



Festival of Sails

26 - 28 January 2024

NOTICE OF RACE



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

Dear fellow sailors,

On behalf of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2024 Festival of Sails. Held over the long weekend of January 26th – 28th with racing commencing on Friday 26th and concluding on Sunday 28th January, 2024.

First held in 1844, the Festival of Sails has consistently attracted the highest calibre of sailing craft and crew, family, and friends. As one of the oldest sporting events in Victoria, the Festival of Sails is a wonderful opportunity for sailors from all corners to come together and enjoy the spectacular sailing conditions on Corio Bay. With consistent feedback from those participating on the fantastic camaraderie that the Festival of Sails fosters, this event is as much about community and social connection as it is about sailing.

Most of the fleet will commence racing off Williamstown on Friday 26th January for the start of the iconic Melbourne to Geelong Passage race in its 181st year. Royal Geelong Yacht Club also expects to host one of Australia's largest fleet of cruising yachts. With an array of race series options, there will be a fleet that offers close competitive racing for all types of yachts.

In 2024 we welcome the addition of the Mornington to Geelong Passage Race, providing an alternative starting point for cruising boats from the southern end of the bay in the Mornington Peninsula Series. We will also see the return of the Melges 24 Australian Championship for the third consecutive year, alongside the Victorian Sailing League Final and Cadet Sprint Series wrapping up an expansive sailing program.

All racing will be conducted in the waters in front of the fabulous RGYC Club House lawn and will be a great spectacle for both sailors and the general public alike. Sailors will once again, be able to enjoy the festivities of the Regatta Village with an impressive entertainment lineup and a firework display to light up Corio bay.

For any additional information regarding race entry, travel, accommodation, latest news and the full festival schedule, please visit the official Festival of Sails website via www.festivalofsails.com.au. We look forward to welcoming you, your crew, friends and supporters in Geelong during the 2024 Festival of Sails.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Buchholz

Festival Chairman
Royal Geelong Yacht Club



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

The Royal Geelong Yacht Club Inc. (RGYC) as the Organizing Authority (OA) invites owners and charterers of eligible boats to apply for entry to this regatta to be held on Port Phillip and Corio Bay.

1. RULES

1.1 The Race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations Part 1 & Part 2, the 2023 IRC rule (parts A, B & C) including AS Prescriptions to the IRC Rule, the 2023 ORC rule where applicable, the class rules for any one design classes where applicable, all as modified by the Sailing Instructions.

1.2 All boats shall comply with the Victorian statutory requirements, including Maritime Safety Victoria requirements, available on its website <https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety> or click [HERE](#).

1.3 The minimum number of crew on any boat shall be two (2). A minimum of two (2) crew on any boat shall be over the age of eighteen (18) years. Minimum ages are taken from the start date of the regatta. This clause shall not apply to Classes covered by AS Special Regulations Part 2.

1.4 RRS 51 is changed to allow for boats designed and built with moveable ballast.

1.5 RRS 52 is changed to allow powered winches for all non-IRC boats over 14.0m LOA.

1.6 For Multihulls only, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

1.7 For all other boats, RRS 44.1 is changed so that The Two-Turns Penalty applies for infringements inside a Zone and the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty for infringements outside a Zone.



2024 NOTICE OF RACE



2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI's)

2.1 It is the intention of the OA to have the sailing instructions available 1 week prior to the start of racing.

2.2 The sailing instructions (SI's) will be posted on the event web site www.festivalofsails.com.au or [HERE](#).

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 10,16,69,70,71,72,74.

3.2 The race committee may broadcast the course to be sailed, names/sail numbers of recalled boats and or other information of interest to competitors on the appropriate VHF channel. Any such communications by the race committee will not be considered as outside help. This alters RRS 41.

3.3 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.

