



Photoboot | Georgie Altham



NOTICE OF RACE

Women's Open Keelboat Championship
Incorporating Women's British Keelboat League

Supported by OneSails GBR

31st May – 1st June 2025

Organising Authority: Royal Southern Yacht Club

Sponsors: OneSails (Development Partner), Rooster (Technical Clothing Partner), Harken

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule.

The notation '[WOKC]' in a rule means that the rule applies to the fleet racing group only.

The notation '[BKL]' in a rule means that the rule applies to the league racing group only.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. [BKL] This qualifying event forms part of the British Keelboat League Series 2025. The competition is open to Teams or Clubs to compete in qualifying events for invitation to the Series Final.
- 1.3. [NP] Boats shall comply with Southampton & Portsmouth Harbour byelaws where applicable. In particular, notice is drawn to ABP Southampton Notice to Mariners No 06 of 2024.
- 1.4. [NP] Competitors should note that the Organising Authority implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it.
- 1.5. [WOKC] IRC Rules parts A, B, and C applies to all boats in IRC classes.
- 1.6. [NP][WOKC] IRC boats shall comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Category 4 races. A boat unable to comply in all respects with those requirements may seek a dispensation in writing from the Organising Authority.
- 1.7. In the event of a conflict between documents, the Sailing Instructions will prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.8. [BKL] The league racing will be umpired using RRS Appendix UF. See Attachment UF (published as a separate document) for details and Rule changes.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions will be made available online before the event, and will be found on the Official Noticeboard. Separate Sailing Instructions will be published for the fleet and league racing groups.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The Official Noticeboard can be found online on the event webpage: <https://scm.royal-southern.co.uk/event/wokc-2025>
- 3.2. [NP][DP][WOKC] Boats shall carry a functioning VHF radio capable of communicating on all the usual UK marine channels, including M1 (37A) and M2 (P4).
- 3.3. [NP][DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4. [NP] Between races, boats may communicate with a coach appointed by the Organising Authority.

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4. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

4.1.

Group	Eligibility
Fleet racing	Any IRC boat with a TCC of between 0.88 and 1.15 inclusive where all crew are female. It is the intention to split entrants into two IRC classes based on TCC.
League racing	Any team of 4 or 5 where all crew are female.

4.2. Entries shall be made online via the event webpage.

4.3. The entry deadline is 23:59 on Wednesday 28th May 2025. Entries may be accepted after this time at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

5. FEES

5.1. Entry fees are as follows:

Group	Early entry	Standard entry	Late entry
Fleet racing	£150	£170	£190
League racing	£450	£500	£550

5.2. Early entry fees apply until 23:59 on Sunday 30th March 2025.

5.3. Late entry fees apply after the entry deadline.

5.4. All fees must be paid to validate an entry.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1. [NP] All crew shall be female.

6.2. [NP][WOKC] IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew while racing shall be the Crew Number on her certificate plus two. There is no weight limit."

7. ADVERTISING

7.1. [NP][WOKC] Boats may be required to display advertising supplied by the Organising Authority.

8. NOT USED

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9. SCHEDULE

9.1. The schedule is as follows:

Day	Time	Event
Friday 30 th May	1000 – 1700	OneSails Training Day
	1800 – 1900	Registration
	1900	Welcome Reception
Saturday 31 st May	0800 – 0900	Registration
	0900	Briefing
	0930	Dock Out (League Racing)
	1025	First warning signal (Fleet & League Racing)
	1830	Sailors Panel
	1930	WOKC BBQ, Live Music, & More
Sunday 1 st June	0930	Dock Out (League Racing)
	1025	First warning signal (Fleet & League Racing)
	1500	Last permissible warning signal
	ASAP after racing	Prize Giving

10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

10.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with Class Rules, NoR and SlS.

11. CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

11.1. [NP][BKL] RRS 40.1 applies at all times whilst afloat.

