



THE CASTLE TROPHY

1 - 4 MAY 2026

ORGANIZING AUTHORITY (OA) ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON COWES

*in association with
GSTAAD YACHT CLUB
GSTAAD*

NOTICE OF RACE (NoR)

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS).
- 1.3. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) National Prescriptions that apply are detailed in Addendum B.
- 1.4. Notices to Mariners for the Ports of [Southampton](#), [Portsmouth](#) and [Cowes](#) apply.
- 1.5. RRS 40.1 shall apply while sailing - an OA-provided Personal Floatation Device (PFD) shall be worn at all times, except when adjusting clothing.
- 1.6. Racing will be in OA-supplied 7m yachts. Spinnakers will not be used for the Team Racing.
- 1.7. RRS 17 is deleted for the Team Racing.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available on www.rys.org.uk by 17 April 2026.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The Official Notice Board (ONB) will be online at www.rys.org.uk and the Race Office will be at the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS).
- 3.2. The Race Committee (RC) will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF Radio, which the OA will provide. The VHF Channel will be stated in the SIs.
- 3.3. In addition to VHF communication, the RC intends to use a Telegram Group to communicate with competitors, and the "QR Code & Link" are in NoR Addendum C and will be repeated in the SIs.

- 3.4. While racing, from the First Warning Signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. Entry is by invitation of the OA.
- 4.2. A maximum of twelve teams will be accepted for this Event. The OA's decision on those teams accepted is final.
- 4.3. Invited teams may enter by completing the Entry Form and submit it, together with the required fee, to the Royal Yacht Squadron at the address below.
- 4.4. The closing date for entry to the Event is 24 April 2026. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA.
- 4.5. To be considered an entry in the event a boat shall complete all entry requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.6. If a team accepts an invitation and later withdraws before the closing date, the Entry Fee, less any bank charges, will be returned.
- 4.7. If a team accepts an invitation and later withdraws after the closing date, the Entry Fee, less any bank charges, will be returned except for the Non-Returnable Deposit of £1,000.
- 4.8. In the event that less than TEN teams enter, the event may be cancelled, and all Entry Fees will be refunded.
- 4.9. In the event that the event is cancelled after the closing date, the Entry Fee less any unavoidable expenses as assessed by the OA, will be returned.
- 4.10. The Sailor's Agreement, Addendum D of this NoR, shall be signed by each team member by 1 May 2026, and prior to going afloat.
- 4.11. Entries shall not be open to competitors and support persons holding only Russian or Belarussian nationality. The OA may amend this rule following any further World Sailing decisions on the situation with Russia and Belarus.
- 4.12. Teams are invited to be accompanied by an Umpire who has experience of Team Racing. The OA's decision as to whether an umpire is accepted is final.

5. FEES

- 5.1. The Entry Fee for The Castle Trophy is GBP 2,250 per team.
- 5.2. A late Entry Fee of GBP 250 will apply.
- 5.3. Entry Fees include the following:
 - (a) Race Management.
 - (b) Opening Ceremony.
 - (c) Berthing.
 - (d) Supper, Trophy Dinner, the BBQ, and most wines and drinks.
 - (e) Prizegivings.
- 5.4. Additional tickets to cover all evening events may be purchased at Registration for the cost of GBP 225.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS

- 6.1. Each team shall consist of four persons including at least one female and one male.

- 6.2. Each Sailing team shall be comprised of a helm, who shall be a member in good standing of the represented yacht club or sailing association. Additional team members shall be members in good standing, spouses or partners of members in good standing, or children of members in good standing of the yacht club, sailing association, they represent. 'Members in good standing' is intended to include members of a yacht club's young person's racing programme who have at least one year's standing on the first day of the Event.
- 6.3. Only World Sailing Sailor Categorization Group One sailors shall helm. Teams shall be limited to one Group Three sailor.
- 6.4. A parental (or guardian) consent form and declaration, available on www.rys.org.uk shall be submitted for crew under 18 years of age.

7. ADVERTISING

- 7.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

8. FORMAT

- 8.1. The Series consists of two events, which are as follows:
- Fleet Racing in Cowes, with all races umpired.
 - Random-Pairs Two-Boat Team Racing in Cowes, which will be a series of umpired races lasting between six to eight minutes; spinnakers will not be used. The Pairing for each race will be fully described in the SIs. See Explanation after the end of the NoR.

9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1. The times shown in the table below are Local Time in Cowes.