2024 NOTICE OF RACE

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

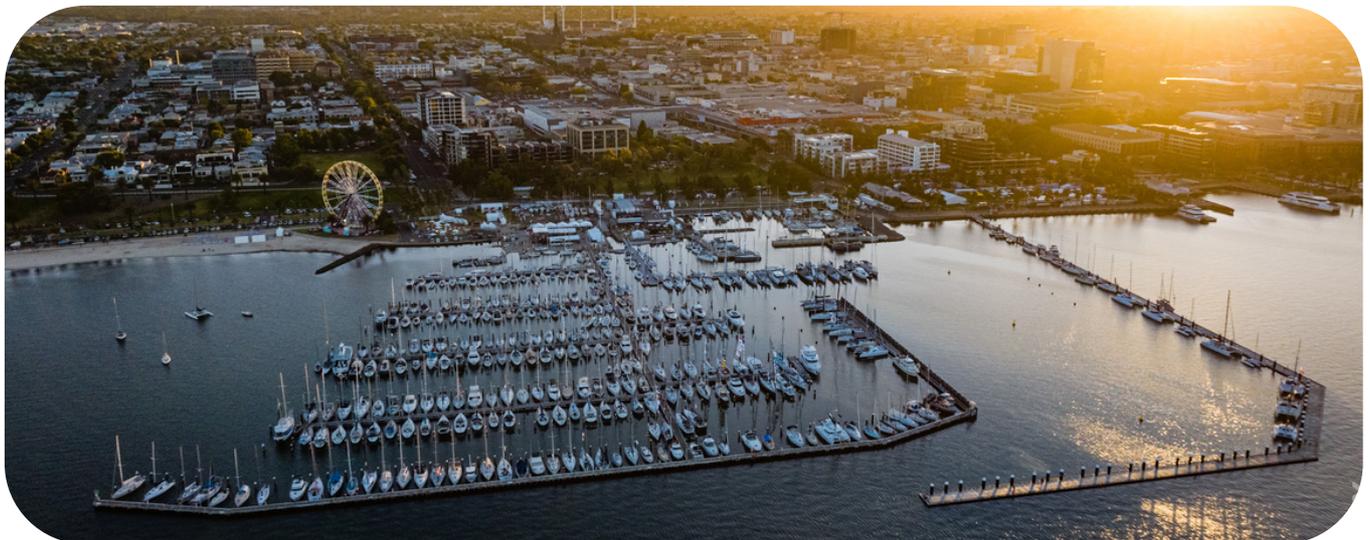
4.1 The event is open to all keelboats which are seaworthy, insured (see NoR 18.1) and are on the boat register of an AS affiliated club.

4.2 The event classes will be defined and handicapped as follows:

Class	Definition	Safety Category	Handicap System
TP52 Series	Boats will have valid TPR and/or IRC rating certificates. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	TPR, IRC
Super40 Series	Encompasses boats from about 31 feet to about 44 feet that are light, fast, highly canvassed and sail with asymmetrical off-wind sails. Boats will have a valid Super40 (PHRF) rating (the Super40 Group will be responsible for generating PHRF ratings for the fleet). They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	PHRF, IRC
Passage Rating Series	Boats will have valid IRC, AMS, ORC rating certificates. They will compete in the Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	IRC, AMS, ORC
Passage Spinnaker Series	Boats shall be of a cruising style/design. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	EHC
Mornington Peninsular Series	Boats will compete in the Mornington Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days. Spinnakers are permitted (expected).	Cat 5	EHC
Double-Handed Series	Boats shall be over 7.5m LOA, crewed by two persons only. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	EHC, IRC, ORC
Passage Non-Spinnaker Series	Boats shall sail with mainsail and headsail only. A headsail shall have the entire luff attached along a headstay. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	EHC
Multihull Series	Boats shall have valid OMR rating, comply with relevant class rules. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race then fixed mark racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	OMR & EHC
S80 Class Series	S80 Class boats that comply with S80 Class Rules. They will race the Melbourne Passage race and windward-leeward racing on subsequent days.	Cat 5	Scratch & EHC

