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2023 Ronstan Cock of the Bay Sailing Instructions



Contents

Amendments	2
Sailing Instructions	5
1. Rules	5
2. Media on yachts.....	5
3. Notices to competitors.....	5
4. Class flag	6
5. The start	6
6. The course.....	6
7. The finish	6
8. Time limit	6
9. Protests & requests for redress	6
10. Penalty system	6
11. Yachts retiring.....	7
12. Safety regulations	7
13. Unsuitable conditions	7
14. Race communications.....	8
15. Disclaimer of liability	8
16. Crew behaviour.....	8
17. Appendices	8
Appendix A: Race communications	9
A1 General.....	9
A2 Radio Race channels.....	9
A3 Phone	10
A4 Email.....	10
A5 Sign on schedule	10
A6 Premature starters	11
A7 Approaching the finish.....	11
A8 Yachts retiring.....	11
A9 Summary	12
Appendix B: Start	13
B1 Start time and location	13
B2 Starting line.....	13

B3	Start procedure	13
B4	Postponements	14
Appendix C: Course		15
C1	Course details	15
C2	Marks	15
Appendix D: Finish		16
D1	Finishing	16
D2	Finishing times	16
D3	Mooring facilities	16
D4	Presentation	16

Sailing Instructions

The 2023 Ronstan Cock of the Bay Yacht Race will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip. The Race is organised and conducted by the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria inc.

1. Rules

- 1.1. The rules for the Race shall be:
 - The 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing (WS),
 - The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS),
 - The Special Regulations of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria (ORCV),
 - Where a yacht is entered under AMS, the rules and regulations of the Australian Measurement System (AMS),
 - Where a yacht is entered under IRC, Parts A, B and C of the rules of the International Rating Certificate (IRC).
 - Where a yacht is entered under ORC, the rules and regulations of the Offshore Rating Congress (ORC),
- 1.2. Notice of Race, except as amended by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.3. All times in these Sailing Instructions are Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) unless otherwise stated.
- 1.4. Between the hours of Sunset and Sunrise, RRS 10 to 22 inclusive shall cease to be applicable and shall be replaced by the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea.
- 1.5. For the purpose of this race, the time of Sunset on 26 December 2023 shall be 2043.

2. Media on yachts

- 2.1. With the prior approval of the Race Committee, a yacht may carry additional persons on board, for media purposes, for up to three hours after the starting signal.
- 2.2. Such additional persons shall not participate in the sailing of the yacht. Such persons leaving the boat shall not be subject to protest or redress by a yacht (amends RRS 47.2, 60.1 and 62.1(a) and RRS 63.1 shall not apply).

3. Notices to competitors

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the ORCV website www.orcv.org.au.
- 3.2. Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be:
 - posted on the ORCV website (www.orcv.org.au) before 0700 on the day of the race
 - advised to competitors on VHF Channel 82 at the commencement of the Sign On Schedule (see in Appendix A Race Communications.)

4. Class flag

- 4.1. The Class Flag for all divisions and classes will be the ORCV Burgee.

5. The start

- 5.1. The start is as described in Appendix B Start.

6. The course

- 6.1. The course is as described in Appendix C Course.

7. The finish

- 7.1. The finish is as described in Appendix D Finish.

8. Time limit

- 8.1. The time limit for all yachts shall be Sunset. Any yacht finishing after this time shall be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35.

9. Protests & requests for redress

- 9.1. Subject to Clause 9.4, any protest or request for redress shall be lodged by email or SMS to the Race Director within 30 minutes of the finish of the last boat.
- 9.2. Subject to Clause 9.4, a yacht intending to protest or request redress shall inform the Race Director by phone or radio within 1 hour of their finishing the race giving any details as may be known at the time.
- 9.3. Any protests or requests for redress will be heard at a time and place to be advised.
- 9.4. Any request for redress involving the official time sheet shall be submitted as soon as possible after the posting of the results but no later than 1200 on Wednesday, 27 December 2023.
- 9.5. The Protest Committee shall not be entitled to abandon the race as a consideration for redress (amends RRS 64.2).

