



**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
PORT CURTIS SAILING CLUB INC
2026 - 2027 SEASON SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. SCOPE

These Sailing Instructions cover all races on the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc 2026/2027 Sailing Season Calendar of events for in-harbour events where separate Sailing Instructions are not issued. These Sailing Instructions take effect from the 1st September 2026.

2. RULES

The races will be governed by:

1. The Racing Rules of Sailing(RRS) of Australian Sailing 2025-2028
 2. The by-laws of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc,
 3. Port Security Regulations
- except as modified by these Sailing Instructions.

3. ENTRIES AND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for acceptance, each boat must:

1. Be owned or be chartered by an ordinary or junior member of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc.
2. When racing, be in the charge by an ordinary, junior or affiliated member or Sail Pass holder issued by the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc.
3. When racing in Off The Beach Divisions the entry shall be a combined crew + boat entry. Where more than one crew is sailing an OTB boat at least one crew needs to be consistently on the boat to satisfy the entry requirements.
4. Be included on the registry of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc.
5. Be registered with Queensland Transport where applicable.
6. Comply with the safety rules of the appropriate category, as defined in these sailing instructions.
7. Have completed PCSC Membership Application/Renewal and have paid racing fees.
8. Have lodged evidence of Public Liability and Third Party Insurance with a cover of not less than \$10,000,000.
9. Have provided evidence that all crew sailing on board are ordinary or junior members of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc, or an alternative Yacht Club affiliated with Australian Sailing. New or casual crew are allowed to race without membership but must be issued with an Australia Sailing Sail Pass (by PCSC) for each occurrence.
10. Division 1 and 1a competitors shall provide a completed measurement sheet or valid IRC certificate and completed Australian Sailing Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form.
11. Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc reserves the right to refuse any entry. Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc may, at its discretion, declare any boat that has failed to comply with the requirements listed above a non-competitor and award the yacht points or placing consistent with having been declared DNS (Did Not Start).

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board(s) located under the veranda on the western side of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Building or on the club website.

5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the race on the day that it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted no less than 6 days before it will take effect.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag pole at the north east corner of the Port Curtis Sailing Club building rigging area.

When flag AP is displayed ashore (with two sound signals), races not started are postponed. The warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered (with one sound signal).

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Races are scheduled as per the 2026-2027 Port Curtis Sailing Club sailing calendar published in the monthly newsletter and on the TeamUp website.

For all Off the Beach Divisions there will normally be two consecutive short races on all Handicap and Championship race days and more than two races maybe scheduled for sprint racing.

When more than one race will be held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that another race or sequence of races will begin soon, the postponement signal may be displayed before a warning signal.

8. DIVISION FLAGS

Division flags will be:

Division	Flags
1 Yachts, monohull 1a Yachts, multihull	Numeral Pendant 1
3 Off the Beach, VYC rating < 85	Numeral Pendant 3
4 Off the Beach, VYC rating > = 85 and <145	Numeral Pendant 4
5 Off the Beach, VYC rating > = 145	Sabot Flag

The Sailing Committee may, at its discretion, allow boats to sail outside their allocated division, or assign a boat to a particular division. Requests by competitors to sail outside their normal division are to be submitted to the Port Curtis Sailing Club Sailing Committee in writing.

For any of these divisions to be formed for the season, a minimum of three boats shall be nominated to race before the first heat of the club championship. Should insufficient boats nominate in any division for the season those already nominated may be reassigned to another division at the discretion of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Sailing Committee.

9. RACING AREA

The racing area will be as shown in Appendix 1.

10. MARKS

Marks 1, 2, and 3 will be orange, black or white inflatable buoys.

Division 1 Marks

Floating buoys, harbour navigational marks and/or special marks as nominated by the Race Committee.

Note:

1. The most northern extremity of the Meatworks wharf is to be considered the end of a continuous obstruction from the shoreline out into the harbour.
2. Due to the provisions of the Port security regulations a yacht may request water 50 metres from any wharf or ship at anchor.

Divisions 3, 4 and 5 Marks

Marks for division 3, 4 and 5 shall be either three (3) floating buoys, harbour navigational marks and/or special marks as nominated by the Race Committee.

11. COURSES

Courses may be indicated by the Naval Numeral Flag flown at the start area. Should it be necessary to change the Finish for Division 1 and 1a as described in 16a, an additional marker may be added to the end of the course.

A race briefing for all Divisions will be held at the downstairs noticeboard no earlier than 75 minutes before the Division 1 and 1a start times. The briefing may include information on selected courses and the race management plan for the day.

