

Bristol Channel Yacht Club

Scarweather Regatta

Celebrating over 150 years of sailing at the BCYC

22nd and 23rd August 2026

Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority is the Bristol Channel Yacht Club

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by:

- a. the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028*.
- b. The National Authority (RYA) prescriptions which can be found at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules>

1.2 Boats shall also abide by:

- a. The RYA Racing Charter. Which can be found in the RYA rule book (RRS 2025–28) and at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>
- b. All applicable harbour authority byelaws and regulations. For the Scarweather Race, skippers/those responsible for boats must ensure satisfactory compliance with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations category 4. Boats sailing in the configuration of a one design class may, as an alternative, comply with the safety requirements of their class.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board



(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hLX9e_MwHwIYuLUhVOGrHNI8CeJsdGjBxs1aGSA6Xh0/edit?usp=sharing) before 09:30 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water and will be

communicated via Channel M2/P4

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the event WhatsApp group



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DkKs6rDazl7H03KwrqVyuD> and communicated to competitors via Channel M2/P4

- 3.2 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 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the BCYC flagstaff and communicated on Channel M2/P4
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 1 hour” in the race signal AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the Scarweather Challenge Race is not before 11:25 on Saturday 22nd August 2026
- 6.2 Registration for the Scarweather Challenge Race: Yachts are to register their participation using the WhatsApp Community General Channel or VHF Channel M2/P4 (or equivalent) by 11:00 on the morning of the race using call sign BCYC Race Committee.
- 6.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the Scarweather Regatta “in bay” races is not before 11:25 on Sunday 23rd August
- 6.4 Registration for the Scarweather Regatta “in-bay” races: Yachts are to register their participation using the WhatsApp Community General Channel or VHF Channel M2/P4 by 11:00 on the morning of the race using call sign BCYC Race Committee
- 6.5 2 “in-bay” races are scheduled as part of the Scarweather Regatta (Sunday) with target times of 60 minutes
- 6.6 Failure to meet the target times are not a cause for protest.

7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The Class flag will be R

8 RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area for the:

- a. Scarweather Challenge Race is within the Bristol Channel, between Swansea Bay and the West Scarweather Buoy
- b. Scarweather Regatta “in-bay” races will be Swansea Bay and its environs

9 COURSES

9.1 The Scarweather Challenge course to be sailed is:

- a. Start – BCYC Start line
- b. SWIGG to Port
- c. West Scarweather Buoy to Starboard
- d. SWIGG to Starboard
- e. Finish – BCYC Finish line

9.2 The Course of the Scarweather Challenge Race will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32.

9.3 Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes RRS 33.

9.4 The Scarweather Regatta “in bay” races will be sailed using a mix of dropped and fixed marks and will be published on the Official Notice Board, the WhatsApp Group and communicated on Channel M2/P4 30 minutes before the start.

9.5 The course for the Scarweather Regatta “in-bay” races may be shortened. In which case the Race Committee will hail the fleet on Channel M2/P4 in addition to flying Flag S as required. Failure to monitor M2/P4 or hear the broadcast will not be grounds for protest. This changes RRS 32.2

10 MARKS

10.1 The marks of the course will be drawn from:

- a. BCYC ODM is a red buoy situated at 51°34.784’N 3°58.527’W
- b. West Scarweather Buoy is a Westerly Cardinal situated at 51° 28.309N 3°55.580W
- c. SWIGG is an Easterly Cardinal situated at 51° 34.209’N 3° 57.123’W
- d. Swansea Outer Fairway (green) situated at 51° 34.784’N 3°56.524’W
- e. Swansea Mid Fairway Buoys situated at 51°35.552’ 3°56.232’W
- f. Swansea Inner Fairway Buoy (green) situated at 51°36.229’N 3°55.660’W
- g. BCYC Yellow Buoy (A5 yellow mooring buoy) situated at 51° 35.312’N 3°57.014W
- h. Hyder marks (yellow) situated at 51°35.397’N 3°54.054’W
- i. Outfall (red can/beacon) situated at 51°36.234’N 3°56.786’W

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 The following objects are designated as obstructions:

- a. Mumbles Pier
- b. Scarweather Sands

12 THE START

12.1 The Scarweather Challenge Race will be started using broadcasts on Channel M2/P4 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. No visual signals will be made. This changes RRS 26

12.2 The start line for the Scarweather Challenge Race will be between the BCYC ODM and high visibility pink banner on the seafront adjacent to Verdis and

the white windows of the BCYC immediately to the left of the high visibility pink banner on the BCYC veranda. The bearing of the line is approximately 220° true.

- 12.3 The start line for the Scarweather Regatta “in bay” races will be between a vessel (white Rib) displaying an orange flag and a dropped buoy.
- 12.4 If any part of a boat’s hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number on Channel M2/P4. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.5 A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line for the Scarweather Challenge Race will be the transit of the high visibility pink banner on the seafront adjacent to Verdis and the white windows of the BCYC immediately to the left of the high visibility pink banner on the BCYC veranda, extending between the BCYC and the BCYC ODM, and sailed in a Westerly direction. The bearing of the line is approximately 220° true.
- 13.2 The finish line for the Scarweather Regatta “in bay” Races will be the same as the Start Line, unless altered by a shortening of course.
- 13.3 Finishing boats will be hailed by the race committee on Channel M2/P4
- 13.4 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty

15 TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 Scarweather Challenge Race: If no boat has reached the Scarweather West Buoy within 150 minutes, the race may be abandoned.
- 15.2 The Scarweather regatta “in-bay” race time limit and finishing window are:

Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
90 Minutes	50 Minutes

16 HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the WhatsApp Community and the official notice board.
- 16.2 Notification to protest should be made on the WhatsApp Community and followed by submission of a Hearing request form.
- 16.3 Hearing request forms are available at <https://www.bcyco.co.uk/bcyco-scarweather-regatta-2026/> and the BCYC Race Office.
- 16.4 Notices will be posted, on the official notice board and WhatsApp Community, no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the Bristol Channel Yacht Club, beginning at the time posted.

17 SCORING

17.1 The regatta will be scored using the YTC ratings and scored according to the low points scoring system of RRS Appendix A.

17.2 RRS Appendix A rule 5.3 shall apply.

17.3 A single scored race will constitute a series.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 All boats to confirm their participation on Channel M2/P4, call sign “BCYC Race Committee” prior to the warning signal

18.2 A boat that retires from the race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity, using Channel M2/P4 or by telephone 07415 338607

18.3 Competing boats are required to monitor channel M2/P4 throughout the regatta.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

19.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

20 PRIZES

20.1 The Scarweather Challenge Cup will be presented to the winning boat of the Scarweather Challenge Race

20.2 The Scarweather Salver will be presented to the winner of the Scarweather Regatta

20.3 Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Sponsor and the Race Officer

21 RISK STATEMENT

21.1 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.**

22 INSURANCE

22.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2 000 000 per incident or the equivalent.

Thank you to our Sponsors