10. Penalty system

- 10.1. If, after a protest and hearing, a yacht is found to have infringed a Rule, the Protest Committee may disqualify or otherwise penalise the yacht in accordance with the provisions of RRS 64.
- 10.2. The Protest Committee may apply a time penalty for a breach of a Rule or the Sailing Instructions, declared by an infringing competitor without a hearing, or after a hearing if a protest is contested.
- 10.3. The following penalties will be applied for breaches of these Sailing Instructions or the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), including any modification noted in the Notice of Race, at the discretion of the Protest Committee:
- For a minor infringement – 10 minutes
 - For a significant infringement – 30 minutes

- For a serious infringement – the penalty will rest with the Protest Committee and may result in a time penalty or disqualification.

10.4. All penalties shall be noted on the time sheet and shall be applied to finishing times. Yacht positions will be adjusted after penalties are applied (This complements RRS 64.1 and amends RRS 44.3).

11. Yachts retiring

11.1. Yachts retiring shall inform the Race Director as described in A6 Yachts Retiring.

12. Safety regulations

12.1. The Safety Category and regulations are as set out in the Notice of Race.

12.2. The ORCV strongly recommends that safety harnesses and suitable lifejackets be worn whenever conditions warrant, particularly in rough weather, at night or when sailing short-handed.

12.3. The crew of yachts sailed Double Handed shall wear lifejackets at all times when on deck.

12.4. In particular, attention is drawn to Victorian regulations which stipulate the mandatory wearing of lifejackets when on deck during times of heightened risk. This includes crossing a bar, transiting the Heads, sailing at night and when the weather or weather forecast indicates risk. For full details, consult the Transport Safety Victoria website (www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au).

12.5. Yachts shall keep clear of all commercial shipping (vessels more than 35 metres in length) while within Port Phillip, as required by Port of Melbourne Corporation Harbour Master's Directions.

12.6. In the event of avoiding action becoming necessary, a yacht may start their engine and motor to avoid a shipping hazard, on a course perpendicular to the ship's track, for as long as necessary.

12.7. A yacht that takes such action shall return to the location the yacht started motoring, cease motoring and resume racing as soon as possible. The details of any such action shall be reported to the Race Director on finishing.

12.8. Any yacht found to have impeded the progress of a commercial vessel shall be disqualified.

12.9. A yacht or their equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the ORCV safety rules and Sailing Instructions.

12.10. The Race Director may, at their absolute discretion, disqualify a yacht from participating or continuing to participate in the race if the Race Director believes that it is unsafe for that yacht to commence or continue to race.

13. Unsuitable conditions

13.1. After commencement of the race, the race can be terminated at the Race Director's discretion.

13.2. The Race Committee may deem the race to be abandoned, rescheduled to another time or shortened. Arrangements for shortening course are detailed in Appendix C.

13.3. Prorated positions may be used to determine a result for the race and/or for any series.

13.4. Any termination of the race will be advised by radio on VHF Channel 82.

14. Race communications

- 14.1. Race communications procedures are detailed in Appendix A Race Communications.

15. Disclaimer of liability

- 15.1. All those taking part in this race do so at their own risk and responsibility.
- 15.2. Acceptance of a yacht as an entrant in the race is not to be taken as express or implied acceptance on the part of the ORCV and/or any of its Flag Officers, committee members, volunteers, Equipment Auditors or any other members, of the fitness of any yacht or any equipment on such yacht to safely compete in the race, and/or deal with any and all eventualities of the contemplated passage. It is the responsibility of each skipper of each competing yacht to decide whether their yacht is fit and suitably crewed for the intended purpose, and neither the ORCV nor any club, person or company connected with the organisation of the race is responsible for the seaworthiness of any yacht whose entry is accepted.
- 15.3. Attention is drawn to Fundamental Rule 3 “Decision to Race” of the RRS which states the responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is theirs alone.

16. Crew behaviour

- 16.1. All participants are reminded that they are expected to comply with ORCV’s Member Protection Policy and Code of Conduct. For more information refer to:
<https://www.orcv.org.au/club/member-and-participant-protection>
- 16.2. Skippers are reminded that crew behaviour is both the skipper and all the crew’s responsibility to manage, at all times including during any deliveries or pre and post race social events.

17. Appendices

- 17.1. The following Appendices A, B, C and D form part of these Sailing Instructions.

Appendix A: Race communications

This appendix describes the radio and other communications procedures to be followed during this Race.

A1 General

- A1.1. While racing, a yacht shall neither make nor receive radio communications not available to all yachts. This restriction also applies to mobile phones and satellite phones.
- A1.2. Failure to sign on before the end of the Sign-On Schedule shall result in the yacht being scored DNS.
- A1.3. Yachts shall not give false or misleading position reports.

