



NOR

BAY RACE

2025 Women's Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator & Women's Return Sprint Races

Notice of Race



WHNR
AND RETURN SPRINT

Amendments

Number	Sections Changed	Summary of Amendment

Key Information

Early Bird Entries Close	2359 Sunday 6 July 2025
Entries Close	2359 Sunday 20 July 2025
Race Dates and Warning Signal	Women's Helm, Navigator & Radio Operator Race: Racing Category: 0855 Saturday 26 July 2025 Cruising Category: 0910 Saturday 26 July 2025
	Women's Return Sprint: 0955 Sunday 27 July 2025
ORCV Office Phone	0493 102 744
Race Director Phone	0418 396 605

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Contents

2025 ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator and Women’s Return Sprint Races Notice of Race 4

- 1. Series of Races..... 5
- 2. Rules 5
- 3. Race Categories and Handicap Systems 6
- 4. Eligibility 6
- 5. Application for entry 6
- 6. Fees 7
- 7. Scoring 7
- 8. Trophies 8
- 9. Changes to Rules 8
- 10. Event Classification & Advertising 9
- 11. Sustainability 9
- 12. Trademarks & Copyright 9
- 13. Media Rights & Restrictions 10
- 14. Disclaimer 10
- 15. Crew Behaviour 10
- 16. Mooring Arrangements..... 11

Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements 12

2025 ORCV Women's Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator and Women's Return Sprint Races Notice of Race

About the Series

The ORCV Women's Helm, Navigator & Radio Operator (WHNR) Race returns in 2025 by popular demand. The inception of the WHNR Race in September 2013, in recognition of the skills and passion of women participating in ocean races and other interclub events in Port Phillip, provided them the opportunity to take up lead roles in a dedicated event to showcase their skills. Initially added to the Winter Series event, as the Geelong to Melbourne (G2M) return race, the WSNR was contested annually until 2019, before the Covid years disrupted sailing. In recent years, the Winter Series return races from Blairgowrie and Geelong constituted the Novice Return Series (NRS).

In 2025, the reinstated WHNR is now a stand-alone passage race to be run on Saturday 26 July with QCYC as the destination club. A revamp of the Race will see two Categories, Racing and Cruising, with the latter to recognise the increasing number of women becoming involved with the ORCV with the move of the KISS (Keelboat Introduction to Sailing Savvy) program formally to the ORCV. The Racing Category will attract more experienced sailors whilst the Cruising Category will encourage newly graduated KISS alumni, less experienced women or those who prefer a more casual alternative.

A return Race from QCYC to boats' home clubs on Sunday 27 July will be held to maximise the opportunity for all women to actively participate across a variety of roles.

The reintroduction of the WHNR in 2025, aligns strongly with the International Women's Day 2025 theme to @accelerateaction. Initiatives to see more women on the water more often will build a community of passionate skilled women sailors, ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion across clubs and the sport of sailing.

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The 2025 ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator Race (WHNR) and Women’s Return Sprint (WRS) will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip. Owners of eligible yachts are invited to enter these Races under the conditions of this Notice of Race. The Races are organised and conducted by the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc (ORCV).

1. Series of Races

- 1.1. The program comprises 2 Category 5 Races for monohull keelboats within the waters of Port Phillip.
- 1.2. Races are scheduled to be sailed as follows:

Race Name	Date	First Warning Signals	Course
WHNR	Saturday 26 July 2025	0855 and 0910	Destination, QCYC
WRS	Sunday 27 July 2025	0955	Sprint Race towards home clubs

- 1.3. The WHNR will be started in the vicinity of RBYC. The WRS will be started in the vicinity of West Channel Pile.
- 1.4. The WHNR will finish at the West Channel Pile.
- 1.5. The details of the courses, including any marks of the courses, will be in the Sailing Instructions for the Races.

2. Rules

- 2.1. All races will be governed by the current versions of:
 - The 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of Australian Sailing (AS).
 - The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS).
 except as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for these Races.
- 2.2. The ORCV reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race. Amendments will be published on the ORCV website (www.orcv.org.au) and entrants at the time of any such amendment will be notified.
- 2.3. By entering any of these Races, the owner of a yacht agrees that this Notice of Race (including amendments) and the entry form, the rules and regulations referred to in Condition 2.1 and the Sailing Instructions must be complied with by the yacht and by the owner.
- 2.4. The Sailing Instructions will be issued through the ORCV website (www.orcv.org.au).

