ROYAL NEW ZEALAND YACHT SQUADRON

NEW ZEALAND MRC

2026 New Zealand Match Racing Championship

NOTICE OF RACE

29 October – 1 November 2026

Grade 2 WS Match Racing Event

Auckland, New Zealand

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron (RNZYS), 181 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland 1011.

The following abbreviations apply to this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions:

PC: Protest Committee or International Jury
NoR: Notice of Race
OA: Organising Authority
RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing
SI: Sailing Instructions
RC: Race Committee
TD: Technical Delegate
[NP]: A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.3

1. RULES

1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including RRS Appendix C.

1.2. The rules for the handling of boats and the equipment list, detailed as part of the Sailing Instructions, will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing and sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.

1.3. The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the NoR or SI means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

1.4. The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part II Category V shall apply.

1.5. The event has applied for World Sailing Grade 2. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

SAILORS FOR THE SEA

Yachting New Zealand

World Sailing

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available on the event website rnzys.org.nz/sailing/nzmatchracing/ after 23rd October 2026.

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board located at rnzys.org.nz/sailing/nzmatchracing/ and the event WhatsApp Group.

3.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the RNZYS flagpole located to the northeast of the RNZYS clubhouse.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1. Up to twelve (12) skippers will be invited. Invitations will be first issued to:
a) The winner of the 2025 New Zealand Match Race Championship (Reuben Corbett) or the runner-up (Gavin Brady).
b) A RNZYS Emirates Team New Zealand Youth Training Programme nominee
c) Further invitations will be issued to the four highest ranking NZL skippers on the World Sailing Match Race Open Ranking list (1st July 2026)

4.2. Skippers wishing to receive an invite may submit a Request for Invitation (RFI) via the event website.

4.3. Only skippers invited by the OA, and who confirm acceptance of the invitation, as detailed in the letter of invitation, will be eligible to enter this event.

4.4. Competitors shall have Competition Eligibility as detailed in the World Sailing Eligibility Code.

4.5. All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile. Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration

4.6. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay an entry fee of $2,300 NZD by the deadline specified in the letter of invitation.Fees are non-refundable.

4.7. The skipper shall complete registration, pay any outstanding entry fee, confirm their initial damage deposit of $3,000 NZD and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing, all between Thursday 29th October 2026 0900 – 1600hrs unless extended by the OA.

4.8. When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within two months of the event, or leaves the event before the end without the written approval from the OA, it is possible for a zero score to be applied to the skipper's Ranking points for that event by World Sailing (World Sailing Policy H1 5.3).

5. DAMAGE DEPOSIT

5.1. Each supplied boat is insured by the MRX Yachting for third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of $5,000,000 per incident.

5.2. Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. The damage deposit is the limit of liability of each skipper for each incident. In the event that a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to the original value to continue in the event

5.3. The OA will refund any remaining damage deposit within 10 days after the event.

5.4. An indicative schedule of charges for damage to the boats, hulls and fittings is provided in **Addendum B**. The schedule is not exhaustive and all charges are subject to the actual cost of repair or replacement incurred by the OA.

6. CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

6.1. The total number of crew (including the skipper but excluding persons placed on board by the OA) shall be 5, 6 or 7. All registered crew shall sail all races.

6.2. The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 525kg, determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.

6.3. After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency.

6.4. When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorise an original crew member to substitute.

6.5. When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.

6.6. Crew weight may be checked during the event. When crew weight was checked prior to racing, at any re-weighing the total weight limit is increased by 10kg. Any crew weighing in excess of this increased limit shall not be penalised, but they shall reduce their weight to the increased weight limit before racing again.

6.7. The OA may place a person on each boat as either a guest, cameraman or umpire observer.

7. EVENT FORMAT

7.1. The OA intends to provide ten (10) MRX 10.3m keelboats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, and Spinnaker.

7.2. Boats will be allocated as decided by the RC. The intention of the RC will be to allocate boats by draw, either daily or for each round. The RC may also require boats to be exchanged in a knock-out stage.

7.3. The sails to be used will be allocated by the RC. Competitors may be asked to exchange sails during a series to satisfy sponsorship commitments.

7.4. While all reasonable steps will be taken to equalise boats variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61

7.5. The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC with the intention of the RC to start each subsequent flight as soon as practicable after the previous flight.

7.6. The course will be windward/leeward with optional offset legs in the event of cross-course current, resulting in either port or starboard rounding, and finishing downwind.

7.7. The intended racing area is the Waitemata Harbour, near the RNZYS clubhouse, but may be changed at the discretion of the RC to suit the conditions the approximate location of the racing area is shown in **Addendum A.**

7.8.

a) Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on World Sailing ranking list 30 days prior to the event.

b) After the First Stage the following will apply:

(1) Skippers will be paired based on ranking in the First Stage with the highest ranked skipper paired with the lowest and the other skippers paired accordingly unless the stage specifies a different arrangement.
(2) In reference to RRS C4.1, the highest ranked skipper from the first stage shall choose their end for the first match and boats shall alternate every odd match.
(3) Crews will exchange boats after odd matches of their series, unless otherwise agreed by both skippers.
(4) Further matches in a series will not be sailed once the first skipper scores the points required for that stage.