11.2. [NP][BKL] Competitors may be issued with bibs at registration for the purpose of team identification. Bibs shall be returned as soon as possible after racing on Sunday. Any teams that do not return their bibs before the protest time limit on Sunday will be given, without a hearing, a £50 fine for every bib not returned. This changes RRS 63.1.

12. VENUE

12.1. The racing area will be in the Central Solent or Southampton Water.

13. COURSES

13.1. [WOKC] Round the Cans, or Windward-Leeward as defined in the Sailing Instructions.

13.2. [BKL] Windward-Leeward as defined in the Sailing Instructions.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1. [WOKC] RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty (one tack and one gybe).

14.2. [BKL] The event shall be Umpired Fleet Racing. Details can be found in Attachment UF (published as a separate document).

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15. SCORING

15.1. [WOKC] Scoring for fleet racing as follows:

15.1.1. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

15.1.2. A boat's series score will be the sum of her race scores, excluding her worst scores as follows:

Races completed	Scores excluded
1 – 3	0
4 - 6	1

15.2. [BKL] Scoring for league racing as follows:

15.2.1. A High Point Scoring System will apply. No scores shall be excluded.

15.2.2. Points will be awarded with first place being equal to the number of boats available at the start of the event, second place will be one point less and so on.

15.2.3. A score for DNC, DNS, OCS, RET or DSQ will be zero points.

16. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

16.1. [NP] All Support Person Vessels must register with the Race Committee before the entry deadline (NoR 4.4) at which time they will be issued with a Support Person Rules document which they shall comply with.

17. [BKL] CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

17.1. Racing will be carried out in J/70 type keelboats as provided by the Organising Authority. Boats which are deemed to be unmatched by competitors will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).

17.2. The Race Committee will allocate the boats to be used in each race. A boat shall remain the responsibility of the crew until handed over to the Race Committee or the next crew to use that boat.

17.3. The Organising Authority will take all reasonable steps to equalise the boats.

17.4. Neither the allocation of boats, nor any variation between the boats and their equipment, shall be grounds for redress. This amends RRS 62.1.

17.5. See Attachment X (published as a separate document) with regards to damage to loaned boats.

18. BERTHING

18.1. [WOKC] Berthing and craneage are not included within the entry fee.

18.2. [WOKC] A limited amount of berthing is available in the Prince Philip Yacht Haven by prior booking – please contact haven@royal-southern.co.uk in advance.

18.3. [NP] Boats shall berth as directed by the Organising Authority.

18.4. [NP] No berthing is permitted, even temporarily, on the RAFYC Pontoons, or alongside any boats or vessels berthed there.

19. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

19.1. [NP] Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with, and according to the terms of, prior written permission of the Race Committee.

20. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

20.1. [NP] 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 event.



21. DATA PROTECTION

- 21.1. The personal information you provide to the organizing 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 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. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing 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 including the ability to assign this right to others.

22. RISK STATEMENT

- 22.1. RRS 3 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 by the event organizer 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 briefing held for the event.
 - h. [BKL] It is their responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the type of boat used, and the supplied equipment and are suitably experienced with its operation.
 - i. [BKL] It is their responsibility for ensuring all supplied equipment is carried on board.

23. INSURANCE

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

24. PRIZES

- 24.1. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class and in the championship overall, and other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.
- 24.2. [BKL] The two highest ranked Teams that meet the Series Final entry requirements, will receive invitations to enter the Series Final. Entry and Eligibility for the Series Final will be detailed in the Event Notice of Race provided by the Organising Authority of the Series Final.
- 24.3. [BKL] To be eligible for onward invitation to the Sailing Champions League the Team must represent an RYA Affiliated Club of which all crew are bona-fide members.

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25. FURTHER INFORMATION

25.1. For further information, please contact:

James Ripley-Giles

Sailing Manager

Royal Southern Yacht Club, Rope Walk, Hamble, Hampshire, SO31 4HB

Tel: 02380 450 302

Email: sailing@royal-southern.co.uk

Website: www.royal-southern.co.uk

WOKC Committee

Email: wokc@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <https://www.womensopenkeelboatchampionship.com>



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