3. Race Categories and Handicap Systems

3.1. The WHNR Race will be conducted with the following Race Categories and Handicap Systems:

Category	System
Racing	PHS
Cruising Non-Spinnaker	PHS

3.2. The WRS Race will be conducted with the following Race Categories and Handicap Systems:

Category	System
Racing	PHS

- 3.3. Yachts in all Categories must have at least three female crew. Any additional crew can be either male or female.
- 3.4. The Race Director may split a Race Category into a number of Divisions having regard to the number of entries and the performance characteristics of the entrants.
- 3.5. The Race Director reserves the right to cancel any Race Category or Division with fewer than 3 entries.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. The Races are open to monohull yachts of a thoroughly seaworthy nature, which are entered by a member of a yacht club affiliated with Australian Sailing.
- 4.2. Each yacht must comply with the eligibility requirements listed in Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements.
- 4.3. A decision of the ORCV as to any matter under this Condition 4, including as to whether a yacht and its crew meet the eligibility criteria, is final and binding and will not be grounds for a request for redress.
- 4.4. The roles of helm, navigator and radio operator must be filled by women.

5. Application for entry

- 5.1. Application for entry must be made on the TopYacht online entry system at www.orcv.org.au.
- 5.2. To enter any of the Races, a completed application for entry, including crew details, must be received by 2359 Sunday 20 July 2025. ORCV reserves the right to close the WHNR Race entry once the maximum number of entries (30) has been reached.

- 5.3. The ORCV may consider entries after that date but late entries that are accepted may not appear in any race publications.
- 5.4. Any crew changes must be done in the TopYacht Entry System up until 2359 on Thursday 24 July 2025, 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@orcv.org.au.
- 5.5. Privacy Note: Personal information about crew members is contained in the crew lists. That information is obtained for use in search and rescue situations and for media purposes.

The information may be given to search and rescue authorities and organisations, the Water Police, volunteer coastal stations and media representatives and may be passed on by them to other organisations.

A condition of entry is that crew members are to be informed of this and advised that they may obtain access to the information held about them by contacting the ORCV.
- 5.6. The ORCV is not obliged to accept an application for entry.
- 5.7. In accordance with RRS 76.1, the ORCV may reject or cancel the entry of a yacht that does not comply with the conditions of this Notice of Race.

6. Fees

- 6.1. The Race fee must be paid via the TopYacht entry system. The entry fee includes Australian Goods and Services Tax (a tax invoice will be issued on request).
- 6.2. The race entry fees are for the Race.

Race Entry – Early Bird (Before 2359 Sunday 6 July)	\$80
Race Entry – Normal Entry (7 July to 20 July)	\$100
Race Entry – Women’s Return Sprint	NIL

- 6.3. A yacht will not be considered a valid entrant until all fees are paid.
- 6.4. ORCV members receive a 15% discount on any Race entry fee.
- 6.5. There is no designated crew fee. However, any crew member who does not hold an Australian Sailing number, or international equivalent, must purchase a temporary membership, in the form of an ORCV Bay Pass for each Race. This is done via the ORCV website, with a cost of \$20 per race.
- 6.6. Refund Policy: Unless all Races are cancelled, there are no refunds on entry fees.

7. Scoring

- 7.1. Provisional results for each Race will be published on the ORCV website; this is expected to be at the completion of each day’s racing.

- 7.2. Each Race will be scored using the Performance Handicap System.
- 7.3. The scoring system will not be subject to protest or dispute.

8. Trophies

- 8.1. The Custom Yacht Covers WHNR Race Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the helm of the WHNR Racing PHS winner.
- 8.2. The Custom Yacht Covers WHNR Novice Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the novice helm with best performance in the WHNR PHS Racing Category, for women who have been helming keelboats for less than 2 years.
- 8.3. The WHNR Cruising Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the helm of the WHNR Cruising PHS winner.
- 8.4. The WHNR Navigators Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the navigator with the best navigation log for combined WHNR Race and Cruising entrants.
- 8.5. The WHNR Radio Operators Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the radio operator with the best radio log and on-air protocols for combined WHNR Race and Cruising entrants.
- 8.6. Medallions will be awarded to the helms of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed yachts on Racing PHS and Cruising PHS.
- 8.7. A medallion will be awarded to the helm of the highest placed yacht, with a novice helm, in Racing PHS.
- 8.8. The presentation of trophies will be at the 2026 ORCV Awards Evening at a date, time and location to be announced.

Changes to Rules

8.9. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS 41: While racing, a boat may retrieve data from any page of the ORCV website, and other websites, even if those pages are not generally available.

RRS 51: A yacht with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability to the extent permitted by their stability rating.

RRS 52: The rule is be modified:

- to allow the adjustment of movable water ballast or canting keels on any yacht and the use of stored power to do so
- to allow the use of stored power for sail handling and sail trimming on any yacht.

RRS 55: Fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits will be permitted for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers.