7.9. The event will consist of the following stages:

a) First Stage – Round Robin
(1) All skippers will sail a round robin.
(2) The eight highest scoring skippers shall qualify for the next stage.

b) Second Stage - Knock-Out Quarterfinals
(1) The first skipper of each series to score at least three (3) points shall proceed to the semi-finals.

c) Third Stage – Fifth to Eighth Place
(1) The losing quarter finalists shall sail for fifth to eighth places.
(2) In each series the first skipper to score at least one point will be the winner.
(3) The two winners in each series shall sail against each other for fifth and sixth places.
(4) The two losers in each series shall sail against each other for seventh and eighth places.

d) Fourth Stage- Knock-Out-Semi-Finals
(1) The skipper finishing first in Stage One shall select their opponent when requested
(2) The first skipper of each series to score at least three (3) points shall proceed to the Final Stage, the losing skippers shall proceed to the Third and Fourth Place Stage.

e) Fifth Stage- Knock-Out-Third and Fourth Place
(1) The losing semi-finalists shall race to determine third and fourth place.
(2) The first skipper to score at least three (3) points shall be awarded third place, the losing skipper awarded fourth place.

f) Sixth Stage- Knock-Out-Final
(1) The first skipper to score at least three (3) points shall be awarded first place, the losing skipper awarded second place.

7.10. The RC may change the format, terminate any stage of the event when, in its opinion, it is impracticable to attempt to hold the remainder of the matches under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favour of later stages.

8. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8.1. Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday 29 October	0900-1600	Registration and weigh in	Sailing Office
	1000-1200	Practice Session 1	Waitemata Harbour
	1230-1430	Practice Session 2	Waitemata Harbour
	1800-1900	Welcome & Briefing	RNZYS Clubrooms
Friday 30 & Saturday 31 October	0845	Briefing	RNZYS Clubrooms
	1000	First Attention Signal	Waitemata Harbour
	ASAP After Racing	Umpires Debrief	RNZYS Clubrooms
Sunday 1 November	0400-1100	Road Closure – Auckland Marathon	Westhaven Drive and Curran Street
	1115	Briefing	RNZYS Clubrooms
	1230	First Attention Signal	Waitemata Harbour
	1800	Latest Attention Signal	Waitemata Harbour
	1900 or ASAP after racing	Regatta Presentation	RNZYS Clubrooms

8.2. The OA reserves the right to alter the race schedule

8.3. Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:
a) Registration
b) Briefings
c) Welcome and Prizegiving Presentation

9. ADVERTISING

9.1. [NP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.

10. [NP] CODE OF CONDUCT

10.1. Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions, co-operation with event sponsors and shall behave so to not bring the event into disrepute.

10.2. Competitors and Support Persons shall handle any equipment provided by the OA with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

11. [NP] SUPPORT PERSON

11.1. Support person vessels shall conspicuously display identification of the team being coached.

11.2. Support person vessels shall stay approximately 100m from the racing area while boats are racing or comply with reasonable requests from officials.

11.3. Support person vessels may be required to assist with boat transfers under the direction of the RC.

11.4. The OA will not provide support vessels or berths for support vessels.

11.5. Any interference by a support vessel or crew with the racing or event organisation may result in a penalty applied at the discretion of the PC to the associated skipper or team.

11.6. All support person vessels shall always have an engine safety cut-out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver while the engine is running unless prior written exemption has been provided by the OA.

11.7. No privately operated drones / RPAS (Remote Piloted Aircraft System) are allowed within the course area, or within 100m of any boat or vessel associated with the event without the express permission from the OA.

12. [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES and SOUND

12.1. If required by the OA:

a) Television personnel and equipment supplied by the OA shall be carried on board while racing.
b) Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.
c) Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.

12.2. Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.

12.3. Drones / RPAS (Remote Piloted Aircraft System) under the control of the organising authority may be used during the event. Participation in the event will be taken as agreement and consent to be overflown by and have RPAS operate within close proximity to competing boats.

12.4. By participating in the event, a competitor automatically grants to the OA and the sponsors of the event, the right in perpetuity, to make, use and show, from time to time and at the discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or film television and other reproductions of themselves during the period of the competition for said event in which the competitor participated and in all material related to the said event without compensation

13. PRIZES

13.1. National Champions will be recognised in accordance with Yachting New Zealand regulation 4.5.4.

13.2. The first-placed skipper will be presented the New Zealand Match Racing Champion Trophy

13.3. The OA may reduce a prize in the case of misconduct or refusal to comply with any reasonable request, including attendance at official functions.

14. DATA PROTECTION

14.1. The RNZYS is committed to the protection of personal information provided to the Squadron by an individual. Any personal information provided to the Squadron will be used for the purpose for which the information is gathered and for purposes directly related to the functions and activities of the Squadron.

15. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

15.1. The OA will issue all competitors and officials temporary membership of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron for the duration of the regatta. Temporary membership will be issued on the basis that competitors and officials respect the rules and regulations of temporary membership and will have this privilege revoked if they are ignored.

