City of Sails Sprints

29th September 2026 to 1st April 2027

The Organising Authority is the Northcote Birkenhead Yacht Club (Birkenhead Wharf, Auckland 0626)

in conjunction with the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS)*
The following Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations 2025-28 shall apply,
(a) Young 88 - Part II Category 4,
(b) MRX - Part II Category 5
(c) Elliott 7 - Part 1
(d) Etchells - Part 1, except (as per class rules) a PFD for each crew member must be carried on board but is only required to be worn when the Y flag is displayed.

1.2. RRS 33, *Changing the Next Leg of the Course* will be changed. The changes will appear in full in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI's).

1.3. RRS 41*, Outside Assistance* will be changed to allow some coaching of competitors during racing. The changes will appear in full in the SSI's.

1.4. For the Young 88 class, only measured and approved class sails may be used. Spare #1 spinnakers may be carried.

1.5. Appendix T, Arbitration will apply.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. The sailing instructions will be available after 18:00 on Monday, 29th September 2026 on the event website at www.cityofsailssprints.com

2.2. The Sailing Instructions will consist of the instructions in the RRS Appendix S, Standard Sailing Instructions, and supplementary sailing instructions.

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1. The online official notice board is located at www.cityofsailssprints.com

3.2. The OA will communicate with competitors via the event WhatsApp group. Full details of the WhatsApp group and how to join will be detailed in the SSI's.

3.3. On the water, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SSI's. Failure to receive a radio message from the Race Committee will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

3.4. [DP] All boats shall maintain a listening watch on VHF channels 16 & the stated race channel.

(a) Channel 16 must be used for emergency communication.

(b) The race channel will be used for race communication.

3.5. In an emergency, the boat in distress must request assistance via VHF channel 16 for the Coastguard and Emergency Services to be alerted

3.6. [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.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1. The series is open to all boats of the Etchells, Young 88, MRX and Elliott 7 classes.

4.2. Yachts entered into the Etchells, and Young 88 classes shall hold a current measurement certificate.

4.3. Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry through their class associations or management organsiations by Wednesday 23rd September 2026.

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

a) To be eligible to compete in the Etchells series the owner shall be financial member of the Etchells class Association.

b) To be eligible to compete in the Young 88 series the owner and helm shall be financial members of the Young 88 Owners Association Inc.

c) To be eligible to compete in the Elliott 7 Series the Skipper shall be a financial Full, Junior, Country or Overseas member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

5. ENTRY FEES

5.1. Individual boat entry fees will be set by, and are payable to, the respective class associations excluding the Elliott 7 and MRX classes which will be managed by the RNZYS and MRX Yachting Ltd respectively. The class associations or management organisation shall pay the total series fee for their class to the OA.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

6.1. [DP] Boats may be required to include at least one junior sailor in their crew. The races and classes to which this will apply will be agreed with the class association. Competitors will be advised in a Notice to Competitors at least 5 days prior to the race(s) to which it applies.

6.2. For MRX class the following shall apply,

(a) The maximum number of crew (including skipper) shall be six, except when sailing with an all-female or all-youth (under 23) team which shall be up to seven (including skipper).

(b) Any team may apply to add one additional crew to the above limits in 6.2 (a) provided the total crew, including skipper weigh less than 575 kilograms

6.3. For Elloitt 7 class the following shall apply,

(c) The boat shall be raced with a minimum of three and maximum of five crew (including the skipper).

(d) The maximum crew weight, wearing a minimum of shorts and tee shirt is 350 kilograms.

(e) As per 4.4 (c) the Skipper shall be a financial Full, Junior, Country or Overseas member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

7. ADVERTISING AND IDENTIFICATION

7.1. [DP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.

8. EVENT FORMAT

8.1. The series will commence 29th September 2026 and conclude 1st April 2027, with a mid-season break from 16th December 2026 to 1st February 2027.

8.2. The schedule of races for each fleet is detailed in NoR 9.

8.3. Each race day will consist of a maximum of 4 short windward-leeward races.

8.4. The target time for each race is 20 minutes.

8.5. The first warning signal on each race day is 1755 hrs.

8.6. Races will be run back-to-back with minimal delay between races.

8.7. Each fleet will start separately, using the same marks and course area. A maximum of two fleets will race on each race day.

9. SCHEDULE

The scheduled dates for racing for each fleet are as follows;

9.1. **Etchell – Tuesday evenings (weekly)**

a) Pre-Christmas – a total of 12 race days are scheduled

Race Day 1	29th September	Race Day 7	10th November
Race Day 2	6th October	Race Day 8	17th November
Race Day 3	13th October	Race Day 9	24th November
Race Day 4	20th October	Race Day 10	1st December
Race Day 5	27th October	Race Day 11	8th December
Race Day 6	3rd November	Race Day 12	15th December

b) Post-Christmas – a total of 9 race days are scheduled

Race Day 1	2nd February	Race Day 6	9th March
Race Day 2	9th February	Race Day 7	16th March
Race Day 3	16th February	Race Day 8	23rd March
Race Day 4	23rd February	Race Day 9	30th March
Race Day 5	2nd March		

9.2. **MRX – Tuesday evenings (fortnightly)**

a) A total of 11 race days are scheduled

Race Day 1	29th September	Race Day 7	2nd February
Race Day 2	13th October	Race Day 8	16th February
Race Day 3	27th October	Race Day 9	2nd March
Race Day 4	10th November	Race Day 10	16th March
Race Day 5	24th November	Race Day 11	30th March
Race Day 6	8th December		

