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2026 ORCV Double-Handed Yacht Race

Notice of Race



**DOUBLE-HANDED
YACHT RACE**

Amendments

Number	Changes	Summary of Amendment

Key Information		
	Early Bird entries close	2359 Sunday 3 May
	Entries close	2359 Wednesday 13 May
	Race date and Warning Signal	0955 Sunday 17 May
	ORCV office phone	0493 102 744
	Race Director phone	0418 396 605
	All times are AEST (Australian Eastern Standard Time)	

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2026 ORCV Double-Handed Yacht Race Notice of Race

About the Double-Handed Race

The ORCV has long been associated with double-handed sailing, and this is its entrée into the wonderful world of short-handed sailing.

Sailed around a bay course, this event provides a challenge to those who wish to test themselves in a short-handed sailing format, as well as providing valuable training for those who are contemplating participating in the Double-Handed Race category of longer races conducted by the club.

Team racing is a traditional component of the event with clubs and competitors encouraged to compete for the Perpetual Teams Trophy.

This Race is Race 2 of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron Two Handed Winter Series and the ORCV gratefully acknowledges RMYS's support in assisting in the race operations.

The Race, starting in the vicinity of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, will be approximately 22 NM in length incorporating a course specifically designed for Double-Handed racing.



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The 2026 ORCV Double-Handed Yacht Race will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip. Owners of eligible boats are invited to enter this Race under the Conditions of this Notice of Race. The Race is organised and conducted by the Ocean Racing Cub of Victoria Inc (ORCV) Inc with the co-operation of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron (RMYS).

1. Race

- 1.1. The warning signal for the Race will be displayed at 0955 (AEST) Sunday 17 May 2026.
- 1.2. This is a Category 6 race, except as noted in Condition 10. It will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip.
- 1.3. The course will be up to 22 NM around fixed and laid marks, starting off Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron.
- 1.4. The details of the course including any marks will be in the Sailing Instructions for the Race.

2. Rules

- 2.1. The Race 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),
 - Where a boat is entered under AMS, the rules and regulations of the Australian Measurement System (AMS),
 - Where a boat is entered under ORC, the rules and regulations of the Offshore Rating Congress (ORC),except as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for the Race.
- 2.2. The boats competing in the Race must have 2 crew.
- 2.3. The ORCV reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race. Any amendments will be published on the ORCV website (www.orcv.org.au) and entrants at the time of any such amendment will be notified.
- 2.4. By entering this Race, the owner of a boat 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 boat and by the owner.
- 2.5. RRS Appendix T – Arbitration will apply.
- 2.6. The Sailing Instructions will be issued through the ORCV website at www.orcv.org.au.

3. Race Categories and Handicap Systems

3.1. The Race will be conducted with the following Race Category and Handicap Systems.

Race Category	PHS	AMS	ORC
Double Handed – Monohull only	Yes	Yes	Yes

- 3.2. The Race Committee may split the Race Category into multiple divisions having regard to the number of entries and the performance characteristics of the competitors.
- 3.3. A boat entering ORC must hold either an ORCi Rating Certificate or an Endorsed ORCc Rating Certificate based on data submitted to Australian Sailing by an accredited measurer. The ORC All Purpose handicap will be used.
- 3.4. A boat entered in the AMS and/or ORC Handicap Systems must have a valid Rating Certificate which includes a spinnaker with a measured area of at least 130% of the area of the boat's fore triangle, where the fore triangle area is defined as $0.5 * FL * J$ measured in accordance with the AMS rules.
- 3.5. Two-Handed measurement system handicaps (including ratings, TCF and/or allowances) are not used in the calculation of Race results.
- 3.6. The Race Committee reserves the right to cancel any Race Category or Division or Handicap System with fewer than 5 entries.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. The Race is open to boats of a thoroughly seaworthy nature, which are entered by a member of a yacht club affiliated with AS.
- 4.2. Each boat must comply with the eligibility requirements listed in Appendix A: Boat Eligibility and Entry Requirements.
- 4.3. The ORCV may require remeasurement of any boat prior to the boat racing.
- 4.4. A decision of the ORCV or the Race Committee as to any matter under this Condition 4, including as to whether boats and crew meet the eligibility criteria, is final and binding and will not be grounds for a request for redress.