15.2. The RNZYS encourages sustainable racing by avoiding; single use water bottles, printing race documents, one off race promotional materials etc.

15.3. The RNZYS provides water bottle refilling stations and recycling bins are located on the Squadron premises and withing Westhaven Marina

16. RISK STATEMENT

16.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event 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.

17. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

17.1. All those taking part in RNZYS races or any other sailing events controlled by the RNZYS, as between the RNZYS and each of those so taking part, do so at their own risk and responsibility and the RNZYS and any sponsor associated with this event has no liability for any damage, loss or any penalty suffered by any boat crew or any other person taking part in such events. The RNZYS and any sponsor associated with this event shall not be responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted and/or the sufficiency and/or adequacy of its equipment or the competence of its skipper or crew. The RNZYS reserves the right in its sole and uncontrolled discretion to refuse entry.

18. INSURANCE

18.1. It is recommended that each entrant and crew member have sufficient personal medical and liability insurance.

19. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron using the following contact details

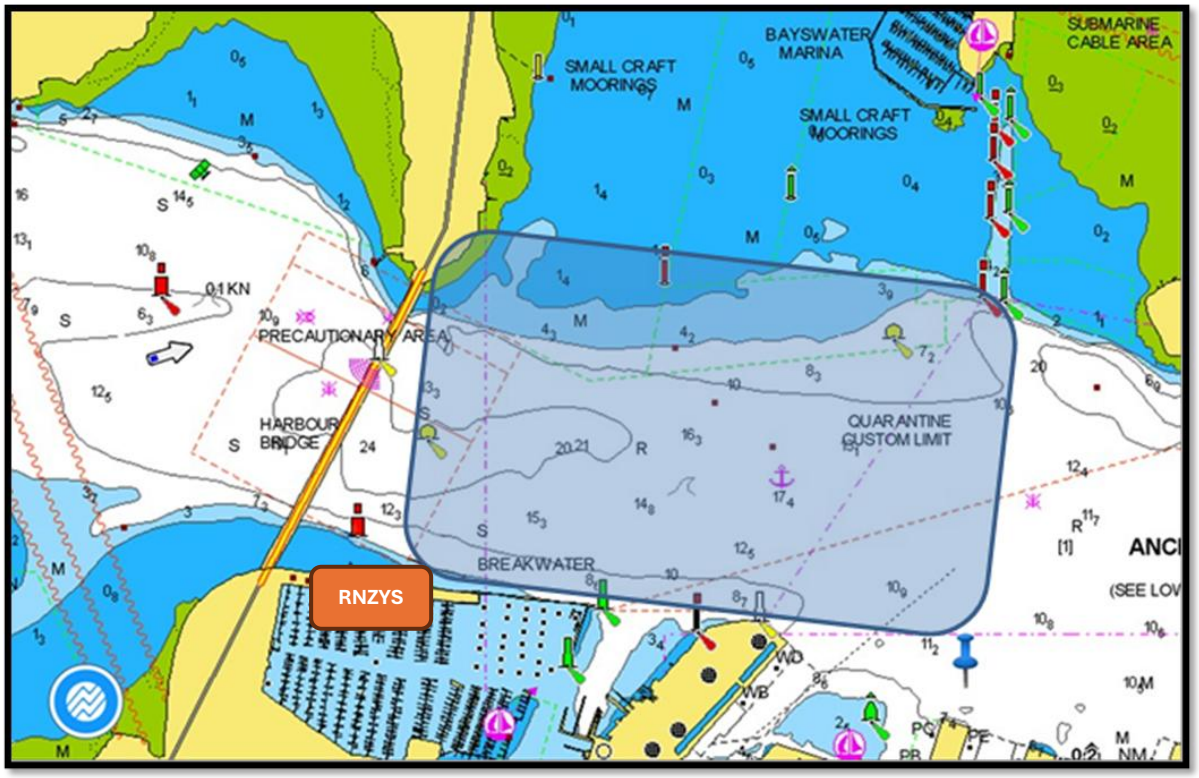
Event Coordinator: Ella Sagnol (RNZYS Sailing Manager)
Phone: 0272883157
Email: esagnol@rnzys.org.nz
Address: Sailing Office, 181 Westhaven Drive, Auckland, New Zealand, 1011.

Date: 04/08/2026

ADDENDUM A

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE INTENDED RACING AREA

- Approximate intended racing area



Note: While this is the intended racing area, the RC may race in other areas of Auckland Harbour if conditions impact the intended racing area.

ADDENDUM B

INDICATIVE PRICING LIST FOR REPAIRS TO HULL AND HULL FITTINGS.

Prices are shown in NZD excl. GST. This is not exhaustive and all charges are subject to the actual cost of repair or replacement incurred by the OA.

Pulpit	$1,720.00
Pulpit bases (each)	$420.00
Hiking Rail (each)	$1,375.00
Stern rail	$1,320.00
Stern Platform mounts (each)	$730.00
Stern Platform	$750.00
Genoa Sheet (each)	$320.88
T - Loop (each)	$25.00
Windex	$130.66

Any damage that includes hull, deck and toe rails is likely to incur the full damage deposit.