DATE	TIME	FIRST WARNING SIGNAL	ACTIVITIES
1 May 2026 Cowes HW 1210 – 4.3m	1200 1830 1900 1945		Sailing Practice Event Briefing Opening Reception Supper RYS Platform
2 May 2026 Cowes HW 1250 – 4.4m	0900 1830 1915 2000	0940	J70 Fleet RYS Haven Fleet Racing RYS Line Team Racing Mandatory Briefing Prizegiving RYS Pavilion Dinner RYS Platform
3 May 2026 Cowes HW 1330 – 4.4m	0900 2000	1030	J70 Fleet RYS Haven Random-Pairs Team Racing BBQ RYS Pavilion
4 May 2026 Cowes HW 1410 – 4.4m	0845 1415 1535	1000	J70 Fleet RYS Haven Random-Pairs Team Racing Prizegiving RYS Pavilion Red Jet Departs

- 9.2. On the last day of the event, no Warning Signal will be made after 1215.

10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1. Boats may be inspected at any time during the Event.
- 10.2. The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this NoR.

11. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- 11.1. Event-branded clothing may be available for purchase.

12. VENUE

- 12.1. Yachting will take place in Cowes in the Isle of Wight, UK.
- 12.2. To indicate the general sailing area off Cowes, a local racing chartlet is attached at Addendum A. (The SIs will show the 2025 version.)

13. COURSES

- 13.1. Fleet Racing will be a mix of windward / leeward configuration, and fixed marks, as described in the SIs.
- 13.2. The Random-Pairs Team Racing Course will be Windward / Leeward, with an Offset, and a Downwind Finish, which will be depicted in the SIs.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 14.2. With all races being umpired, it is not expected that protests will occur. If required a Hearing will be held in the RYS as soon as possible after racing.

15. SCORING

- 15.1. One race in each of the two events is required to be completed to constitute the Series.
- 15.2. There will be no discards in either of the two events.
- 15.3. Fleet Racing - each race will use the Low Point System, see RRS Appendix A. The first team overall will score two times the number of entries in points, with two points less for each subsequent place.
- 15.4. Team Racing - Losses will be scored. The team with the lowest overall score will score three times the number of entries in points, with three points less for each subsequent place. This changes RRS Appendices D3 & D4.
- 15.5. In addition to the point scoring for The Castle Trophy, there will be Cumulative Points Scoring combining both The Castle Trophy and the Gstaad Yacht Club Ski Yachting event held in Gstaad 6-7 Mar 2026. For qualifying boats, which have at least one skier crew member (a "Qualified Skier"), those boats will count the best skier point(s) such that the first team with a Qualified Skier will score the number of entries in points, with one point less for each subsequent place.

16. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 16.1. Support person vessels shall be marked with an appropriate flag issued by the OA.
- 16.2. Team leaders, coaches, other support personnel and their coach and support boats shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the First

Warning Signal of the first start until all boats have finished or until the RC signals “no more racing today”.

- 16.3. All support person vessels shall carry a marine VHF Radio and comply with RRS 37 ‘Search and Rescue Instructions’.

17. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 17.1. J70 boats will be provided by the OA.

18. BERTHING

- 18.1. Event berthing will be in the RYS Haven, Cowes.

19. LAUNCHING AND HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 19.1. Boats shall not be launched, re-launched or hauled out after 1700 1 May 2026 until the end of the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the RC.

20. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 20.1. Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between the Preparatory Signal of the first race and the end of the last race.
- 20.2. No person shall undertake any swimming, underwater or diving activities of any kind within the Harbour without a valid permit to dive from the Cowes Harbour Master or the manager of the marina you wish to dive at. This prohibited activity is legislated under Cowes Harbour Commission [General Direction 4.4 & 4.5](#).
- 20.3. Competitors may at any time, and within the existing marina regulations, scrub the hull using flossing, sponging or mechanical devices as long as no person enters the water.

21. DATA PROTECTION

- 21.1. The personal information you provide to the OA will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the RRS and the other *rules* that govern the Events (the *rules*), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the *rules*, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the OA’s Privacy Policy. When required by the *rules*, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and / or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 21.2. Competitors automatically grant to the OA, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event provided that they do not infringe the privacy rights of participants.
- 21.3. The Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) Armorial, Burgees and all other associated logos shall not be used by any club or individual without the prior written permission of the RYS.

22. RISK STATEMENT

- 22.1. Rule 3 of the RRS states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”
- 22.2. 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:
- 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;
 - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - 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;
 - The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
 - It is their responsibility to familiarize themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

23. INSURANCE

- 23.1. The OA insures the boat for the period of hire against fire and all usual marine and collision risks to include third party risks to such an extent as is required by law and in addition as RYS shall deem appropriate. The Excess for any One Incident is GBP 1,000.
- 23.2. A copy of the Insurance Policy is available for inspection, if required.

