for each race will be calculated as soon as possible after the last boat finishes and are planned to be available in the MYC club house. The provisional results will also be uploaded to the Club Results page. A message to The WhatsApp Group will advise as soon as they have been uploaded.
- 9.2 A boat that does not come to the start a race shall score for that race one more than the number of boats in the class entered in the series. A boat that came to the start of a race but did not finish for some reason will score one more than the number of boats in the class that finish that race. This changes RRS A5.

**10.0 EQUIPMENT**

- 10.1 Boats wishing to use a sail that does not bear the boat's registration number, and which must not duplicate the number of another boat racing, must obtain prior approval from the Race Committee.
- 10.2 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time, before or after a race, by a Race Committee member to ensure compliance with any relevant class rules, sailing instructions or MYC Minimum Equipment List 2025.

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10.3 Boats may use electrically or hydraulically powered winches to adjust standing and running rigging. This changes RRS 52.

### 11.0 RISK STATEMENT

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."

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

- 11.1 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,
- 11.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore and that they are familiar with procedures for the recovery of persons overboard.
- 11.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions,
- 11.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate,
- 11.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any, and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities,
- 11.6 They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in 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.

### 12.0 INSURANCE

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

### Appendix MYC RACING MARKS

Designation	Name	Description	Approximate Position		Number in List
34		R. Can	51:23.14N	0:30.86E	1
32		R. Can	51:24.66N	0:32.15E	2
31		G. Conical	51:24.56N	0:33.05E	3
30A		R. Can	51:24.48N	0:33.00E	4
30		R. Can	51:24.08N	0:33.45E	5

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29		G. Conical	51:24.00N 0:33.75E	6
28		R. Can	51:23.88N 0:34.08E	7
27		G. Conical	51:23.91N 0:34.71E	
26		R. Can	51:23.84N 0:34.76E	9
25	Folly	G. Conical	51:24.09N 0:35.25E	10
24		R. Can	51:24.04N 0:35.37E	11
23	Darnet	G. Conical	51:24.60N 0:35.66E	12
MYA 1		Y. Barrel	51:24.66N 0:35.79E	13
22		R. Can	51:24.51N 0:36.09E	14
20		R. Can	51:24.52N 0:36.92E	15
19		G. Conical	51:24.63N 0:36.91E	16
Autumn		Y. Barrel	51:24.71N 0:36.91E	17
18		R. Can	51:24.48N 0:37.90E	18
17		G. Conical	51:24.60N 0:37.90E	19
MYC 4		Y. Barrel	51:24.76N 0:37.93E	20
16	Bishop	R. Can	51:24.71N 0:38.78E	21
B.Ooze		Y. Barrel	51:24.14N 0:38.79E	22
Otterham Fairway		R&W Pillar	51:23.78N 0:38.26E	23
15		G. Conical	51:24.75N 0:38.44E	24
W. Bulwark		R. Can	51:25.38N 0:39.10E	25
E. Bulwark		G. Conical	51:25.39N 0:39.25E	26
14		R. Can	51:25.43N 0:39.63E	27
13	Stoke	G. Conical	51:25.76N 0:39.84E	28
12		R. Can	51:25.76N 0:40.20E	29
Z2		N. Cardinal	51:25.65N 0:41.63E	30
Stangate Spit		E. Cardinal	51:25.41N 0:41.55E	31
South Kent		R. Can	51:25.98N 0:43.66E	32

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Designation	Name	Description	Approximate Position	Number in List
Queenborough Spit		BYB Pillar	51:25.82N 0:43.94E	33
Grain Hard		G. Conical	51:26.90N 0:44.18E	34
Grain Edge		G. Conical	51:27.63N 0:45.49E	35
11		G. Conical	51:27.51N 0:45.80E	36
Nore Swatch		R. Can	51:28.30N 0:45.50E	37
Mid Swatch		G. Conical	51:28.68N 0:44.18E	38
W Nore Sand		R. Can	51:29.48N 0:40.87E	39
Sea Reach 5 South		R Can	51:29.85N 0:41.43E	40
Sea Reach 4 South		R Can	51:29.50N 0:44.12E	41
W Shoebury		G. Conical	51:30.24N 0:45.74E	42
Sea Reach 3 South		R Can	51:29.22N 0:46.71E	43
Sea Reach 2 South		R Can	51:29.49N 0:49.73E	44
West Cant		R. Can	51:27.21N 0:45.50E	45
10A		Y. Can	51:27.57N 0:46.92E	46
8A		Y. Can	51:27.71N 0:47.70E	47
6A		Y. Can	51:27.88N 0:48.58E	48
4A		Y. Can	51:28.01N 0:49.42E	49
2A		Y. Can	51:28.23N 0:50.52E	50
Medway		R&W Pillar	51:28.83N 0:52.82E	51
Mid Cant		BY Beacon	51:26.85N 0:49.78E	52

Please note that the positions listed are approximate and should be checked against an up-to-date large-scale chart.  
 Misprints of positions or descriptions shall not be grounds for redress.

**MYC February 2026.**