ROYAL NEW ZEALAND YACHT SQUADRON

SUNDOWNER RUM RACE SERIES

Incorporating the Sundowner Rum Race Spring Series, Summer Series, Autumn Series (including the Matariki Race) & Winter Series

2nd October 2026 to 24th September 2027

The Organising Authority is the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron
181 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland 1011
Tel: 09 360 6800 | VHF: CH 77

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations shall apply as follows:

a) Part II Category 5 shall apply for keel boats (except Young 88) and multihulls,
b) Part II Category 4 shall apply for Young 88 boats,
c) Part III Category B shall apply for trailer yachts and sports trailer yachts,
d) Part IV Category B shall apply for sports boats,
e) Part V shall apply for sport multihulls and foiling yachts.
f) Part I shall apply for Elliott 7s.

Refer - www.yachtingnz.org.nz/racing-cruising/safety/safety-regulations

1.3 The RNZYS Standard Sailing Instructions 2026-27 shall apply available at www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/docs

1.4 Boats will race non-spinnaker by default, in accordance with RNZYS Standard Sailing Instruction 1.8, unless a boat declares its intention to use a spinnaker/extra in accordance with NOR 1.5

1.5 A boat may use a spinnaker/extra if declared to the Race Office before the first warning signal of the day. The declaration applies for that day only,

a) A +5% penalty will be applied to the boat's handicap for the race. Division allocation will not change,
b) A boat using a spinnaker/extra without declaring by the deadline shall be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1,
c) Spinnakers/extras are not permitted in Mark Foy races within the series.
d) For the purposes of this NOR, an "extra" is any sail not permitted under RNZYS Standard Sailing Instruction 1.8.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI) will be posted on the event website by 18:00 on Friday 25th September 2026.
www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/rumracing

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1 The online official notice board is located on the event website www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/rumracing

3.2 [DP] All boats shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channels 16 & 77.

a) Channel 77 is to be used for race event communication.

b) Channel 16 must be used for emergency communication.

3.3 [DP] 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.

3.4 The RNZYS Club WhatsApp Community will be used for race related communication linked here. Competitors should request to join the race or division related groups relevant to them.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 Entry is open to members of any yacht club affiliated to a member national authority.

4.2 Entry is open to all keelboats and multi-hulls meeting requirements of NOR 1.2

4.3 All boats will be handicapped using the RNZYS Performance Handicap System (PHS).

4.4 For Mark Foy races, staggered start times will be determined using each boat's PHS handicap.

4.5 All divisions are provisional, subject to entries and will be confirmed in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

Division	LOA (indicative)
B	> 10.4m
E	< 10.4m

4.6 Boats will be allocated to divisions by the Organising Authority and may be reallocated between each series.

4.7 The constitution of racing or start divisions shall not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

4.8 Eligible boats may enter by;

a) Completing the on-line entry form on the RNZYS website, www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/docs/

b) Paying the non-refundable entry fee prior to racing.

4.9 To be considered a valid casual entry in an individual race, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees by 17:00 on the race day. If this is not met the boat will not receive a result until entry and payment is received.

5. FEES

5.1 The entry fees including GST, are:

a) Only entrants where the boat's skipper is an RNZYS Member in the Full, Junior, Country or Overseas categories are eligible for member entry rates.

	RNZYS Members (Full, Junior, Country & Overseas Members)	**All Other Entrants**
Casual Race Entry – 1 Race Day.	$25	$35
Series Entry – per 1 Season. (Spring, Autumn or Winter season)	$200	$250
Series Entry – per 1 Season. (Summer season only).	$150	$190

6. SCHEDULE

6.1 The scheduled dates for racing are:

a) **Spring Race Series:** 2nd October 2026 to 11th December 2026
   6.1.a.1. 10 races.
   6.1.a.2. No racing on 23/10 (Coastal Classic).

b) **Summer Race Series:** 15th January 2027 to 2nd April 2027
   6.1.b.1. 8 races.
   6.1.b.2. No racing 29/01 (Auckland Anniversary), 5/02 (Waitangi Day & Gold Cup Balokovic Race), 12/02 (Commodores Cup).

c) **Autumn Race Series:** 9th April 2027 to 9th July 2027
   6.1.c.1. 12 races.
   6.1.c.2. Includes the Matariki Race on Thursday 24/06
   6.1.c.3. No racing on 23/04 (Easter), 4/06 (Kings Birthday).

d) **Winter Race Series:** 16th July 2027 to 24th September 2027
   6.1.d.1. 11 races.

6.2 The scheduled time for the first warning signal is;

a) Spring and Summer Series – 1655hrs
   Autumn and Winter Series – 1555hrs
   The individual start times for each division will be listed in the SSI's.

b) For Mark Foy races, boats will be advised of their staggered start time via a Notice to Competitors no later than 30 minutes prior to the times listed above.

6.3 The last race of each series will be a Mark Foy race.

6.4 The sixth race of each series will be a Woman's Helm Race (optional)

7. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

7.1 Spot measurement and safety checks may be conducted at any time during the event.

8. VENUE

8.1 The racing will be held on the Waitemata Harbour and inner Hauraki Gulf.

9. COURSES

9.1 The courses to be sailed will be harbour courses as listed online in *Addendum A – HARBOUR COURSES* on the RNZYS Website www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/docs/

9.2 Courses are also printed in the RNZYS handbook. If there is a difference between the course online and the course printed in the handbook, the online version of the course will take precedence.

10. SCORING

10.1 Only series entrants will be eligible for series scores. Casual race entrants are eligible for daily race prizes but will not be included in series race scores. This changes RRS A2.2.

10.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

a) For all divisions in the Spring, Summer, Autunm, and Winter Series, When from fewer than 6 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores,

b) When from 6 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score,

c) When 9 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

10.3 RRS 90.3 (e) applies.

10.4 RRS A5.3 applies.

11. PRIZES

11.1 Daily prizes will be presented in the RNZYS clubrooms after racing on the day of racing.

a) Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third on PHS in each division.

b) For a second-place prize to be awarded, five (5) yachts must start the race in that division.

c) For a third-place prize to be awarded, eight (8) yachts must start the race in that division.

d) For Mark Foy Races, prizes will be awarded in accordance with the above based on finishing order

e) For Woman Helm races, a prize will be awarded to the first boat on PHS helmed by a female in each division.

f) Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

11.2 Daily prizes can only be collected during prizegiving on the day of racing.

11.3 Series prizes will be awarded on the final race day of each series, using the same prize criteria set out in NOR 11.1(a)–(c).

12. TROPHIES

12.1 Trophies will be awarded for first place on PHS in each division for each series (Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter) at the RNZYS Annual Prizegiving on Saturday 15th May 2027.

a) Only entrants where the boat's skipper is an RNZYS Member in the Full, Junior, Country or Overseas categories are eligible to receive series trophies.

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13. FURTHER INFORMATION

13.1 For further information please contact;

Phone	+64 27 645 7788
Email	raceoffice@rnzys.org.nz
Website	www.rnzys.org.nz
Address	181 Westhaven Drive Westhaven Auckland 1011

Date: 17th September 2026