24. PRIZES

- 24.1. The Fleet Racing Prizegiving will be held on 2 May 2026 at 1915 prior to Dinner.
- 24.2. The Team Racing Prizegiving and the Event Prizegiving will be held on 4 May 2026 at 1415.
- 24.3. Prizes will be awarded to the First, Second and Third teams in each Sailing Event.
- 24.4. The Castle Trophy will be presented to the winning Team in the Series. In addition, there shall be prizes for the teams with a Qualified Skier on-board based on Cumulative Points (see NoR 15.5). Prizes will be awarded to the First, Second and Third teams.

25. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 25.1. For further information please contact the OA, the details of whom are shown at the bottom of each page.

ADDENDA

- A. Chartlet of the Racing Area.
- B. RYA Prescriptions.
- C. Telegram Instructions.
- D. Sailor's Agreement.

NOTICE OF RACE ENDS**SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Friday 1 May	Opening Ceremony RYS Platform Supper RYS Platform
Saturday 2 May	Fleet Racing Prizegiving RYS Pavilion Castle Trophy Dinner RYS Platform
Sunday 3 May	BBQ RYS Pavilion
Monday 4 May	Team-Racing & Castle Trophy Prizegiving RYS Pavilion

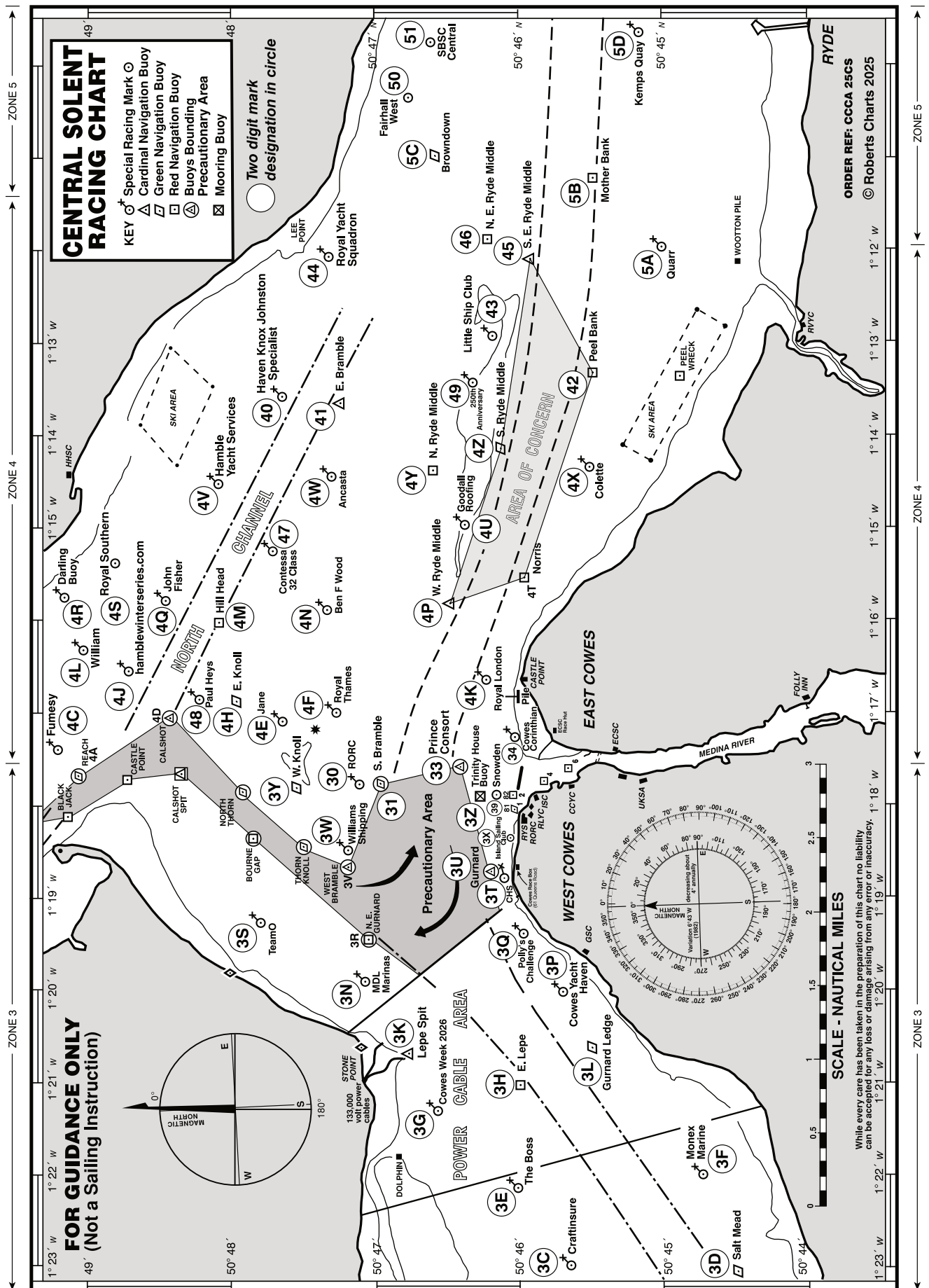
EXPLANATIONRandom-Pairs Two-Boat Team Racing

Team Racing with a difference. Every race you sail is in a team of two boats, and in each race your teammate is different, and you are sailing against another pair of boats, again randomly selected. Thus, in one race you are sailing with another boat in the same team while later you are sailing against them. If your team loses you each get One Loss Point. When the Regatta is finished the Boat with the lowest Loss Points wins.