8.10. Changes to Category 5 AS Special Regulations

Yachts must have on board a VHF marine radio capable of communications with Ocean Racing over VHF Channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73, 77 and 82 during the period of each Race and must have continuous monitoring capability for both VHF Channel 16 and Race frequency as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

9. Event Classification & Advertising

- 9.1. Advertising on a yacht must comply with the requirements of WS Regulation 20 (WS Advertising Code) for Category C.
- 9.2. The ORCV must be advised of all advertising that a yacht intends to carry. The ORCV must be advised of all changes to that advertising.
- 9.3. The ORCV may decline to accept an application for entry of a yacht which, in its opinion, is carrying advertising which conflicts with governmental regulations. If in doubt, the ORCV should be consulted as soon as practicable.

10. Sustainability

- 10.1. The ORCV is dedicated to promoting and upholding the principles of environmental stewardship in ocean racing. The event will be conducted in accordance with the Clean Regattas framework established by Sailors for the Sea. It is our intent to implement as many best practices as possible throughout the duration of the Race. Competitors are strongly encouraged to conscientiously consider their environmental impact both at sea and upon arrival at the destination by:
 - Eliminating single-use plastic bottles – opt for refillable and store water using jerries or tanks on board.
 - Containing and sorting rubbish, disposing appropriately at destinations or upon arrival home (e.g., recycling and organics, and reduce the amount sent to landfill).
 - Picking up litter, especially in marinas or around clubs.
 - Provisioning and storing food to reduce food and packaging waste, eg using reusable storage containers.
 - Preventing oil, chemicals and microplastic pollution going to sea by inspecting and maintaining a clean bilge.

11. Trademarks & Copyright

- 11.1. “ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator” is a trademark of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc and the use of the trademark is absolutely restricted and limited to use by or with the consent of the ORCV.
- 11.2. This document is Copyright © Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc 2025

11.3. All enquiries should be directed to:

Ocean Racing Club of Victoria
3 Aquatic Drive
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206
Australia
orcv@orcv.org.au

12. Media Rights & Restrictions

12.1. It is a condition of entry that the owner of the yacht and all crew members:

- acknowledge that the ORCV owns all media rights to the ORCV Women's Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator and may exercise those rights as it sees fit;
- grant the ORCV the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, the names, images and biographical information relating to the crew and photographs, video footage and audio recordings taken of the yacht and its crew prior to, during and after the race.

12.2. Crew members of yachts may, prior to, during and after the Races, speak or provide material to any media representatives accredited by the ORCV, regarding the race and the prospects, performance or strategy of yachts entered or participating in the Races, subject to any comments and material not undermining or interfering with, or having a detrimental impact on, the ORCV, any sponsor and their officers and employees, the Race Committee, the Protest Committee, measurers or current or former sponsors of the ORCV. This approval may be revoked by the ORCV in respect of a yacht or media representative at any time.

12.3. Entrants acknowledge and accept the media restrictions referred to in this clause by completing the entry form.

12.4. Any breach of these conditions may, at the discretion of the ORCV lead to the rejection of an entry, the cancellation of an entry or the disqualification of a yacht (refer RRS 76.1). This does not limit the right of the ORCV to take any other action it sees fit to enforce compliance with these conditions.

13. Disclaimer

13.1. All those taking part in any of these Races do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew acknowledge this and release the ORCV and its respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability by entering their names on the crew list.

13.2. Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states:

"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

14. Crew Behaviour

14.1. 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/inclusion-diversity-and-protection>

- 14.2. 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.

15. Mooring Arrangements

- 15.1. **RBYC Overnight Berthing:** Free berthing will be available on the evening of Friday July 25 for boats coming from other clubs. Further information will be provided on the ORCV website.
- 15.2. **QCYC Overnight Berthing:** Berthing will be available on the evening of Saturday 26 July. Further information will be provided on the ORCV website.

Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements

Yachts must comply with the requirements laid out in this Appendix to be considered eligible for entry to any Race.

Check	Category	Requirement
	General	Yachts must be built in accordance with the AS Special Regulations Part 1, Section 3.03. The Safety Regulations are those of AS Special Regulations, Part 1, Category 5.
	Insurance	The owner of a yacht entered in the race must hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the yacht current when racing, with a sum insured of not less than A\$10 million. The insurance policy must state that the yacht is covered for the race or that it is covered for yacht races of a length greater than the race length.
	Membership and crew list	All persons sailing on competing yachts in a Race must be members of a AS-affiliated club. Day passes are available from the ORCV website for an AS membership for each race. Refer to Entry Category for the crew list requirements.
	Radio	Each competing yacht must carry a VHF transceiver with channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73, 77 and 82. ORCV requires that all yachts provide a continuous monitoring of channel 16 and the race channel with the preference of using dual watch capability.
	Entry	Entry is via the ORCV website, and the yachts details are to be filled in using the TopYacht Entry System. Crew List (Online), correctly and fully completed with all associated personal details. The skipper is responsible for its accuracy and currency.