5. Application for Entry

- 5.1. An application for entry must be made on the TopYacht online entry system (TES) at www.orcv.org.au.
- 5.2. To enter the Race, a completed application for entry and payment of the Race entry fee must be received by the ORCV via TES, must be received by 2359 Wednesday 13 May 2026.
- 5.3. The ORCV may, at its sole discretion, accept entries after that date but will not normally do so where a boat was in a position to enter by the due date.

- 5.4. To qualify for the Early Bird Entry Fee, a completed application for entry and full entry fee payment must be received by the ORCV by 2359 Sunday 3 May 2026.
- 5.5. Any crew changes must be done in TES up until 2359 Wednesday 13 May 2026 after which TES will be locked 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.
- 5.6. 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.
- 5.7. The ORCV is not obliged to accept an application for entry.
- 5.8. A boat's rating certificate must not be changed after 2359 on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 except as a result of a rating protest or to correct a rating office error.

6. Fees

- 6.1. The Race fee must be paid using TES. The entry fee includes Australian Goods and Services Tax. A tax invoice will be issued on request.
- 6.2. The Race entry fee is for the Race and all Handicap Systems for which a boat is eligible.

Early Bird entry (on or before 3 May 2026)	\$70
Normal entry (4 May to 13 May 2026)	\$85
RMYS Two Handed Winter Series Entrants	\$0

- 6.3. ORCV members receive a 15% discount on the Race entry fee.
- 6.4. A boat will not be considered a valid entrant until all fees are paid.
- 6.5. Crew who do not have an active Australian Sailing Number are also required to purchase an ORCV Bay Pass for the Race via the ORCV website (<https://www.orcv.org.au/club/crew-and-passes>) at an additional cost of \$20.
- 6.6. Refund Policy: Unless the Race is cancelled, there are no refunds on entry fees.

7. Scoring

- 7.1. The scoring system will not be subject to protest or dispute.
- 7.2. Prorated positions may be used to determine a result for the Race in the event that the Race is shortened.

- 7.3. Skippers and Clubs are invited to form teams for the purpose of competing for the Perpetual Teams Trophy.
- 7.3.1. The Perpetual Teams Trophy will be awarded to the team with the lowest total score calculated using the AMS Handicap Systems results.
- 7.3.2. Teams must comprise a minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 boats with the 3 best performed boats to count.
- 7.3.3. Any skipper or Club wishing to form a team must provide details of the proposed team to the ORCV office no later than 1159 Thursday 14 May 2026, by email to orcv@orcv.org.au.

8. Trophies

- 8.1. The Perpetual Teams Trophy will be awarded to the winning team determined in accordance with Condition 7.
- 8.2. The Port Phillip Bay Double-Handed Perpetual Cup will be awarded to the AMS Measurement Handicap System Overall Winner.
- 8.3. Mementos will be presented to competitors for the following achievements, subject to sufficient starters in each handicap system and division as follows:
- Line Honours – First boat to cross the finish line.
 - Overall first, second and third placegetters on corrected time within each Handicap system
- 8.4. All mementos are awarded subject to sufficient starters in the particular Handicap System as follows:
- Fewer than 7 starters: no 3rd place memento is awarded.
 - Fewer than 5 starters: no 2nd or 3rd place mementos are awarded.
 - Fewer than 3 starters: No trophies or mementos are awarded.
 - Line honours follow the same rules except all boats are counted regardless of Handicap System.
- 8.5. The presentation of trophies and mementos will be at the 2026 ORCV Annual Presentation Evening at a date, time and location to be announced. A single memento will list all eligible achievements won during the season.