A2 Radio Race channels

- A2.1. Station name: **Ocean Racing**
- A2.2. Race communications will use the following VHF Channels:

Channel	Usage
82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Sign-On for entrants where SMS sign-on failed. • Starting sequence • Individual recalls • Race monitoring • Unscheduled announcements • Shortened course • Monitor when finishing
16	Emergency, Calling (all yachts shall monitor)
67	Working, Maritime Safety Information

- A2.3. While racing, yachts shall monitor VHF Channels 16 and 82, unless using one of the other channels.
- A2.4. VHF Channel 82 is a repeater located on Arthurs Seat. Yachts should ensure that VHF radios are set to the International frequency set, standard in Australia, when using this channel.

A3 Phone

A3.1. The following **phone number** may be used:

Number	usage
0418 396 605	Race director's phone Emergencies

A4 Email

A4.1. The following **email address** may be used:

Email address	usage
Race.director@orc.v.org.au	Race director messages

A5 Sign on schedule

- A5.1. All yachts are required to sign on to indicate their intention to race and the number of persons on board by SMS. Yachts which fail to sign on by 0830 will be called on VHF radio at the 9.30am sign on schedule.
- A5.2. Around 0700 an SMS message will be sent to the mobile number registered for each yacht, asking if the yacht intends to race. Each yacht intending to race shall follow the link in the SMS and respond to the questions presented to indicate whether she will be racing or not and, if so, how many persons will be on board. All responses shall have been sent by 0830.
- A5.3. Commencing at 0930, a radio sign on schedule will be conducted by Ocean Racing on VHF Channel 82 for all yachts that have not signed on using SMS messages. This schedule will conclude no later than 1005. All yachts shall monitor this schedule in case their SMS sign on response has not been received.
- A5.4. Yachts who have not completed an SMS sign on will be called in alphabetical order to confirm that they are starters in the race. Each yacht shall respond: {Yacht Name} is a starter, {xx} persons on board, over.
- A5.5. A yacht that does not respond on the first call shall wait until she is called again at the end of the schedule.
- A5.6. In the event of late crew changes, this shall be done in the TopYacht Entry System up until 2359 on Thursday, 21 December 2023, after which TopYacht Entry System will be locked out for any further crew changes. After this date and time any crew changes are to be sent to the Race Director via email race.director@orc.v.org.au. Crew numbers must be finalised by the Sign on sked.
- A5.7. crew names and phone numbers must be added to the yacht's crew list using the Top Yacht race entry system.
- A5.8. Any changes to Sailing Instructions will be announced on VHF Channel 82 at the commencement of the Sign On Schedule.

A6 Premature starters

A6.1. Premature starters may be identified on **VHF Channel 82**.

A7 Approaching the finish

A7.1. When approximately 5 minutes from the finishing line, each yacht shall call the Race Director, Ocean Racing, on VHF Channel 82.

A8 Yachts retiring

A8.1. If a yacht retires from the race, every effort shall be made to advise Ocean Racing as soon as possible and to give the following information:

- Time & position at the time of retirement
- Reason for retirement
- The state of the crew
- The port to which the yacht is returning.

A8.2. VHF Channel 82 has coverage right down the Bay and should be used for this purpose.

A8.3. A yacht that retires shall maintain their routine monitoring of VHF Channels 82 and 16 until such time as she reaches a safe harbour.

A8.4. Upon arrival at a safe harbour, contact shall be made with Ocean Racing by phone (0418 396 605) or VHF Channel 82 to confirm safe arrival. Failure to comply with this requirement may prejudice acceptance of an entry in future races.

A9 Summary

Date: 26 December 2023

Time	Action	Channel or phone	Station
0700	SMS Sign-On Requests Sent		
0830	SMS Sign-On Responses Complete		
0930 - 1005	Radio Sign-On Schedule Alterations to Sailing Instructions Postponement if Applicable	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
1025-1030	Starting Sequence	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
1030	Individual recalls may be notified	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
Monitor	Unscheduled Announcements	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
	Shortened course	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
	Retirement, if applicable	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
		0418 396 605	Race Director
Finish	Approximately 5 minutes from finish	VHF Channel 82	Ocean Racing
2043	Time Limit (Sunset)		

Note – It is recommended all yachts shall use dual VHF channel watching with Channel 16 and 82 during this race.

