



ROUND MERSEA ISLAND RACE 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

ORGANISED BY:

The Sailing Committee of WEST MERSEA YACHT CLUB

!3th September 2026

H.W at Mersea Hard 1426 BST approx. at 5.5m

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 by The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 All documents including any amendments, pertaining to this event are available at Notice Board
- 1.3 Rule 40.1 shall apply at all times on the water.
- 1.5 Gigs and rowing boats will race using British rowing rules, Cox must wear a buoyancy aid.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be published on the WMYC event page website Notice Board after [[Link to noticeboard](#)]

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The Race Information is available here
- 3.2 While racing except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that is not available to all boats. [DP]
- 3.3 Competitors should note that it is anticipated that all communication for this event will be online. They must have a device which can connect to the internet.
- 3.4 Hearings may be held remotely under procedures which will be set out in the sailing instructions.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Skippers must be over 12 years of age on the day of the event. If a competitor is aged under 12, they must be accompanied in the boat, at all times, by a person aged at least 16 years on the day of the event. No Passengers under the age of 10 years on the day of the race should be taken on board any competing boat.
- 4.2 The event is open to the following vessels, recognised dinghy classes, recognised catamaran classes, Windsurfer classes, sliding seat rowing boats, fixed seat rowing boats and Kayaks.
- 4.3 Eligible boats shall enter by completing the appropriate on-line entry form using the link [Entry form](#) together with the required fee.
- 4.7 Entry will open on 1st July 2026 and no further entries can be accepted after 1800 hrs on 10/9/26. **There will be no late entry.**
- 4.6 Entries will be limited to 150 boats based upon a first come, first served basis. This is for safety grounds. Should the limit of 150 boats be exceeded waiting list will be



started. It is at the sole discretion of the organising committee which boats will be allowed entry from that list.

- 4.7 Please note that for competitors/passengers under 16 years a parent or guardian will be required to counter sign the entry form.
- 4.8 The organising authority bring the attention of all competitors and support persons to RRS rule 3. The Decision to Race or to continue to race is the responsibility of the helm of the boat or their responsible adult.

5 FEES

- 5.7 The required fee is £25.00 per boat shall be paid at the time of entry.
- 5.8 If for reasons of weather conditions (on or prior to the day), or safety and the race organisers cancel the race then competitors will receive 80% of their entry fee refunded.
- 5.9 Failure to start on the day will result in a loss of entry fee.

6 ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority. If this rule is broken World Sailing Regulation 20.9.2 applies.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 **Registration:**
Competitors shall register at the Registration point at West Mersea Yacht Club from 10:00 hours on Saturday 13th September 2026. Competitors should ensure they have a mobile device with them. All competitors under the age of 16 are required to be signed on with their parent/responsible adult.
- 7.2 **The Port & Starboard Challenge Trophy** will be awarded to the fastest competitor who has raced around the course twice, based on their combined corrected time for each race.
 - Each race must be made using separate entry forms **and entry fees**.
 - The start times for each race will be selected by the competitor in the normal way, thereby allowing the possibility of a break between each race.
 - Boats can be either single or double handed dinghies or catamaran.
 - To qualify the winner must have helmed for at least one race. Different crews/helms may be used for each race.
- 7.3 **Racing Programme**
The Committee Decision to Race will not be before 10.00am on the day of the race. The warning signal on 13th September will not be before 11:25 hrs. The Race Committee will not start a race after 15:00hrs.

8. VENUE

- 8.1 The Event venue is West Mersea Yacht Club, West Mersea.

9. COURSES

- 9.1 The length of the course is approximately 25Km and involves sailing on some open estuary areas. It is advised that competitors review the course prior to competing.
- 9.2 It is defined as a complete circumnavigation of Mersea Island (in either direction) including crossing of the Strood (A roadway). A safety control gate will be established between East Mersea point and an anchored yacht through which all boats shall pass. The yacht will be flying a large fluorescent pink flag.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM



- 10.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. [DP]

11. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 11.1 All support boats should be registered with the Safety Officer prior to launching.
- 11.2 A digital tally system may be in operation.
- 11.3 When the race committee considers that a boat, its equipment or crew are not adequate for the existing or anticipated conditions, or that a boat or crew member is in difficulty, it may instruct the boat or crew not to launch, or to retire, or to sail ashore, or to accept outside help. The boat and crew shall comply with such instructions without delay.

12. DATA PROTECTION

- 12.1 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 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 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. Tracking companies, racingrulesofsailing.org used for hearings may use servers in Canada. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

13. RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1 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." This is effective for all participants.
- 13.2 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:
- 13.2.1 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;
- 13.2.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- 13.2.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- 13.2.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 13.2.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- 13.2.6 The provision of patrol boat cover if any is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
- 13.2.7 It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitor briefing held for the event.

14. INSURANCE



- 14.1 Each Participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million per event or equivalent.

15. PRIZES

THE COCONUT TROPHY	First PY listed monohull dinghy.
REG WHITE TROPHY	First PY listed multihull dinghy.
JOHN LITTON MEMORIAL CUP	First Local handicap Fishermans open boat
Other Prizes	Fastest all male Gig crew circumnavigation
	Fastest all female Gig circumnavigation
	Fastest mixed Gig crew circumnavigation
	First PY board circumnavigation
	Fastest sliding seat rowing boat

PORT AND STARBOARD CHALLENGE TROPHY

will be awarded to the fastest competitor who has raced around the course twice, based on their combined time for each race.

The Trophies will be awarded to the overall winners on corrected time.

Handicaps will be based on the Portsmouth Yardstick.

Handicaps will be used for fixed seat boats.

Sliding seat boats and Kayaks will be scored by class.

Class and various other prizes may be given to other competitors, as appropriate.

Details for Prizegiving will be given on the day.

16 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 16.1 **Competitors must make their own arrangements for crossing the Strood. This will involve lifting the boat from the water, crossing a road and delivering the boat back into the water, a distance of about 100 metres. The launching and recovery may be on a steep and slippery surface.**
- 16.2 Competitors automatically grant to the organizing 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.
- 16.3 If any competitor or passenger has a medical condition which may impair their ability to take part in the event, please advise the organisers at registration. This information will be kept in confidence by the Medical Officer but may be used to assist the safety team if an incident takes place.
- 16.4 All competitors shall wear a buoyancy aid or life jacket to an appropriate standard at all times when afloat. All competitors will follow the instructions of authorised Safety/Support boats at all times.
- 16.5 For rowing boats – cox must wear a lifejacket, all rowers must have a lifejacket/buoyancy aid within the boat for use if required.
- 16.6 The Race Committee will operate a system of tallying all competitors/passengers on the water. Details will be contained in the sailing instructions.
- 16.7 **Food will be available from 10:00**
- 16.8 **WMYC endeavours to reduce the environmental impact of sailing on our local environment. Please take reuseable drinking bottles and plastic containers on the**



water. If they are named, we will endeavour to return them to you if you capsize/lose them.

16.9 High water on the day is expected at 14:26 BST.



End of Notice of Race