



BOI Etchells Regatta 2026

Russell Boating Club

Event dates: 7th & 8th March, 2026.

Reserve dates: 14th & 15th March, 2026

The Organising Authority is the Russell Boating Club Inc (“the Club”) Sailing Committee.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

CONTACTS

RACE ORGANISATION

Race Officer – Tony Hanlon

027 273 6387

Committee Boat – Volantis

VHF Channel 77

Volantis RIB

VHF Channel 77

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Russell Marine Radio

VHF Channel 63 or 09 403 7218

Forecasts available at 0800, 0930, 1330, 1750 hrs

Coastguard BOI

VHF Channel 04 or

*500 from a mobile

Coastguard Nowcasting (weather)

VHF Channel 19

Emergency

Channel 16 or phone 111

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by “Rules” as defined in the Yachting NZ Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS). Note: Where a rule number has changed from the previous Racing Rules of Sailing it has been unlined.
- 1.2. There will be other motor and sailing vessels in the region of the race course who are not Regatta participants, but who must be respected with (and are expected to also honour) the ‘Collision Prevention’ rules.

- 1.3. Boats must carry all safety equipment specified in the NoR Appendix A
- 1.4. The boat's skipper must ensure compliance with the Safety Regulations.
- 1.5. Between sunset and sunrise Part 2 of the Racing Rules shall cease to apply and will be replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- 1.6. If a competitor contravenes any rule in Part 2 of the RRS while racing, it can exonerate itself by getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible and taking a one-turn penalty. This modifies rule RRS 44. If a competitor touches a mark while racing, a one-turn penalty applies. If serious damage or a significant advantage results from a rule contravention, the competitor must retire.
- 1.7. Sailing will take place within the Pēwhairangi Marine Mammal Sanctuary area. Regatta organisers have applied to the Department of Conservation for a permit to allow for all participating boats and support vessels to be exempted from the rules of the sanctuary upon arrival at the start line and during racing. Sanctuary rules will apply at all other times.

2. CHANGES TO RULES

- 2.1. The Racing Rules will be changed in accordance with RRS 86 as follows:
 - 2.1.1. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.
 - 2.1.2. RRS 44.3, which provides for scoring penalties, does not apply.
- 2.2. Where there is a conflict between these SI's and the Yachting NZ Racing Rules of Sailing or Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations, these SI's will apply.
- 2.3. Additional Regatta rule changes may be advised during the sailors briefing on the first day of the regatta.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be announced at the sailors briefing on the first day of the Regatta.

4. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1. Please refer to the Club's [Etchells page](#) for all Regatta-related communications.

- 4.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communication on channels 16, 63 (Russell Radio), 77 (Race Committee Boat)
- 4.3. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF channel 77.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 5.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from the race officials.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. A sailors briefing will be held at the Russell Boating Clubhouse at 0930 hrs on the first day of the Regatta. Attendance is mandatory and at least one person from each boat must attend.
- 6.2. Racing will be held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of March, 2026. The following weekend, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of March are the regatta reserve dates if the weather prevents racing on the scheduled date.
- 6.3. The scheduled time for the first race warning signal is 1130 hrs.

7. SAILING AREA

- 7.1. The race will be held In the Bay of Islands area. Charts NZ 5124 & NZ 5125.

8. COURSES

- 8.1. Depending on the weather, the Club's race committee will attempt to hold 3 races on each day. All races will be Windward Leeward courses.
- 8.2. Nothing in these SI's shall prevent the Sailing Committee or the Race Officer of the Day from setting a course other than a Windward Leeward. Any alternative course will be broadcast on VHF channel 77 at least 10 minutes before the 5-minute warning signal.