Appendix B: Start

This appendix contains information about the starting line and the starting procedures.

B1 Start time and location

B1.1. The start time will be 1030 on Tuesday 26 December 2023 in the vicinity of Station Pier, Port Melbourne, always allowing the Race Committee at their discretion to postpone to another time.

B2 Starting line

B2.1. The Starting Line shall be between the signal mast displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and an orange cylindrical buoy at the port end.

B2.2. A crowding buoy may be laid in the vicinity of the committee vessel.

B2.3. When the committee vessel is on station, after the preparatory signal, and before correctly starting:

- Any yacht touching the crowding buoy or passing from the pre-start side of the starting line to the course side between the crowding buoy and the committee vessel shall return to the pre-start side of the line by passing to the course side of and around the committee vessel before starting correctly.
- Any yacht passing from the course side to the pre-start side of the starting line between the crowding buoy and the committee vessel may be disqualified.

B2.4. For the purpose of premature starters returning to start correctly or late starters arriving in the start area, if the committee vessel is no longer on station at the starting line, the crowding buoy shall be deemed to mark the starboard end of the starting line.

B3 Start procedure

B3.1. The race will be started in accordance with RRS 26, except that flares will be used as well as sound signals.

- 1025 Warning signal, one sound, white flare
- 1026 Preparatory signal, one sound
- 1029 One-minute signal, long sound
- 1030 Starting signal, one sound, green flare
- This changes RRS 26.

B3.2. Times shall be taken from the flag signals; failure of the flare or sound signals shall be disregarded.

B3.3. Individual recalls will be signalled by code flag X and may be accompanied by one sound and one white flare.

- B3.4. Premature starters may be identified on **VHF Channel 82** (see Appendix A Race Communications). This amends RRS 29.1.
- B3.5. There will be no General Recall. This amends RRS 29.2.

B4 Postponements

- B4.1. Any postponement shall be signalled by displaying the Answering Pennant with one sound. An announcement may be made on the Race Channel (See Appendix A Race Communications). This amends RRS 27.3.
- B4.2. One minute before the postponed starting sequence commences, the Answering Pennant shall be lowered with one sound. This amends RRS 27.3.
- B4.3. A postponement may apply if a Bureau of Meteorology Gale Warning is forecast for any part of the course.

Appendix C: Course

This appendix describes the course and how it is to be sailed.

C1 Course details

C1.1. From the Starting Line to the Finishing Line off Mornington Yacht Club, passing the following marks, described in C2 Marks, in the listed order:

1. RBYC6, pass to starboard
2. SYC4, pass to starboard

C2 Marks

Name	Latitude	Longitude	Description
RBYC6	S37° 54.32'	E144° 58.53'	RBYC#6, Yellow Conical Buoy, Fl(4) Y 12s
SYC4	S37° 56.81'	E144° 59.40'	SYC#4, Yellow Conical Buoy, Fl(4) Y 10s

Appendix D: Finish

This appendix describes the finishing line and the finishing procedures. The positions, for physical marks, shown in the diagram are approximate and should not be used for navigation. The positions shown may vary on the day.

D1 Finishing

- D1.1. When approximately 5 minutes from the finishing line, each yacht shall call the Race Director, Ocean Racing, on VHF Channel 82.
- D1.2. The Finishing Line will be located approximately 1mn from the end of the Mornington Breakwater
- D1.3. The Finish Line will be between a committee boat and a yellow inflatable buoy. The yellow inflatable buoy will have an ORCV blue logo on a white background.
- D1.4. Boats shall not recross the finish line after finishing.
- D1.5. Any yacht which does not comply with the requirements in D1.4 shall be disqualified (DSQ) without a hearing. This amends Rules 63.1,A4 and A5.
- D1.6. Yachts shall monitor VHF Channel 82 when finishing.

D2 Finishing times

- D2.1. Unless circumstances prevent it, the finishing times of all yachts will be taken by the Race Director. As a back-up, yachts shall record their own finishing times using GPS time, accurate to 1 second, and to inform the Race Director of this time if requested. The yacht in-front and behind shall also be recorded by the finishing yacht and provided to the Race Director is requested,

D3 Mooring facilities

- D3.1. There is no mooring available at Mornington.

D4 Presentation

- D4.1. Results will be published on the ORCV web site as soon as practicable after the race. Trophies will be presented at the annual ORCV awards ceremony on a date to be announced.