9.3. **Young 88 – Thursday evenings (fortnightly)**

a) A total of 12 race days are scheduled

Race Day 1	1st October (Practice Day)	Race Day 7	4th February
Race Day 2	15th October	Race Day 8	18th February
Race Day 3	29th October	Race Day 9	4th March
Race Day 4	12th November	Race Day 10	18th March
Race Day 5	26th November	Race Day 11	18th March
Race Day 6	10th December	Race Day 12	1st April

9.4. **Elliott 7 - Thursday evenings (fortnightly)**

a) a total of 12 race days are scheduled

Race Day 1	1st October	Race Day 7	4th February
Race Day 2	15th October	Race Day 8	18th February
Race Day 3	29th October	Race Day 9	4th March
Race Day 4	12th November	Race Day 10	18th March
Race Day 5	26th November	Race Day 11	18th March
Race Day 6	10th December	Race Day 12	1st April

10. VENUE

10.1. The event will be based out of the Northcote Birkenhead Yacht Club, Birkenhead Wharf and the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Westhaven Marina.

10.2. The intended racing area is the Waitemata Harbour to the west and east of the Harbour Bridge but may be changed at the discretion of the RC to suit the conditions.

11. COURSES

11.1. The course will be windward /leeward with optional offset legs using inflatable marks and finishing downwind.

12. PENALTLY SYSTEM

12.1. For all classes RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

12.2. For the MRX fleet, on the water umpiring may be used. When an umpire boat is on the water, the RNZYS Appendix UF will apply which can be found here. A link can also be found online: www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/docs.

13. SCORING

13.1. Only series entrants will be eligible for series scores. This changes RRS A2.2.

13.2. For the Etchells class, their pre-Xmas and post-Xmas racing will be scored as two separate series.

13.3. For the Young 88 Class, the first race day (1st October) is a practice day and will not be counted in series scores.

13.4. Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

a. When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores,

b. When between 5 and 9 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

c. When between 10 and 14 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

d. When 15 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three worst scores.

13.5. RRS 90.3 (e) applies.

13.6. RRS A5.3 applies.

14. SUPPORT BOATS

14.1. [DP] All support and coach boats must have VHF communications and be available to assist the race committee if required.

14.2. [DP] All support and coach boats shall have an engine safety cut out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver at all times while the engine is running unless prior written exemption has been provided by the Organising Authority.

15. CHARTERED BOATS

15.1. For the MRX division the following shall apply,

15.1.1. The series will be sailed in the MRX Class yachts provided by MRX Yachting.

15.1.2. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.2.

15.2. For the Elliott 7 division the following shall apply,

15.2.1. Boats will be allocated as decided by the OA by random draw. Boats will be allocated to a skipper for the series.

15.2.2. The sails to be used will be allocated by the RC. Competitors may be requested to exchange sails during a series to satisfy sponsorship commitments or other requirements.

15.2.3. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.2.

16. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

16.1. By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

16.2. All those who take part in this event as competitors as well as support crew or spectators agree to be overflown by a drone during the duration of the event, this includes your person and your property (boats).

17. RISK STATEMENT

17.1. RRS 3 states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race 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.**

18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

18.1. All those taking part in the event, as between the OA and each of those so taking part, do so at their own risk and responsibility and the OA, and any sponsor or yacht club 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 OA and any sponsor or yacht club 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 OA reserves the right in its sole and uncontrolled discretion to refuse entry.

19. INSURANCE

19.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid marine third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of $5,000,000 per incident or equivalent.

20. PRIZES

20.1. Prizes may be awarded at the discretion of each fleets' class association or management organisation.

a) A prize may be presented after racing on each race night for overall line honours in that night's racing.
b) Weekly prize giving's will be held at a venue as agreed by the class association or management organisation as soon as practical after racing.
c) Daily prizes can only be collected at that day's prizegiving. If a prize winner is not present at that day's prize giving, the prize will be awarded to the next highest placed boat overall on line in that day's racing.
d) Series prizes may be awarded for first, second and third overall on line at the series prize giving to be held at a venue(s) as agreed by each fleets' class association or management organisation

21. FURTHER INFORMATION

Website: www.cityofsailssprints.com

Race Officer: Dave West
Email: djwesty@orcon.net.nz
Phone 021 810 555

Organisation / Fleet	Role	Name	Email	Phone
NBYC	Commodore	Chris Bowman	Chris.Bowman@nbyc.org.nz	
RNZYS	Sailing Manager	Ella Sagnol	Esagnol@rnzys.org.nz	027 288 3157
Elliott 7s	Club Sailing Lead	Brooke Adamson	Raceoffice@rnzys.org.nz	027 645 7788
MRXs	Fleet Manager	Cameron Thorpe	Fleetmanager@mrxyachtingltd.onmicrosoft.com	021 679 125
Young 88s	Class President	Gary Fowler	President@Young88.org.nz	021 554 239
	Event Champ	Mike Leyland	MB.Leyland@gmail.com	021 554 239
Etchells	Class President	Alex Webster	Alex@coast.co.nz	021 667 266
	Event Champ	Lincoln Fraser	Lincoln@newcrest.co.nz	021 321 050

Date: 28 September 2026