Division 1 Yachts

Course 1 (NE)	Start – A7(s) - A6(p) - A3(s) - QAL(p) - Q1(p) - QAL(p) - Q1(p) - A2(s) - A8(s) – A7(p) - Finish.
Course 2 (N)	Start – CB1(s) - QAL(p) - Q3(p) - QAL(p) - Q3(p) - A2(s) - A8(s) – CB1(p) - Finish.
Course 3 (E)	Start - Q1(s) - A8(s) - A3(s) - Finish
Course 4 (SE)	Start - QAL(s) - A8(s) - A4(s) - Finish
Course 5	As per the Notice Board

Division 1a Yachts

Course 1	Start – A7(s) – QAL(p) – G4(p) – Q1(p) – QAL(s) - Finish
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Course 2 As per the Notice Board

The final decision as to which course Divisions 1 and 1a sail will be made at the start area and denoted by the appropriate course flag. Flying of a course flag countermands any course that may be posted on the notice board.

Division 3, 4 and 5 Off The Beach Classes

The three (3) floating buoys will be known as Marks 1, 2, 3.

The course for Divisions 3 to 5 shall be as per the notice board.

Direction of rotation around each course will be indicated by the following coloured flags displayed at the start area:-

Red Flag – Leave all marks to port.

Green Flag – Leave all marks to starboard.

12. THE START

Races will be started using RRS Rule 26 with Divisions starting at 5 minute intervals in the order Divisions 1 and 1a, followed by Division 3, then Divisions 4 and 5. The starting signal of each division shall be the warning signal for the next division to start.

In races where the starting line for Divisions 3, 4 and 5 differs from Division 1 and 1a, the starting sequence for Divisions 3, 4 and 5 will be delayed for the race committee vessel to relocate and take position.

Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded. One or more divisions may be started together at the discretion of the starter.

The starting line will be an imaginary line between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and a floating buoy. A clearance buoy may be laid behind the committee boat and no boat shall pass between this buoy and the committee boat.

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.

A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal shall be deemed Did Not Start.

If flag U has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat's hull shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing but not if the race is restarted or resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal.

13. RECALLS

Individual Recalls will be in accordance with RRS Rule 29.1
General Recalls will be in accordance with RRS Rule 29.2.
The order of starting divisions will not be altered.

14. ABANDONED RACES

Races will be postponed or abandoned if the Principal Race Officer (PRO) or the Sailing Committee deems conditions to be unsafe. No racing shall occur if a gale warning or higher is present (Winds averaging from 34 knots and higher).

Dinghy divisions shall not sail if a strong wind warning is posted (Winds averaging greater than 22 knots).

Races postponed or abandoned to another day may be re-sailed on any course at the discretion of the Port Curtis Sailing Club Sailing Committee. Notice of the date of the resail will be posted no less than 5 days before it will take effect.

15. SHORTEN COURSE

Races may be shortened in accordance with RRS Rule 32.2. When a shortened course applies only to one Division, Code flag S will be displayed over the relevant division flag.

16. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and the nearby mark.

A boat now starts and finishes when her hull crosses the line. (Not crew or spinnakers, bowsprits, Bowsprits, including permanent ones, according to dictionaries are not part of the hull. This also applies for the I, Z, U, and Black flag start rules.

16a ALTERNATIVE FINISH – Division 1 & 1a

The finishing line, as described in 16 above, may differ for Division 1 and 1a when the race committee boat is in position in the Quoin Basin area. Should this be the case, the finishing line for Division 1 and 1a will be advised at the briefing.

17. TIME LIMIT

The time limit for each race shall be 180 minutes for Divisions 1 and 1a. The time limit for Divisions 3, 4 and 5 shall be 60 minutes for the first boat and 75 minutes for subsequent boats. Boats failing to finish within the prescribed time limit will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS Rule 35.

18. PENALTY SYSTEM

Division 1, 1a

For breaking any rule of Part 2 a boat may take the 720° penalty (RRS Rule 44.1 and 44.2) or a scoring penalty (RRS Rule 44.3).

Division 3, 4 and 5

For breaking any rule of Part 2 a boat may take a 360° penalty (this changes RRS Rule 44.1 and 44.2), or a scoring penalty (RRS Rule 44.3). When applying RRS Rule 44.3, the scoring penalty will be 4 places.

19. PROTESTS

Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests shall be delivered to the Principal Race Officer within the protest time limit. For each division, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day for that Division. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the sailing committee and protest committee and to requests for redress. This changes RRS Rules 61.3 and 62.2.

Notices will be posted on the notice board within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the race office at the time nominated by the notice.

Notices of protests by the sailing committee or protest committee will be posted on the notice board to inform boats under RRS Rule 61.1(b). A list of boats that, under instruction 18, have acknowledged breaking RRS Rule 42 or have been disqualified by the protest committee will be posted before the protest time limit.

For the purpose of RRS Rule 64.4(b) the “authority” is the measurer appointed by the organizing authority.