2024 NOTICE OF RACE

Guyon Wilson Series	The event is open to boats that have, or have had, an International Etchells class certificate. They will race windward-leeward racing on each day.	Cat 7	Scratch
Classic Boat Series	Boats shall be designed before 1970, built from traditional materials. They will compete in the Melbourne Passage Race and Series race 3.	Cat 5	EHC
Passage Mini Series	Boats shall either be owned by a RGYC member or be owned/skippered by a member of another club who last entered a Festival of Sails regatta in 2019 or earlier. They will only compete in the Melbourne Passage Race and Series race 3.	Cat 5	EHC
Melges 24 Australian Championship	Melges 24 boats that comply with the Class Rules. Melges 24 will race four days of Windward / Leeward races	Cat 7	Scratch
Sports Boat Series	Sport Boat shall be able to be launched and retrieved from a road legal trailer and not exceed 9 metres LOA. They will compete in windward-leeward racing each day.	Cat 7	EHC
VIC Sailing League	VIC sailing League will be sailed as short course umpired fleet racing in supplied identical one-design boats. There is a separate Notice of Race appended to this document	AS SP Part 2	Scratch
International Cadet Sprint Series	International Cadet Class boats will sail a 6 race Sprint Series on one day only. Day to be confirmed	AS SP Part 2	Scratch



2024 NOTICE OF RACE



4.3 Eligible boats may enter online on the Event website and via the links below no later than the entry close date being 23:59 hrs Sunday 7th January 2024.

Festival of Sails Entry

International Cadet Sprint Series Entry

Victorian Sailing League - Final

4.4 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.5 Late entries may be accepted up to 17:00 hrs Monday 15th January 2024 at the discretion of the OA and be required to pay the late entry fee.

4.6 The OA may alter, amalgamate, or divide any class and may add or delete classes as required.

4.7 The OA may cancel any class if fewer than 6 entries have been received by the entry close date. If this does occur, boats that have entered the cancelled class will have the option of transferring to another class (if eligible) or having their entry fee refunded.



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

5. FEES

5.1 Entry fees are as follows:

Class	Entry Fee (incl GST)
TP 52 Series	\$380.00
Super40 Series	\$380.00
Passage Rating Series	\$380.00
Passage Spinnaker Series	\$380.00
Mornington Peninsular Series	\$380.00
Double Handed Series	\$380.00
Passage Non-Spinnaker Series	\$380.00
Multihull Series	\$380.00
S80 Class Series	\$380.00
Guyon Wilson Series	\$380.00
Classic Boat Series	\$180.00
Passage Mini Series	\$180.00
Melges 24 Australian Championship	\$380.00
Sports Boat Series	\$380.00
International Cadet Sprint Series	\$0
Late Entry Fee (NoR 4.5)	\$250.00

2024 NOTICE OF RACE



5.2 Requests for entry cancellation and entry fee refund will be processed if the request is received by the OA prior to 16:00 hrs Monday 8th January 2024. The entry fee less a \$100 administration will be refunded. Thereafter, refunds will be made only in exceptional circumstances.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Prior to the start of the regatta, every boat shall complete the “Crew Information” section contained in the online Topyacht entry page. The information includes;

- Full name
- Contact phone number
- Email address
- Post code

6.2 Skippers and crew who are not current financial members of an AS affiliated club can obtain a free AS Sail Pass for the event. Click [HERE](#) for information and instructions to obtain a Sail Pass.

6.3 Prior to the first race, each entrant must complete the “Emergency Contact” section contained in the online Topyacht entry page. The emergency contact shall keep an accurate record of the details of all crew sailing on the boat on each day during the regatta.

7. ADVERTISING AND SPONSORS

7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

7.2 Any sponsor decals or Class flags will be distributed to competitors prior to racing.

8. SCHEDULE

8.1 Detail of races:

Class	Friday 26/1/24	Saturday 27/1/24	Sunday 28/1/23	Max # races
TP 52 Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4
Super40 Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4
Passage Rating Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4

2024 NOTICE OF RACE

Passage Spinnaker Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4	
Mornington Peninsular Series	Mornington to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4	
Double Handed Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	LSC	SC	3	
Passage Non-Spinnaker Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4	
Multihull Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC x 2	SC	4	
S80 Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	2 x WL	2 x WL	5	
Guyon Wilson Series		3 x WL	3 x WL	7	
Classic Boat Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC		2	
Passage Mini Series	Melbourne to Geelong Passage	SC		2	
Sports Boat Series	3 x WL	3 x WL	2 x WL	8	
Melges 24 Australian Championship	Thurs 25th	3 x WL	3 x WL	2 x WL	10
	2 x WL				
VIC sailing League	WL	WL	WL	na	
International Cadet Sprint Series			6 x WL	6	