Remember, this is Two-Boat Team Racing, so if your teammate is in 4th Place, you lose: RRS Appendix D3.4.

ADDENDUM A

Chartlet of the Racing Area



ADDENDUM B**RYA prescriptions that apply:****Rule 4 Acceptance of the Rules**

Add new rule 4.6:

Each competitor and boat owner shall ensure that their support persons comply with the rules.

Add new rule 4.7:

The penalty for a breach of rule 4 shall be at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

Rule 6 Anti-Doping

The national authority procedural rules required to implement the World Anti-Doping Code through World Sailing Regulation 21 are the RYA Anti-Doping Rules, as published on the RYA website.

Rule 67 Damages

1. Any issue of liability or claim for damages arising from an incident while a boat is bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts and not considered by a protest committee.
2. A boat that takes a penalty or retires does not thereby admit liability for damages or that she has broken a rule.

88.2 Changes to National Authority Prescriptions

Notices of race and sailing instructions shall not change a prescription of the RYA. However, when an international jury has been appointed for an event, only the prescriptions to rules 4, 6, 67, 86.3 and 88.2 shall apply.

Additional RYA prescriptions that apply if no International Jury has been appointed.**Rule 70.5 Right of Appeal**

1. RYA approval is not required to deny the right of appeal under rule 70.5(a).
2. The RYA will not consider approving the denial of the right of appeal under rule 70.5(b) unless
 1. (a) the RYA decides there is good reason to approve. The cost of an international jury which would otherwise be appropriate for the event is not a good reason.
 2. (b) the protest committee is approved by the RYA.
 3. (c) application to the RYA is made no later than one month before the notice of race is to be issued. In exceptional circumstances, the RYA may consider a later application.

A copy of the RYA letter of approval shall be displayed on the official notice board.

3. However, the denial of appeal shall not apply to a party to a hearing under rule 69.2, Misconduct, but the decision of the protest committee shall determine the results of the event.

ADDENDUM C**TELEGRAM INSTRUCTIONS****Telegram**

We have set up an official [Telegram](#) group for receiving general information from the Race Office and Race Committee.

If you do not already have the Telegram app installed on your device, please follow the instructions below:

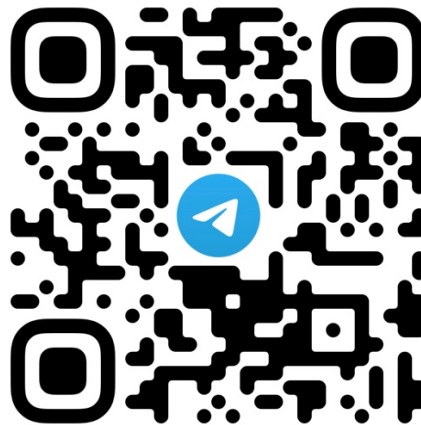
- **Apple iPhones** – download and install via the App Store.
<https://apps.apple.com/app/telegram-messenger/id686449807>
- **Android Phones** – download and install via the Google Play Store.
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.telegram.messenger>

To join the Telegram Group please use either the link or the QR code below:

LINK:

<https://t.me/+vC3cg1ivCIJiNDc0>

QR:



ADDENDUM D

[\(Online form\)](#)

ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON

Tel: 01983 292191 Email: mail@rys.org.uk

SAILOR AGREEMENT FORM (the "Sailor Agreement")

EVENT NAME:	The Castle Trophy
DATES:	1-4 May 2026
NAME:	
CLUB:	
MOBILE TELEPHONE:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:	
EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:	

HEALTH DECLARATION

Details of any medical treatment being received by any crew member (if none, write none):

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, that no crew members are suffering from epilepsy, disability, giddy spells, asthma, diabetes, angina or other heart condition, and all are fit to participate.

Signature: Date:.....

EVENT DECLARATIONS

- I agree to report to the RYS Office any damage, breakage or loss of equipment concerning either the boat that I am sailing or another boat of which I become aware or with which I was involved in an incident. This also includes damage to Navigation Buoys.
- I agree to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and all other rules that govern this event. In particular, I confirm that I have read the Notice of Race and accept its provisions, including the Risk Statement and agree to conform to these requirements throughout the event.

Signature: Date:.....