9. Changes to Rules and Category 6 Special Regulations

9.1. Changes/Clarifications to the Racing Rules of Sailing

- 9.1.1. **RRS 51:** A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the AS Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability to the extent permitted by their stability rating.
- 9.1.2. **RRS 52:** The rule will be modified:
- to allow self-steering equipment to be used.

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

- 9.1.3. **RRS 55:** Fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits will be permitted for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers.
- 9.1.4. **RRS 60.3:** There is no time limit on protests by the Race Committee or the Protest Committee.
- 9.1.5. **RRS 78.2:** Valid rating/class certificates shall be produced by the due date specified in this Notice of Race.

9.2. Changes to the Australian Sailing Category 6 Special Regulations

- 9.2.1. Boats must have on board a VHF marine radio capable of communications with Ocean Racing over VHF Channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73 and 82 during the period of the Race and must have continuous monitoring capability for both 16 and 82.

10. Sustainability

The ORCV is dedicated to promoting and upholding the principles of environmental stewardship in racing. Competitors are strongly encouraged to conscientiously consider their environmental by:

- Eliminating single-use plastic bottles – opt for refillable and store water using jerries or tanks on board.
- Containing and sorting rubbish, and disposing appropriately (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. Event Classification & Advertising

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

12. Trademarks & Copyright

- 12.1. "ORCV Double-Handed Yacht Race" is a trademark of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc and the use of the trademarks is absolutely restricted and limited to use by or with the consent of the ORCV.
- 12.2. This document is Copyright © Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc 2026
- 12.3. All enquiries should be directed to:
Ocean Racing Club of Victoria
3 Aquatic Drive
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206
Australia
orcv@orcv.org.au

13. Media Rights & Restrictions

- 13.1. It is a condition of entry that the owner of the boat and all crew members:
 - acknowledge that the ORCV owns all media rights to the ORCV Double-Handed Yacht Race 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 boat and its crew prior to, during and after the Race.
- 13.2. Crew members of boats may, prior to, during and after each Race, speak or provide material to any media representatives accredited by the ORCV, regarding the Race and the prospects, performance or strategy of boats entered or participating in the Race, subject to any comments and material not undermining or interfering with, or having a detrimental impact on, the ORCV, ORCV volunteers, any sponsor and their officers and employees or members of any Protest Committee. This approval may be revoked by the ORCV in respect of a boat or media representative at any time.
- 13.3. Entrants acknowledge and accept the media restrictions referred to in this clause by completing the entry form.
- 13.4. Any breach of these conditions may, at the discretion of the ORCV or the Race Committee, lead to the rejection of an entry, the cancellation of an entry or the disqualification of a boat (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.

14. Disclaimer

- 14.1. All those taking part in the Race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew acknowledge this and release the ORCV and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability by participating in the Race.
- 14.2. 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.”

Appendix A: Boat Eligibility and Entry Requirements

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

Check	Category	Requirement
	General	Structural features and stability requirements will be those of AS Special Regulations, Part 1, Category 6.
	Insurance	The owner of a boat entered in the Race must hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the boat current when racing, with a sum insured of not less than A\$10 million. The insurance policy must state that the boat is covered for the Race or that it is covered for boat races of a length greater than the Race length.
	ORC Boats	A boat may only be entered in ORC if the boat has a current, valid endorsed ORCi or ORCc Certificate.
	AMS Boats	A boat may only be entered in AMS if the boat has a current, valid AMS Certificate issued by YRSA Inc.
	Membership and crew list	All persons sailing on competing boats must be members of an AS-affiliated club. Day passes are available from the ORCV website for an AS membership for this Race. Refer to Entry Category for the crew list requirements.
	Radio	Each competing boat must carry a VHF marine radio with channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73 and 82. All boats must be able to continuously monitor channel 16 and the Race channel.
	Entry	<p>Entry is via the ORCV website, and the boats details are to be filled in using TES. A boat must have a TopYacht profile already setup to be able to enter this Race online.</p> <p>The online Crew List must be correctly and fully completed with all associated personal details. The skipper is responsible for its accuracy and currency.</p>