LEGEND:

Passage	Melbourne to Geelong Passage Race or Mornington to Geelong Passage Race
WL	Windward-Leeward course
SC	Special Course around fixed marks
LSC	Long Special Course around fixed marks



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

8.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the Melbourne to Geelong and Mornington to Geelong passage race is 09:25 hrs

8.3 The scheduled time of the warning signals for all other racing will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

8.4 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 14:00 hrs.

9. EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

9.1 Boats entering into a Class requiring a specific rating certificate shall produce or verify the existence of a valid rating certificate if requested by the OA, Race Committee or Jury.

9.2 Boats shall be available for equipment inspection by the OA or Race Committee if requested.

9.3 Boats may be inspected at any time.

9.4 Boats shall also comply with RRS 78 when presented for inspection.

10. VENUE

10.1 The racing areas will be included in the Sailing Instructions.



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

11. COURSES

11.1 The Melbourne to Geelong Passage Race starts in the waters south of Williamstown and is 32 nm in length approximately.

11.2 The Mornington to Geelong Passage Race starts in the waters of Port Phillip in the vicinity of Mornington and is 31.7 nm in length approximately.

11.3 All other racing will be sailed in Geelong Outer Harbour and Inner Corio Bay.

11.4 The full detail of start locations, courses and marks will be in the Sailing Instructions.

12. NATIONAL JURY

12.1 A national jury will be appointed as provided in RRS 70.5

12.2 The right of appeal from a national jury decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.5 (b)

12.3 The first sentence of RRS 64.2 is changed to:-

When the Jury decides that a boat that is a party to a protest hearing has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it may disqualify her, impose any lesser penalty or no penalty at all.

13. SCORING

13.1 The scoring system will be the Low Point System, RRS Appendix A except if there are four (4) or less races sailed for a class or division then all races will count.

13.2 One race will constitute a series.

14. BERTHING

14.1 Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the marina as directed by the RGYC Marina Manager.

14.2 Berthing and mooring for competing boats will be available from 08:00 hrs Monday 24rd January until 12:00 hrs Monday 29thth January 2024.



2024 NOTICE OF RACE

19.4.5. There will be a Beneteau Trophy awarded to the best performing Beneteau manufactured boat over the regatta.

19.5 Other trophies may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

20. MEDIA RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

20.1 It is a condition of entry that the owner or charterer of the boat and all crew members:

20.1.1. acknowledge that the OA owns all media rights to the RGYC and Festival of Sails and may exercise those rights as it sees fit.

20.1.2. grant the OA the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, the names, images and biographical information relating to the crew and photographs, video footage and audio recordings taken of the boat and its crew prior to, during and after the Festival of Sails.

20.2 Crew members of boats may, prior to, during and after the regatta, speak or provide material to any media representatives accredited by the OA, regarding the regatta and the prospects, performance or strategy of boats entered or participating in the regatta, subject to any comments and material not undermining or interfering with, or having a detrimental impact on, the OA and its officers and employees, the Race Committee, the National Jury, measurers or current or former sponsors of the OA. This approval may be revoked by the OA in respect of a boat or media representative at any time.

20.3 By lodging an Entry into the Festival of Sails 2024 all crew members acknowledge and accept the media restrictions referred to in this paragraph on the entry. Any breach of these conditions may, at the discretion of the OA or the Race Committee, lead to the rejection of an entry, the cancellation of an entry or the disqualification of a boat (refer RRS 76.1). This does not limit the right of the OA to take any other action it sees fit to enforce compliance with these conditions.

21. FURTHER INFORMATION

21.1 For further information please contact; P: 03 5229 3705 E: sailing@rgyc.com.au





BROUGHT TO YOU BY

ROYAL GEELONG YACHT CLUB