9. FAIRWAY MARKS AND RESTRICTED AREAS

- 9.1. Yachts, when racing, must pass:
 - 9.1.1. To the West of Kaiaraara (Mill) Island

10.THE START

- 10.1. The Start Line will be in the vicinity of the area between Russell and Paihia. The starting line for all races will be between a white staff displaying an orange flag (or shape) on the committee boat at the starboard end and the port-end starting mark.
- 10.2. Boats must not pass between the inner distance mark and the Committee boat.
- 10.3. No competitor shall be under power or under tow or other propulsion other than sails within five minutes of the start.
- 10.4. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound signal
5	Etchells Class Flag	One
4	Code Flag P	One
1	Code Flag P removed	One long
0	Etchells Class Flag removed	One

- 10.5. Flags and Signals will be from the Committee Boat.
- 10.6. Two sound signals directly after the race start will indicate a general recall. This modifies RRS 29.2. At the starter's discretion, a general recall message may be broadcast on VHF channel 77. The first substitute code flag may also be flown. A restart will be made as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 10.7. One sound signal directly after the race start will indicate an individual recall. No recall numbers will be displayed. The offending competitor or competitors must return and restart.
- 10.8. At the starter's discretion, an individual recall message may be broadcast on VHF channel 77. This modifies RRS 29.1. Code flag "X" may also be flown. Failure to make a broadcast, failure of the boat to hear such a broadcast or the order in which boats are broadcast will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.4.b.1.
- 10.9. A boat starting more than five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did No Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5

11. POSTPONEMENT SIGNALS

- 11.1. If the Race Officer is unable to start the races at the times specified in these Sailing Instructions the Committee Boat will fly the AP flag (red and white as vertical stripes) and sound two Warning Signals.
- 11.2. Monitor VHF Channel 77 for further instructions.
- 11.3. At the end of the delay period, a Warning Signal will be made one minute after the removal of the AP flag unless at that time the race is postponed again or abandoned. This Warning signal will begin the normal race start timing sequence as described in paragraph 10 (The Start).

12. SHORTEN COURSE

- 12.1. The Race Officer may shorten the course to a single windward - leeward leg if he considers that the full course will not be completed within the time limit of 1.5 hours.
- 12.2. A shortened course will be indicated by:
 - 12.2.1. Code Flag "S" (blue centre square with a white background) being flown from the Committee boat.
 - 12.2.2. Announced on VHF Channel 77

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1. The Finish Line will be between a white staff displaying a blue flag on the Committee boat and a yellow cylindrical buoy. Refer to the diagram in [Appendix A](#)
- 13.2. Boats must not pass between the inner distance mark and the Committee boat.
- 13.3. Yachts must not re-cross the finish line after completing the course.

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1. Unless otherwise specified by the Officer of the Day, a race will be abandoned if the first boat does not complete the course and finish:
 - 14.1.1. Within 1.5 hours from the race start
 - 14.1.2. By 17:00 hours on each day of the regatta.

15. FINISHING TIMES

- 15.1. The Race Committee Boat will remain on station until 17:30 hrs. Any boat finishing after this time will be recorded as DNF.

16. YACHTS RETIRING FROM THE RACE

- 16.1. Please do not pass through the finish line.
- 16.2. Advise the Committee Boat on VHF Channel 77 as soon as possible as the race organisers must account for every yacht entered.

17. PROTESTS

- 17.1. Protests by racing yachts will be heard providing that the protesting boat complies with RRS 61 and informs the Officer of the Day on completion of the race, fills in the appropriate [form](#) and delivers that form to the Officer of the Day before 19:30 on the day of the event.
- 17.2. The Protest Committee will hear the protest at a time and place to be decided by them.
- 17.3. The protesting boat shall inform the other boat(s) of the protest on VHF channel 77 at the first reasonable opportunity. This applies in addition to RRS [60.2](#).

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The Low Point System without handicaps will apply as set out in RRS Appendix A.
- 18.2. A single completed race is required to constitute the series.
- 18.3. If 4 or more races are completed, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 18.4. If 3 or less races are completed, a yacht's series score will be the total of her race scores

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. Refer to the Notice of Race Appendix A for a list of all safety equipment that must be carried on each boat.
- 19.2. A PFD must be worn by each crew member while racing.
- 19.3. The Officer of the Day or any member of the Sailing Committee may inspect any competitor for compliance with safety standards. Failure to comply with the relevant safety standards may result in disqualification from all races.