No fee shall be payable for protests.

20. SCORING

Rated Club Championship for Divisions 1 and 1a

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

Four races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

Rated Club Championship for Divisions 3, 4 and 5

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

Eight races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

When fewer than twelve (12) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

When twelve (12) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

Handicap Series for Divisions 1 and 1a

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

Handicap Series for Divisions 3, 4 and 5

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.
Four races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

Sprint Series for all Divisions

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.
Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

For all races

Boats shall be required to be in their normal measured configuration and in a state to complete the race course. Boats not in this state shall be deemed Did Not Compete (DNC).

Average Points Policy

Reference is made to the PCSC Average Points Policy, version 1 adopted on 19 March 2019 in regard to awarding a competitor average points in a race. The policy has provision for absence due to representative sailing conflicts and Principle Race Officer or support boat crew duties.

21. HANDICAPS AND RATINGS

The Port Curtis Sailing Club Sailing Committee may at its absolute discretion review any yacht's handicap and/or championship rating when it is of the opinion that due to anomaly, error or circumstances, the handicap and/or rating is deemed unfair or unreasonable. A yacht's handicap and/or rating shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress (amends RRS Rule 60.1 and Rule 62).

Off the beach dinghy Championship rating shall be calculated using the most up to date Yardstick as issued by Yachting Victoria. The rating can be altered at the discretion of the sailing committee if Yachting Victoria updates the Yardstick during the course of the sailing season. Boats without a YV Yardstick numbers published in the current listing will be allocated an estimated Trial Number

22. MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc by-laws, each boat shall be registered with the club. The boat name, type, design, measurements, together with any rating certificate, shall be provided with the application for registration. Any changes in hull, engine, propeller, trim, spars, sail area or significant changes which affect the performance of the boat, shall be notified in writing to the Port Curtis Sailing Club Sailing Committee no less than 7 days prior to the race affected by the change. A boat failing to comply may be disqualified.

23. ENTRY FEES

Fees shall be as per the current Port Curtis Sailing Club application/renewal membership and race registration fee structure.

24. RACE RESULTS AND PRIZES

Provisional race results will be posted on the official notice board at the earliest opportunity after the completion of the day's racing and recorded on the Club's result information system.

Prizes will be awarded by the executive for each series depending on the number of entries.

25. SAFETY REGULATIONS

All boats racing in Division 1 and 1a shall comply with Category 7 of the Australian Sailing Special Regulations, Part 1, for Racing Boats with the inclusion of the following requirement:

Each boat shall be equipped with a VHF Radio capable of transmitting and receiving on CH 13, 16, 67 & 72. A waterproof handheld VHF is acceptable. A listening watch is to be held on channel 13.

All competitors on yachts not fitted with lifelines are required to wear life jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy at all times. When code flag "Y" is displayed all competitors are required to wear lifejackets or other adequate personal buoyancy as per RRS 40.

A valid Australian Sailing Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form shall be submitted in respect to each competing vessel. Compliance checks may be carried out at random. Boats not complying with a reasonable request for a compliance check, or failing to meet the requirements for the race category may be declared a non competitor and receive a DNS (Did not Start) for the race. Any entry fee paid will not be refunded.

All boats racing in Divisions 3, 4 and 5 shall comply with the requirements of the RRS – Special regulations - Part 2.

Following any race incident competitors shall follow the Port Curtis Sailing Club Incident Management Procedures. See Reference Document No: 2 The Port Curtis Sailing Club may inspect the vessels to ensure compliance with the safety requirements is met.

26. SIGN ON AND SIGN OFF

All boats intending to race shall sign on and sign off the registration form (sign-on form) for each race.

The sign-on form will be posted near the official notice board approximately 90 minutes before the start of each race.

Boats shall sign off no later than 60 minutes after they have finished the race.
Boats which fail to sign on and/or sign off may be declared DNS (Did Not Start).

27. RETIREMENTS

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

A boat may signal their retirement by a verbal hail to, or by radio communication with, a committee or rescue vessel.

28. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the sailing instructions.

29. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

During Club Races the radio frequencies to be used are:

1. PCSC race officials and rescue boat: *VHF - CH72*
2. Volunteer Marine Rescue Gladstone: *VHF - CH16 and CH82*
3. Gladstone Vessel Traffic Service: *VHF CH13*

30. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in races conducted by the Port Curtis Sailing Club Inc entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, or prior to, during, or after any race. The boat owner, skipper and crew acknowledge that participation in racing events carries with it potential hazards including risks associated with perils of the sea.

31. ADVERTISING

Yachts may carry advertising as permitted by ISAF Appendix 1, Regulation 20 - Category C. Attention is drawn to the Australian Sailing Advertising License System.

32. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

Yachts shall not interfere with the Commercial or Naval Shipping of the Port. Attention is also drawn to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and Port security regulations.

33. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

34. Reference Documents

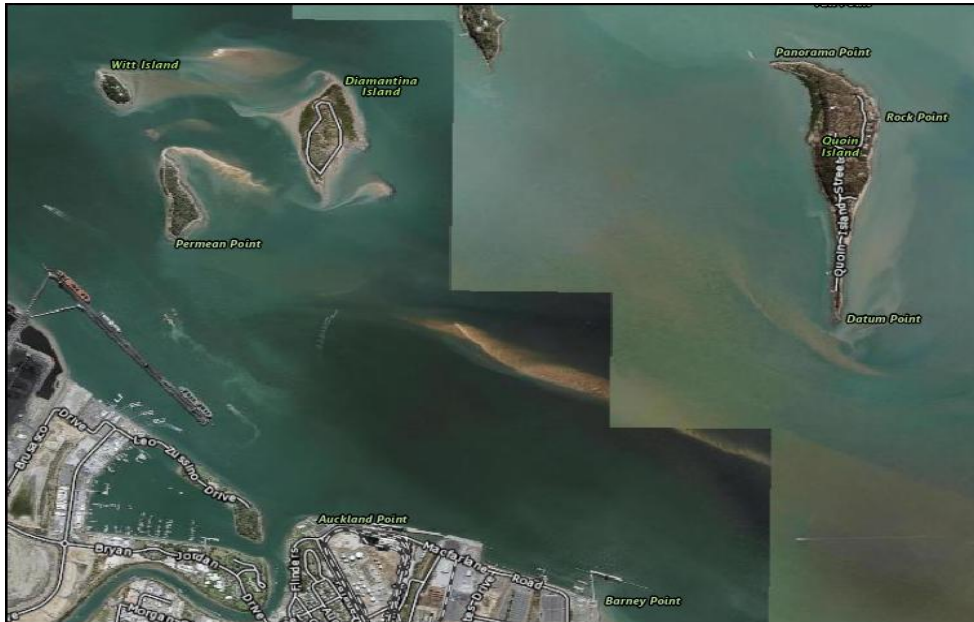
1. Gladstone Harbour Marks Guide
2. PCSC Incident Management Guide
3. Category 7 YA Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form

35. Version Control

Version 1 28-07-2026

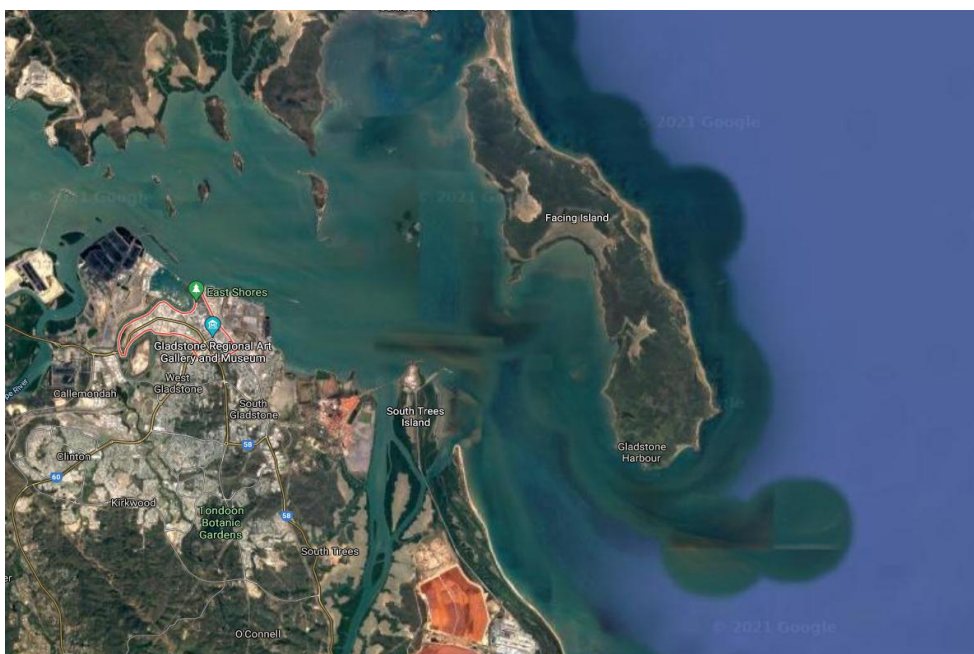
APPENDIX 1. Racing Area

Dinghy Area



Sailing areas indicative only, for MSQ approved zone areas refer to PCSC race management manual

Yacht Area



Sailing areas indicative only, for MSQ approved zone areas refer to PCSC race management manual