

Strangford Lough Regatta Programme 2025

It is the function of the Strangford Lough Regatta Conference, (SLRC) on which all the yacht and sailing clubs of the Lough are represented, to co-ordinate, compile and publish a calendar of regattas on Strangford Lough. The SLRC has no responsibility whatsoever for the running of the regattas.

Notice of Race

This Notice of Race (NoR) and General Sailing Instructions (GSIs) apply to each of the regattas listed on www.strangfordloughregattas.co.uk. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the Bar Buoy Race. The Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs) for each regatta state the Organising Authority, which has the sole responsibility for the running of that event.

1. Rules

- 1.1. The event is governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the rules of each class concerned.
- 1.2. The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the NoR, GSIs or SSIs means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.3. The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.4. RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) will apply.

2. Sailing instructions

- 2.1. The General Sailing Instructions (GSIs) below will apply to all SLRC events, as amended by the Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs) for that event.
- 2.2. SSIs will be available at www.strangfordloughregattas.co.uk at least seven days prior to the event.
- 2.3. RRS 63.5(c) is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the NoR and GSIs and the SSIs, the SSIs shall prevail.

3. Eligibility and Entry

- 3.1. Yachts owned by members of Strangford Lough clubs are eligible to participate. Owners should ensure that their yacht's details are correctly included in the relevant class Competitor List on www.strangfordloughregattas.co.uk.
- 3.2. Yachts not listed or not correctly listed on the Competitor List shall register with the SLRC through their club Sailing Secretary.

- 3.3. Visiting yachts from outside Strangford Lough may, at the discretion of the organising club, be permitted to participate in individual club events by registering with the host club's Sailing Secretary.
- 3.4. [DP] [NP] Each yacht shall adequately display the sail number which has been registered; yachts with no sail number may not be given a finish. Any changes must be notified to the organising club before the start of the race.
- 3.5. If a race for a one-design class is included in a regatta, yachts of that class shall not race in any handicap race except with the express permission of, or unless they have been so directed by, the race organisers.
- 3.6. When fewer than three IRC yachts are competing in any regatta, these yachts will race in the appropriate YTC class.

4. Classes and start times

- 4.1. Classes and start times will be listed in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for each event.
- 4.2. Any individual regatta may not include all classes.

5. Handicap classes

- 5.1. Subject to NoR 4.2 above, handicap classes will be as follows.

Class	Code Flag
Cruiser IRC	Numeral 1
Cruiser YTC1 – under 975	Numeral 3
Cruiser YTC1 Restricted Sail – under 1035	Numeral 4
Cruiser YTC2 – 975 and over	Numeral 5
Cruiser YTC2 Restricted Sail – 1035 and over	Numeral 6
Dinghy H/Cap PYS under 1135	J

- 5.2. [DP] A yacht competing in any class listed above for which a numeral is specified, shall fly that numeral pennant from her backstay while racing.
- 5.3. Yachts racing in IRC must have a currently valid IRC certificate.
- 5.4. IRC Rules Part A, B and C shall apply.
- 5.5. IRC rule 15 shall not apply and RRS 52, Manual Power, is re-instated.
- 5.6. IRC rule 22.4 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight.
- 5.7. The use of spinnakers, cruising chutes, or any other type of off-wind sail, is prohibited in the YTC restricted sail classes.
- 5.8. Yachts registered in either of the restricted sail classes shall not race in any other YTC class, and vice versa.
- 5.9. A yacht may opt to change from Restricted Sail to full YTC or vice versa once only during the season by advising the Regatta Conference Boat List Convenor at least seven days prior to the first race the yacht wishes to compete in as part of the new class.

6. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 6.1. Arrangements, if any, for notifying competitors of changes to Sailing Instructions will be specified in the SSIs.

7. Trash disposal

- 7.1. [DP][NP] Competitors shall not intentionally or negligently put trash in the water and shall take all reasonable care to avoid doing so. This rule applies at all times while afloat. This changes RRS 47.

8. Risk statement

- 8.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'
- 8.2. 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:
- (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 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 organiser 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 the sailing area or the event.

9. Insurance

- 9.1. 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.

General Sailing Instructions

1. Communication while racing

- 1.1. [DP][NP] 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.

2. Starting signals

- 2.1. Starting signals will be in accordance with RRS 26.

3. Infringement of RRS 42 before starting

- 3.1. A yacht which infringes RRS 42 before she starts by using power, manual propulsion or receiving a tow after her preparatory signal may absolve herself by completing a Two-Turns Penalty under sail on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions and after her starting signal. Such a yacht shall keep clear of all other yachts until she has completed her Two-Turns Penalty and has started.

4. Individual recalls

- 4.1. RRS 29.1 Individual Recall is amended by substituting “keep the class flag lowered to the dip and give a second sound signal” in place of “promptly display Flag X with one sound”.

5. Time limit

- 5.1. RRS 35 Race Time Limit and Scores is amended to read, “any yacht in any race not finishing by the time specified in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta shall be scored as DNF”.

6. Protests and requests for redress

- 6.1. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Sailing Secretary or as advised by an Officer of the club.
- 6.2. The Protest Time Limit is one hour after the last boat in the regatta finishes.

7. Safety and rescue [DP] [NP]

- 7.1. For all dinghy classes, RRS 40.1 applies at all times while afloat.
- 7.2. All dinghies shall:
 - 7.2.1. Have adequate self-buoyancy.
 - 7.2.2. Have adequate means for bailing.
 - 7.2.3. Carry a tow rope extending at least 2m beyond the bow and secured to a strong point at all times.
- 7.3. All dinghies must register their entry with the officer appointed by the organising club before the start of the race. Those arriving by sea in company with their own club's safety

launch need not do so individually, provided that their club launch conveys a list to the appointed officer specifying for each entry their club, class, sail number and names of helm and crew.

- 7.4. Crews must accept help if so directed by a safety crew and non-acceptance of such help may result in disqualification.
- 7.5. A yacht retiring from racing shall report her retirement to race officials or a safety boat before leaving the race area. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. All dinghies must report their safe return to the appointed officer not later than 30 minutes after finishing or retiring.