20. RISK STATEMENT

- 20.1. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone. By participating in this Regatta each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong

winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

20.2. The Russell Boating Club or its Sailing Committee are not responsible for the actions of any vessel either participating in the races or not, except for the committee and patrol boats.

21. TROPHIES & PRIZES

21.1. The prizegiving will take place in the Russell Boating Club rooms at 18:30hrs on the last day of racing.

21.2. The BOI Etchells Cup together with other Prizes will be awarded at the prizegiving.

21.3. Trophies, prizes, and results awarded on the day of the races are provisional only. The Club reserves the right to review and amend results at their discretion.

22. FURTHER INFORMATION

22.1. For further information please get in touch with the Club's organising committee at etchells@russellboatingclub.org.nz

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Appendix A

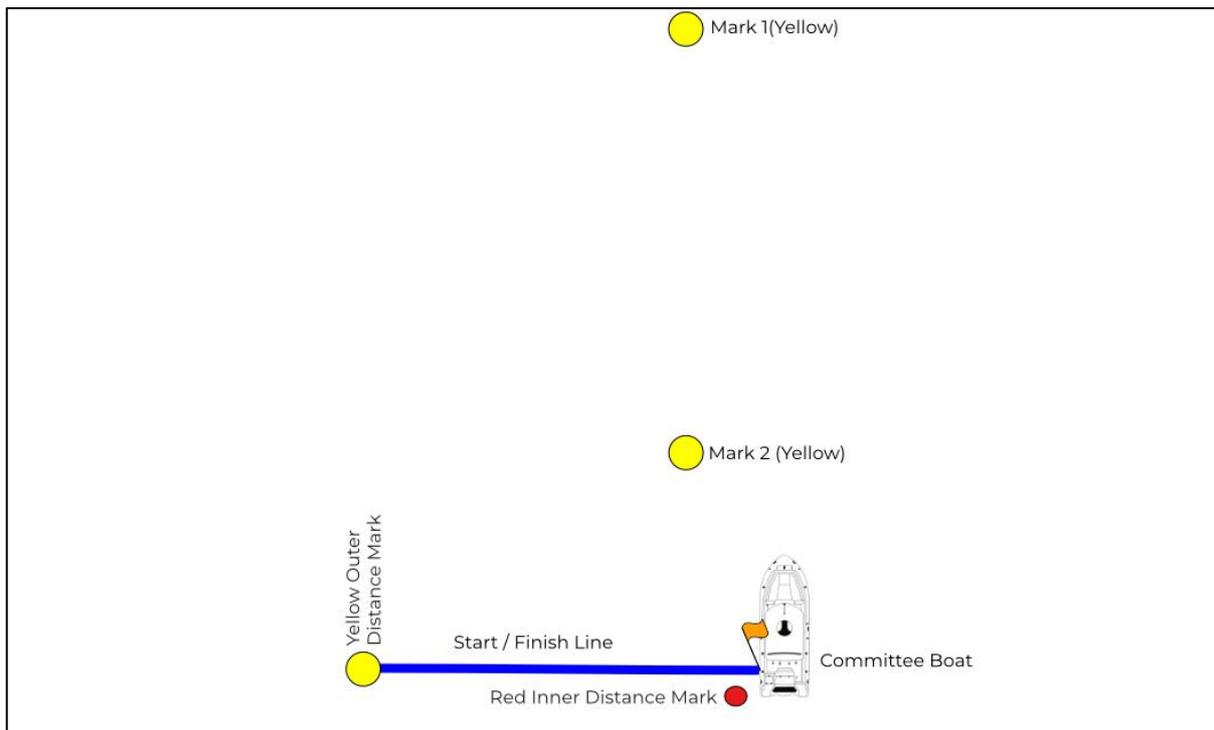
Windward / Leeward Course

The Course

1. Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – Finish

Shortened Course

1. Start – 1 – Finish



All rounding marks are to be left to port.

The Marks:

- 1 – Yellow Cylinder
- 2 – Yellow Cylinder
- Inner Distance – Orange & round