Somerton Yacht Club
Sailing Instructions
2026-2027

These Sailing Instructions will apply for events conducted at Somerton Yacht Club.

1. RULES

1.1. The organising authority is the sailing committee of the Somerton Yacht Club.
1.2. All races will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing.
1.3. The relevant class rules of measurement shall apply to boats sailing in races at Somerton Yacht Club

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located adjacent the canteen.

3. ALTERATIONS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Will be displayed in writing on the course information board not less than 60 minutes before a start. Attention will be drawn to alterations by displaying the code flag 'L' from the club accompanied by a sound signal.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore shall be displayed on the flagpole in the club yard.

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5.1. Races to be sailed at Somerton Yacht Club are shown in the current sailing program, which available on the club website or a printed version can be made available by the Rear Commodore Sailing.
5.2. Classes to be started, the sequence of starts and the time of the warning signal for each start will be posted on the course notice board at least 60 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first race on each course.
5.3. The warning signal for the first start will normally be signalled at 1355 hours, unless published otherwise through the sailing program, or at least 1 week prior on the notice board and / or club website.
5.4. Boats not shown as having a class start will sail in the “Visitor” fleet, unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Race Officer.

6. RACE NOMINATION

6.1. An entry nomination shall be submitted for racing on each day. It is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that his or her yacht has been correctly nominated. The completed nomination form together with the current race entry fee (except for bulk nominations) shall be presented to the nomination's officer prior to the warning signal for their class. The race committee may disqualify any yacht not complying with this instruction.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1. The class flag(s) will be described on the course notice board.

8. RACING AREA

8.1. Racing will be conducted on the waters of Gulf St Vincent in the vicinity of the Somerton Yacht Club.

9. THE COURSES

9.1. The course diagrams will be posted on the course notice board at least 60 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first race on each course.
9.2. The course diagram will be drawn as port hand to show the layout of the course and the order in which marks shall be passed. A red or green flag to indicate the direction of racing shall be flown from the committee boat. A red flag will indicate a port hand course, or a green flag will indicate a starboard hand course is set.
9.3. The course length will be at the discretion of the Race Officer however, the approximate time for a race will be 90 minutes (45 minutes for back-to-back racing).

10. **MARKS**

10.1. Marks will be large orange or red cone shaped buoys.
10.2. The port end starting mark will be a black and yellow cone shaped buoy.
10.3. The finishing mark will be a black and yellow cone shaped buoy.

11. **THE START**

11.1. Races will be started by using rule 26.
11.2. The starting line will be between the starting sequence flags displayed on the committee boat at the starboard end and the cone shaped black and yellow buoy at the port end.
11.3. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
11.4. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes rule A4.
11.5. A distance or barging buoy flying a small white pennant may be trailed from the committee boat and competitors when starting shall leave this buoy to starboard and it shall be considered a mark on the course

12. RECALLS

12.1. When a general recall is signalled the recalled class / division shall then accept the start signal for the last scheduled event as its preparatory signal.
12.2. In the event of more than one class being recalled they shall re-start in the sequence as set out initially.

13. SHORTENING OR ABANDONING AFTER THE START

13.1. Races will be shortened or abandoned using rule 32.

14. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

14.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark or move the finishing line and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. Appropriate flags and signalling shall be as per rule 33.

15. FINISH LINE

15.1. Depending on weather conditions, the finish line may be set either in front of the clubhouse or offset from the leeward mark to provide a reaching finish.
15.2. When the finish is to be in front of the club, the finish line will be between the centre of the Club Bridge, and a cone shaped black and yellow buoy. The finishing yacht shall pass between the buoy and the Club Bridge.
15.3. A reaching finish line will be between the cone shaped black and yellow buoy at the port end and at the committee boat flying a blue flag at the starboard end.
15.4. If the committee boat cannot remain on station, a second cone shaped black and yellow buoy will be set. The finishing yachts shall pass between the cone shaped black and yellow buoys. Finishing times will be taken from the bridge or another appointed committee boat not displaying any flags nearby.

16. PENALTY SYSTEM

16.1. Rules 44.1 and 44.2 will apply, however any requirement to take a Two-Turns Penalty will be replaced with the requirement to take a One-Turn Penalty.

17. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

17.1. The time limit for a race is 120 minutes (or 60 minutes for back-to-back racing)
17.2. The target time for a race is 90 minutes (or 45 minutes for back-to-back racing)
17.3. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).
17.4. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes (or 15 minutes for back-to-back racing) after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored 'Did Not Finish' without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

18. SCORING

18.1. Points will be awarded to a boat / helm combination.
18.2. Appendix A4 Low Point System shall be used for each class/division, with the following variation: Appendix A4.1, Low Points System will be used for each class / division then A9 for penalty places.
18.3. The number of Club Championship heats and discards for Club Championship points, along with the number of points score races to be sailed, shall be indicated in the current sailing program, which available on the club

website before the commencement of the first day of the sailing season or a printed version can be made available by the Rear Commodore Sailing.

18.4. A yacht that does not rank as a starter shall receive points for a finishing place equal to the number of yachts that entered the series, plus one. All other yachts, including a yacht that finishes and thereafter retires or is disqualified, shall score points for a finishing place one more than the number of yachts which started the heat.

18.5. For a boat to qualify for the Club Championship Series, it must compete in no less than three club heats.

18.6. For a class to contend a class championship it shall have at least three boats that have qualified for the Club Championship Series (refer 18.5).

19. RETIREMENT SHEETS

19.1. There shall be a retirement form provided at the nomination point. The helm of a boat that nominated and does not start (DNS) or fails to finish the course in the prescribed manner (RET) or retires after finishing (RAF) shall fill in the retirement sheet within 30 minutes of the finish of the last boat in the last race on the day. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the helm / boat combination being awarded a DNE (do not discard) for that race.

20. PROTESTS

20.1. Protests shall be in writing and lodged with the Race Committee within 60 minutes of the finishing time of the last boat in the last race on the day.

20.2. Protests will be held as soon as practical following the race, and no later than the following Friday evening unless otherwise notified.

21. RACE HEADQUARTERS

21.1. Somerton Yacht Club - course information board is located on the ground floor.

22. SUPPORT BOATS

22.1. Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

22.2. In case of emergency, the Race Officer may request the assistance of a support boat.

23. **LIABILITY**

23.1. All those taking part in races conducted by the Somerton Yacht club do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Somerton Yacht Club is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment. The Somerton Yacht Club reserves the right to refuse any entry. Attention is drawn to RRS rule 4.

23.2. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

24. DECISION TO RACE

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

24.2. Somerton Yacht club reserves the right to not race or abandon sailing when wind strength is greater than 22 knots for any period of time on a race day.

25. JUNIORS

25.1. All races shall be abandoned for junior skippers when wind speed exceeds 20 knots.

26. SAFETY COMPLIANCE

26.1. All yachts shall comply, with the safety prescriptions of the Australian Sailing. Each skipper and crew member shall wear, in the designated manner whilst racing, an adequate lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD) as per AS special regulations Part 2 for OFF THE BEACH BOATS.